



Scientist in the Spotlight

Daisy Abbott

Science and Technology Artist

Daisy Abbott is a British artist who combines science and technology with traditional art and design forms at the Glasgow School of Art and Design. She studied art and design, science and maths at A-level, going on to do a bachelor's degree in theatre, film and television, followed by a master's in information technology and humanities. Her work involves the use of technology in designing games, visualising art forms and education. Turning abstract scientific concepts into visual art forms and representations is very useful for many areas of science. In physics, it is particularly helpful to represent forces, otherwise we would not be able to visualise them. This allows us to be able to use them in calculations for important applications, including designing the structures of cars, aeroplanes and rockets.



Daisy describes a scientist as someone who is creative, **rigorous** and willing to be wrong sometimes. A typical day for Daisy involves writing up bids for funding for various research projects that combine art and technology. An amazing application of her work involved creating a huge, fully 3D architectural model. She also enjoys going to art festivals and workshops to talk about the work she does with her students and learn about other projects. One of her recent jobs was designing a game about people working together to change climate policy in their university that is played across different media platforms.

The freedom to choose what she works on is one of the best things about Daisy's job. She believes that everyone can do maths and learn computer programming, **contrary** to the belief that **STEM subjects** are not for everyone or are **intrinsically** harder to understand. She is passionate about education and believes that a student's interest in STEM subjects depends on the presentation of it. She considers that it is very useful to have the skills that one can learn from studying STEM subjects, which can even be applicable in daily life, like making outdoor treasure hunts for kids.

Daisy's advice for future students who are interested in studying science is to not just focus on the subject, but to also pay attention to the method and way of thinking when doing science. So she encourages people not to be afraid of science but embrace it and think of it as a useful tool for life.



Activity

Use the scientist's profile to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scientist's job?

2. Briefly describe what the scientist does in a typical day.

3. What skills do they need for this job?

4. What do you think is the most interesting part of their job?

5. Describe how this job links with the science you have learned in this unit

6. State the definition of any words in **bold**.
