

STEM Skills Week 2024 – Pupil Reflection

A young person in S4 took the opportunity to attend the STEM Skills Week in February at Dumfries House and at local aerospace companies.

Before going to the STEM Skills week, the young person was unsure about what pathway they would like to take when leaving school but hoped this experience would be helpful to them. They were aware of the meaning of STEM but had not much experience to learn about STEM outside the classroom environment yet.

“I really enjoyed the tour of Collins Aerospace because we got to see how everything is made and the process it goes through throughout the workplace. I was overwhelmed by the size of the building and the machines that the operators were using. I learned about the qualifications and pathways possible to have a successful career in the aerospace industry. NATS was my favourite part of the Skills Week – I was able to see the comms for the aeroplanes and the information given such as wind, temperature and even the degree that the planes were flying at! The status of the plane was something of particular interest to learn about and the air traffic control job seemed to be very intense using sonars, radars and tracking live flights. We learned about soldering and wire harnessing during the week and got the opportunity to try it out and once I got the hang of it, it was something I enjoyed doing. UWS staff presented information on Cyber Security and Leonardo (a computing coding company) gave us presentations to learn more about what they do. I could see connections between this and the work I have done in Computing and Technical in school. The flight simulator was a great experience on the last day. The STEM Skills week gave me a great insight and knowledge about the aerospace industry and it now might be a possible pathway I might consider when leaving school. Looking ahead I feel that communicating, focusing, collaborating, adapting, critical thinking and creativity would be essential Metaskills required to be successful in an aerospace career. I’m glad I took part!”

The young person committed to attending each day of STEM Skills week which meant they have gained a City & Guilds Qualification Level 1 Preparing for Work unit which is a fantastic addition to their suite of S4 qualifications.

Well done to the young person for accepting this opportunity!
Miss Laura MacMillan
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