

London Borough of Bexley Women in STEM Businesses

An Insight into Women in Stem fields

In This Issue

**Kathala Saddler
shares her story on life
working as a Female
Senior Project
Engineer**

**We hear from local
STEM Businesses**

**Lauriann's STEM Club
host a successful series
of Summer workshops
during August**

Lauriann's STEM Club

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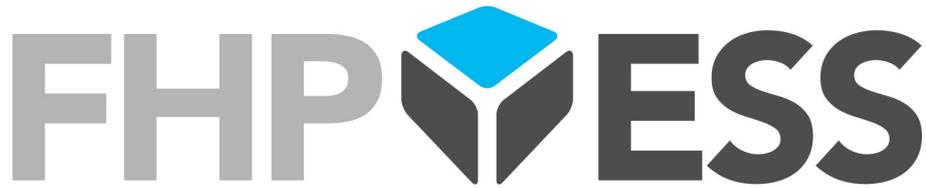
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We would like to personally thank those who supported Lauriann's STEM club by promoting our events and the students and parents attending our workshops. We hope to continue growing and delivering fun-filled sessions in your schools. Check out photos from our summer workshops on our website!



Engineering Services Solutions

Finding out from kathala what it is like working for FHP ESS as a Female Engineer

What is your day to day role?

One of the most exciting aspects of my role as an engineer is that my 'day to day' responsibilities are so varied. During a week, I can be working through designs and calculations for a healthcare project one day, attending a site visit for premium chocolatier shop the next, or meeting with a high-end retail brand to discuss their flagship store in Regents Street.

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"Overall, I feel the industry has come a long way"

What do you enjoy about your role?

It is this diversity that I love, and not just from the type of projects that I work on but also the different skill sets that I draw on to do it.

What external influences inspired you to pursue a STEM career e.g. people that you knew / places that you visited?

Although I'd always been interested in the way things work and how they were put together, I can't pinpoint any one moment that drove me to a career in STEM. In fact, at school I wasn't particularly strong with maths or the sciences only left with 1 A-Level. Undeterred by this, at 19, I started a job with a building services consultancy as a CAD technician. This sparked my interest in the industry and eventually spurred me on to start a part time degree in Building Services Engineering. I graduated with a First and went on to secure my first job as a Mechanical Engineer.

"I would say that any negative experiences are well outweighed by the number of positive comments"

Of course, there have been some challenging moments as a female engineer. I would say that any negative experiences are well outweighed by the number of positive comments from colleagues, clients, and contractors about the fact it's 'refreshing' and 'great' to see more women in engineering.

What has been your career highlight so far?

Being able to get involved in a project from conception all the way through to completion is probably the most satisfying parts of my job. Some projects I've worked on for three to four years and having spent hundreds of hours on design work, drawings, and project meetings, when it gets to site and you finally get to see your systems that you designed being installed, it's quite a buzz!

