

WOMEN ARE
Borina.
fascinating research by interesting women



Women of the Future Conference – Write Up

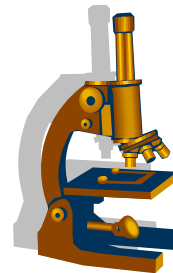


St John
Ambulance



Women of the Future Conference

Before I arrived I just expected there to be talks from influential women however, when we got there they gave us a goody bag and told us to go visit each of the stalls. By each of the stalls there were different women all from a science background but in different jobs. It was very interesting to talk to people about their jobs and how they got into it.



After that we all went into a hall and heard four women from a science background talk about their personal experiences. I previously thought that if you wanted to get into a scientific job you had to have straight A's, however that's not the case. Most of the women, who did talks, did not get A's but instead got more B's. They all had different jobs for example one worked for the BBC and was a youtuber while another one was an engineer. They all liked what they did and described their jobs being different every day.

What I enjoyed most about the day was that we received so much free stuff. I managed to get 7 pens, a stress ball, a hand sanitizer, highlighters, an Intel lanyard and so many sweets. Most of the jobs allowed the women to travel around the world which really interested me.

Before the whole experience I wasn't sure what kind of field I wanted to go in, but after listening to people about their jobs. I want to go into science but be able to travel around the world.

By Hima

Whilst at the women of the future conference at the John Innes Centre I met many inspirational women that all came from different scientific backgrounds, each with different jobs. We visited each stall where we were given free gifts and information booklets; if we were to be interested in that area of work.

After this we were taken into a conference hall where we were given talks from 4 different speakers. These were Claire West, Dr Helen Czerski, Sian Hill and Maddie Moate. Throughout the talks I learnt more about their experiences with science and how it has helped them to be where they are today.

I enjoyed speaking to the individual role models where they told us about their everyday routines and some of their best experiences. What I found most interesting is that science has allowed them to travel the world for research and has made me consider taking up a scientific career.

By Hollie

Women of the Future showed me that it's good to be a girl in STEMM subjects – but more than that, it showed me the massive variety of careers in science.

Going around the stalls in the John Innes Centre allowed me to restock on stationery as well as learn about how important science is in our everyday lives. There were lots of interesting stalls, like the one about using smartphones to help detect early symptoms of illnesses, like Parkinson's disease. Womenareboring ran that stall, which is a website about the current ground-breaking research of academic women.

The lectures in the hall were also very interesting. We met Maddie Moate – a TV presenter and YouTuber, who makes science videos for young people.



After that we met Helen Czerski, a researcher at the University College London, who has had documentaries on the BBC. She is a physicist who studies oceans, so not only does she get to travel the seas, but she gets to do lots of hands-on physics which made me realise that physics doesn't just have to be about protons, neutrons and electrons. (She also explained why blueberries are blue but blueberry jam is purple.)

My overall take on the day was that just like you shouldn't stereotype girls as being worse at science than boys, you also shouldn't stereotype what a career in science looks like. STEMM is a huge field, and there are so many opportunities, like this, that comes with it.



By Malu Nair, Year 10

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Women of the Future conference; I learnt many new things and it really opened my eyes to how many jobs in science there actually are.

We started off by looking around the different stands and talking to many different women about their careers and what inspired them to get into science. I learnt about jobs that I didn't even know existed. I don't know what I want to be when I'm older but this made me realise that I might not even know that my future job exist yet.

The lectures that we had have inspired me to pursue a career in science. Before the WOF conference I was scared of not getting the right grades to be able to do science for a living. But the women taught me that you don't need to get perfect grades to do this. You don't even have to have a clear path that you are going to take.

Before the conference I thought that STEMM subjects were male dominated and that it was probably going to stay like that. However, now I believe that women are just as good as men at these subjects and we definitely need more women doing them.

By Harriet



Poster that we made and stuck on the feedback wall



This is us having our picture taken for the Women are Boring blog



This is us with the youtuber and TV presenter Maddi Moate (Harriet took the photo)



Hollie trying out a VR headset