

WISE Careers in STEM Sky Visit Report – October 2017



At the start of October, 10 of our keenest female scientists from Years 8 and 9 got the opportunity to take part in a visit to the Sky 2 building at the nearby Leeds Dock, in order to find out more about the range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers available to women and the importance of more women entering the industry!

The visit started with a tour of the modern, hi-tech Sky offices, where students got the chance to find out about how developers, engineers and business analysts at Sky work together to keep the Sky website and mobile phone app running smoothly. Both the students and TRGA staff members in attendance (Mr. Webb and Mrs. Mason) were surprised at how laid-back and open the office environment seemed and the many benefits of working for Sky, such as the opportunity to move between different job roles and of course, the free satellite channels!

After the tour, our students heard from some of the inspirational female role models who work for Sky in a range of roles, from software developers to business analysts. Students were surprised to learn that only 18% of the tech workforce are female and were even more shocked to discover that many of the women working as software developers for Sky had never previously excelled at Maths in school, something that had put some of our students off the idea of working in technology in the past.

Students then had the opportunity to work in groups to develop their own apps to solve common day-to-day problems and present their ideas to the employees at Sky and students from other schools – our students did themselves proud, delivering three excellent presentations to explain the idea behind their apps, which involved helping individuals to keep their phones from going off in awkward situations, sharing phone ringtones more easily and converting a mobile phone into an all-purpose television remote!

The feedback from all of the girls who attended the visit was extremely positive, with 100% of the girls interested in taking part in something similar in the future and many of them expressing a renewed interest in finding out more about careers in STEM now that they knew so many women held significant jobs in this industry. The visit was run by an organisation called WISE (Women into Science and Engineering) and we hope to run many other similar events like this with them for TRGA students in the future!