

My Skills My Life: Maths Focus

In the summer of 2021, Allison Copeman, Careers Lead at Sir John Leman High School in Beccles ran a STE(A)M themed careers week.

How did you prepare for the session?

WISE emailed over the My Skills My Life resources, I decided what I needed to use in the time I had available, they were printed out and used in the session with the students.

We invited 12 year 10 female students—chosen by their maths teachers to join the session.



“I liked finding jobs that use STEM that I didn’t know exist, especially jobs that I have an interest in.”

What happened during the session?

The session ran from 9.15am – 12.55pm. It started with a Maths4Girls talk, supported by volunteers from Founders 4 Schools, Katherine from WISE and another alumnus from the school.

The students did the My Skills My Life quiz after the Maths4Girls talk and we went through the results as a group. We then looked through the jobs that matched to their results by looking through the role models and job roles. After morning break, I gave the students the list of the homework activities and they choose one to do; some looked at the four women, others looked at university courses and jobs that may be of interest to them.

They really enjoyed the talk, saying it was interesting and informative, and the time they were able to spend together, as a female group, to research jobs they didn't really know about or know that existed. The whole morning met my learning outcomes of challenging perceived stereotypes, raising aspirations and broadening horizons.

Would you recommend the resource?

Yes! It was a wonderful session, with our lovely volunteers providing so much information about their careers and how they use Maths in their work. The volunteers all gave such positive and important advice, which was hugely appreciated by my students.

I organise a female only workshop this like every year, usually face to face, and always recognise the value these sessions as they are so important at challenging (perceived) stereotypes and are so empowering.

Allison’s Advice!

It was useful to have the My Skills My Life quiz as a paper version as I needed to use this as there was no access to a computer room at the time. The resources were quite straightforward and I used the versions which were most appropriate for my session, adapting them according to the time I had

“I managed to find some new career ideas and what my GCSEs could mean for the future.”

