



Celebrating Women In STEM with Emma Denny

Emma Denny is an aspiring Engineer who is currently in S5 at Morrison's Academy. In this interview she shares how her love for STEM came about and what she hopes to achieve in the world of STEM looking ahead.

What subjects are you studying?

Currently I'm in S5 and studying Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Human Biology, and Computing Science.

When did you first become inspired by STEM?

My first inspiration for STEM came from my dad. I never had much exposure to STEM in Primary School so all my experience and interest came from him. We would do DIY jobs around the house together, build new furniture, and he'd teach me how to change a car tyre. He also taught me how to code and showed me the proper way to hold and use tools. At the time I never knew these sorts of things were considered as STEM; I just knew I enjoyed it.

What is it that you love about STEM?

STEM is a really nice blend of knowledge and creativity. It lies heavily on problem-solving, innovation and thinking outside the box. I really enjoy the creative process and what I learn from seeing a project through, from the first brainstorm to a final refined solution. Just trying again and again, improving with each attempt and seeing where it takes you is an exciting process. I find that learning from experimenting instead of a textbook is far more meaningful. Being taught how to solve a problem is different from figuring out how to find a solution yourself, and it's such an important skill to have.

What do you want to do as a career?

I'd like to go into Engineering.

Which female in the world of STEM do you find most inspiring?

Margaret Hamilton was the lead software engineer on the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. The code she and her team wrote prevented a last minute abort to the mission. The best part is that it was all written by hand. There's a famous picture of her standing next to the books of code she wrote, almost as tall as her. To write all that code by hand is one thing, but all of it working correctly is almost impossible.

What advice would you give to other girls who want to pursue STEM subjects?

If there are girls wishing to pursue STEM, there is no reason not to! If STEM is what you enjoy and it's something you are curious about, then go for it.

Don't be intimidated by being a "Woman in STEM", or feel under any obligation to prove your place to others. A difference in gender does not have any affect on your capabilities and they should not be questioned based on gender. Girl or boy, gender doesn't decide who makes a good STEM student. At the end of the day, STEM is STEM and it is your work and dedication that counts.