

Look at me now

Name: Molly Mathematics

Age: 24

Job title: Maths teacher

Company employed by: Secondary school

Favourite subjects at school: Maths – of course!

Influential toys during childhood: Mathlink cubes, Cash register and calculator, Number street



When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A Mathematician

Role model when growing up / who or what inspired you to become a maths teacher?

Rachel Riley and my secondary school maths teacher – Rachel has given maths a fresh new look and made it accessible for a whole new audience on TV, and my maths teacher at school always made maths fun and showed me how to solve equations using formulae and numbers.

Reason for career choice:

I love being able to help the next generation to think about the use of numbers for solving all sorts of problems and making maths relevant to everyday life.

Career pathway to date:

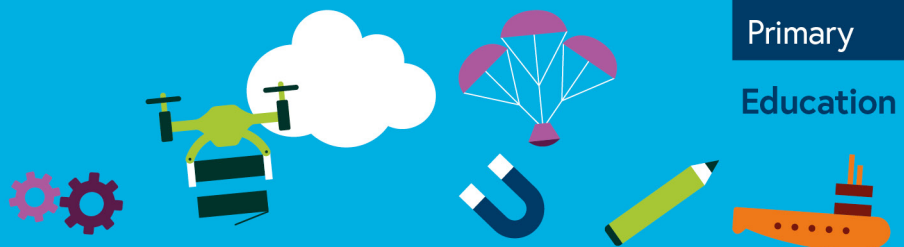
A-levels in Maths, Further Maths and English Lit. Degree in Maths. Postgraduate teacher training course. NQT at my local secondary school where I am now a fully qualified maths teacher.

If you could have any job what would it be and how does that differ to your current role?

I will always be a maths teacher but I would love to present a maths TV show to reach a wider audience with maths and number.

Tell us a little bit about your role. What does your typical day involve?

I always arrive at work early to prepare my lessons and make sure my classroom is set up and ready for the day. I like to be there to welcome the students when they get to school and have a chat with them to find out more about their lives outside of the classroom and what makes them tick. After my form class has been registered its time to start my maths lessons. I am teaching maths to 8 different classes this year from Year 7 to Year 11, so it keeps me on my toes! In my free periods I enjoy writing number quizzes and thinking of new challenges to get the students thinking about maths in a variety of different ways.



What do you love about your job and what would you change?

I love being able to help my students to overcome an area of maths that they might find tricky. That lightbulb moment really can happen and it's amazing to have been part of their journey. When students come back to take maths A-level with me after they have done well in their maths GCSE, I know that I have done something right and they will be on the path to a fantastic future as maths can open up so many doors to so many different careers.

What qualifications did you take at school/college?

11 GCSEs. Maths and English A-levels.

What gives you the most job satisfaction?

Seeing a student help another student out with a maths problem. If they can help someone else in the classroom then I know that they have completely understood it themselves.

What's the most unexpected thing about your job?

Cover lessons! These always keep me on my toes but it's surprising how many lessons maths can be incorporated into!

If you could give one piece of advice to a young person who is considering a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths), what would it be?

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain! Even if you're not yet sure what your chosen career will be, the STEM subjects can open so many doors and keep them open for you.

What are the biggest implications your work will/could have in the future?

You never know who you have sitting in your class. I could be teaching the next Carol Vorderman or Rachel Riley so I want to always make sure that I am teaching to the best of my ability as you never know – my words could be spoken through the next popular maths TV presenter!

What excites you most about STEM?

STEM is everywhere and in everything! Never underestimate the importance of your STEM lessons at school as you never know – it only takes one inspirational teacher and you could be hooked for life!

