

#MeetOurSTEMAmbassadors

We have so many amazing volunteers and we'd like you meet them!



About me

Name:	Hannah Speed	Photo: 
Location:	Sheffield, South Yorkshire	
Job/course title:	Assistant Engineer	
Organisation:	Amey	
Fun fact about me:	In my spare time, I run a nappy library and volunteer at a sling library.	

Education/career journey:

I went to Wakefield Girls' High School and studied maths, physics and chemistry at A level. I built up an art portfolio in my spare time, so I could start a degree in Structural Engineering and Architecture but avoid having to follow the rules of art qualifications.

I decided to follow a career in engineering, despite not knowing what it was until Year 13. I enjoyed the satisfaction of getting the results I was looking for in maths and science and generally did well in these subjects because there was a right and a wrong answer. After a bit of research, I discovered engineering was about creativity, working with people, making the world a better place and solving problems. I followed civil engineering because I wanted to make an impact on the world I live in, especially in terms of sustainability.

My current job:

I use technology to undertake calculations, run modelling scenarios and draw designs. Using Excel, Lusas and AutoCAD, designing and assessing structures is quick and accurate.

My current job (continued):

My favourite thing about being an engineer is knowing the difference I make. This can be making public projects more economical so less of our taxes are spent on highways; reducing the number of road closures by working more innovatively; or reducing the environmental impact of our projects.

As with most fields in STEM, there's a major skills deficit so if you're interested – go for it! There are many career paths you can follow. Do some research online and contact someone to go see what it's like.

STEM Ambassador role:

I didn't know anything about engineering until I was 17, and even then, my career's advisor barely knew more than me! I'd love for more young people to know what engineering is so they can make more educated decisions about their career.

In the past I've helped with EDT summer schools, school visits, brownies evenings and careers fairs.

Being at the younger end of the spectrum of people in my office, I have spent years finding ways to make processes quicker using computers. I try to make the most of my skills by exploring different software packages, different ways to use those we have and sharing ideas with colleagues.

Lately, I have been using Microsoft Teams to share knowledge and skills. This led me into researching Knowledge Management and how to improve the storage and accessibility of processes and information to increase the capacity for effective knowledge sharing.

Student challenge:

You must design a gatepost on a first-floor balcony. You cannot drill through the floor as it will affect the room below. You cannot attach the post to the wall because there is expensive cladding which is very difficult to replace. How do you set up the gate post, so it does not fall over when the gate is closed onto it?



Nice to get to know you!