

INDUSTRY: DIGITAL

PROGRAMME: WORK INSPIRATION

ACTIVITY: ADA LOVELACE EVENT

ORGANISATION: SKY

SCHOOL: VARIOUS



ADA LOVELACE DAY WITH SKY

Ada Lovelace was a 19th century English writer and mathematician. She worked on Charles Babbage's analytical engine computer and is often described as the earliest computer programmer.



"It is important for employers like Sky to help girls visualise the creative opportunities available that harness and complement Technology. Helping the girls realise design is about how things work and not just about how things look will make them think differently about what it means to be a 'designer'."

**DENISE LAMOND,
PRINCIPAL UX
DESIGNER, SKY**

"Everyone really did enjoy the workshops, very enthusiastic!"

**BRENDAN MCCART,
COMPUTING SCIENCE
TEACHER, ST KENTIGERN'S
ACADEMY**

To celebrate Ada Lovelace Day and recognise the positive contribution girls can make in Technology, Sky ran a User Experience Design workshop for female S1- S4 pupils. The two main aims of the event were:

- To encourage female pupils to choose computing science as a school subject
- To encourage more females to consider pursuing a career in IT

By participating in the event, pupils learned that there is a creative process behind the systems that Sky builds and that, as users of technology, they are already developing an awareness of how things work. The hands-on workshop helped the girls learn there are Technology roles at Sky that combine creativity, innovation and problem solving- all key meta skills for their future careers.

Pupils were exposed to a working environment, where they met female IT professionals and encountered staff at various stages of their careers, from apprentices to senior managers. Pupils were encouraged to ask questions of the staff they met and were given a tour of the premises .

50 pupils from 5 secondary schools - St Kentigern's Academy, Linlithgow Academy, Deans CHS, West Calder High School and Bathgate Academy - attended the event. Several pupils confirmed that they would now consider taking Computing Science as a subject in the next academic year. Many of the older pupils confirmed that, as a result of experiencing the workshops and meeting IT professionals, they were now considering a career in IT.

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