

International Women's Day – Tuesday 8th March 2022

The whole school were invited to join in with a live chat today to celebrate International Women's Day. We were joined by Catherine Brown from Buckingham Group Contracting who very kindly agreed to be "Teamed" into classrooms across the school to talk to the pupils about her career/stereotypes and how she got to where she is today.

- ❖ *I am currently working and studying to be a Quantity Surveyor for Buckingham Group Contracting – a UK based construction company. This is a new career for me, having spent 12 years working for Peugeot Motor Company and 6 years working as a part-time childminder and part-time squash coach whilst raising my 3 young children.*

Catherine was absolutely brilliant; her honesty and openness with the pupils about her career was inspirational. The questions that they pupil's asked clearly showed their enthusiasm and their fascination with Catherine's current job and her previous career path – there were some fantastic questions for Catherine to answer!



What career would you do next if you were to change? Do you find the older you get, the careers you want to do change? Are there other women in the industry?

Does a QS build or design the product or is it purely the financial side?

From Y9: How old were you when you started your first career?

How do you think International women's day should be celebrated?

When you were at school – what was your dream job? What subjects did you take?

What A-levels did you do? Were A levels difficult for you?

Are there many women in your industry?

Which career have you enjoyed the most?

How much do you find dyslexia affects your day-to-day life since leaving school? Does your dyslexia sometimes cause you to make mistakes or slip ups? Does that worry you?

What skill(s) could you use for ALL your jobs, please?

Teacher Feedback:

- I thought it was very good, especially when Catherine mentioned her dyslexia, I noticed pupils with dyslexia paid extra attention. What was especially good was the pupils were asking me about my journey and what I've done. It was a good catalyst for discussion.
- Superb talk – thank you so much
- Thank you and great pick with Catherine. My Y8 listened really well
- It was a great event!
- It would have been better if we could do it in person, but I appreciate the logistics and with Covid it couldn't have happened.
- I thought she was superb. She had a good, relevant story to tell and supported it with honest, open insights into her life.
- She is living the multi – job life that will become the norm, with the need to keep training and learning. As such her story provides a clear focus for what we, as teachers, should be trying to achieve for our pupils – namely the confidence and ability to retrain as and when necessary – allowing them to thrive in a rapidly changing world.
- Pupils found it thought provoking and I think inspiring.
- I loved the fact that she found "the public speaking" part of school particularly useful (and maths), that she showed true grit, turned her hand to whatever job made the most sense for her at that time and was simply making the most of opportunities. "She would rather try and fail then live her life wondering if she could have made it work".

Tweets by [@sjcssalisbury](#)



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Huge thank you to Catherine Brown from Buckingham Group Contracting for the inspiring and informative talk today!
[#InternationalWomensDay2022](#)