

# PIPS Placement: Nybep

## What is Nybep?

North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership is a not-for-profit social enterprise, an education business partnership with a 23 year track record of successfully engaging employers in education.

They aim to help young people to acquire the skills and knowledge that prepare them for the workplace and inspire them to plan for and achieve a successful future. They achieve this by connecting with around 30,000 young people each year, providing work-related activities that focus on career exploration, developing employability skills and knowledge, understanding the value of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and raising aspirations.

### Women into STEM:



The Women into STEM initiative involved collecting information from women in STEM careers about what they do, what skills they need, how they got into the position and words of advice they had.

I then used this information to design Women into STEM Pen Portraits which were used at large STEM events such as Inspirations 2017 to create a stall for students to find out more about potential STEM careers.

Working with STEM outreach coordinators at Nybep to help organise and deliver STEM or employability related events in the local area.

### Chemistry at Work:

I managed the organisation of a Chemistry at work event aimed at year 9 and 10 school students which presented some of the principles of chemistry as they are applied in industry, research and everyday life. The aim was to demonstrate that chemistry is not only an interesting and stimulating subject, but can also lead to a rewarding career which can be set in a variety of contexts.



What did my placement involve?

### New contacts:

Networking with people involved in events supported by Nybep has given me a range of valuable contacts and friendly faces in an area that I might be interested in following as a career after my PhD. I have already used these new connections to secure another speaker for the Gradshare events I organise.

### New friends:

Working with the Nybep team is the thing I miss most after finishing my placement. My personality seemed to be a good fit with the rest of the team and they were always very welcoming and happy to help whenever they could.

### New opportunities:

Due to the recognition of my capabilities whilst working with the team at Nybep, I was invited to assist with a pathways to STEM evening at Malton School where I gave a 15 minute talk to Year 10 - 13 students and their parents interested in STEM, about studying a STEM subject at university and following on to do a PhD.

### New skills:

My **confidence in networking** massively improved through introducing myself at large events to promote employer involvement with the Women into STEM initiative.

**Event and people management** - Managing the organisation of the chemistry at work event gave me the opportunity to experience the **logistics** involved in planning an outreach event as well as knowing how to approach communication with a variety of different people from different professional environments.

**Adaptability and improvisation** - Running outreach events is never a straightforward thing and there is always room for an unexpected change, there were many opportunities during my placement where I had to adapt to perform a different role or quickly revise a plan due to unforeseen events.

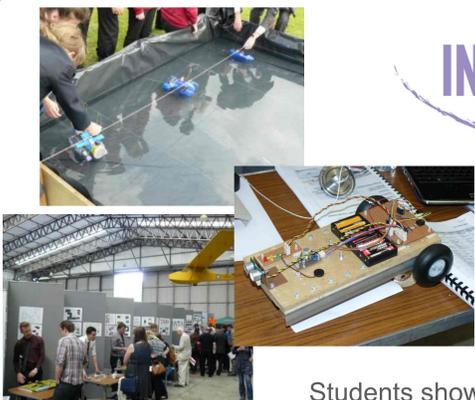
### The Big Bang Fair North East

I attended the Big Bang Fair North East at Northumbria University where I assisted with event setup, and helped to host a careers stand with interactive questionnaires for students to complete and find out which career they might be suited to.

Whilst there, I was tasked with observing other stands to see what attracted the most interest and engagement from students and used this information to create a guide for exhibitors which is now sent out along with exhibitor information packs to help improve the quality of exhibitor stands at future events.



### INSPIRATIONS



I had the chance to be a judge at Inspirations, a free annual event dedicated to getting young people aged 7-19 excited about STEM as well as innovation and enterprise.

Students showcase a business idea, prototype invention or project they were involved in and are judged on the quality of their work and presentation to win a range of different awards. This was a very enjoyable day and great to see the enthusiasm the students had for their projects.

## Following on from my work:

The Women into STEM pen portraits that I designed have proven very popular and have featured at four Key events this year including:

- Inspirations – 1338 students from 35 schools
- Scarborough Engineering Week – 3238 students from 31 schools
- Tees Valley Skills Show – 2144 students from 28 schools
- Opportunity Knocks – 600 students from 4 schools.

Professional graphic versions of these pen portraits have now been commissioned and once professionally designed they will be shared and featured on the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership and East Riding of Yorkshire Local Authority websites – the profiles will be available to support STEM teachers hosting careers sessions to provide aspirational and impartial information to young people. Nybep have also secured contracts to deliver reports and workshops on Inter-generational Skills Sharing as a result of this work.

## Comments:

- I chose to apply to do my PIPS placement at Nybep because I wanted to see how the skills I had learned during my PhD would fit with careers outside of industry or academia.
- I did my PIPS placement towards the end of my second year which was a good time for me to come back feeling refreshed and ready to finish my last two years of research.
- This was a self organised placement but the whole process was very straight forward and did not require much paperwork.