Maths at Work

ERIC BUTLER - Automotive Engineering

As someone who struggled with maths in school, it wasn't until I saw real world use for all these complicated equations that I started to be fascinated in STEM/Engineering.

My job involves writing and testing code to add new features to Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles. These features are for the electronic dash display.

A lot of people ask me do I need to be good at maths to get into a similar role? I always tell them that I come from an ordinary level maths background and as long as you're putting in the work every day and have the drive to get to where you want to be; you can get over the hurdle and start enjoying the amazing things you can create using maths.

MARY HOLLAND - Sustainable Energy

For me, energy statistics is 'maths that matters' – I want to show young people with a passion for maths that there is a place and a need for them in driving climate change.

In a world filled with misinformation and disinformation online, it is important to provide the 'touchstone' of trusted, transparent, and timely statistics, helping keep the climate conversations and policy-decisions evidence-based.

As a Senior Energy Statistician with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), I lead the collection of numbers to understand how different fuels are being used across the economy in homes, businesses, cars, planes, factories, and farms. Energy statistics tell us if we are mostly using fossil fuels or renewable energy and what we need to do to keep Ireland green.

HELGA BJARNADÓTTIR - Animation

I come from a very science-minded household, so I have had a love of maths from a young age.

When I realised animation existed as a career path, I finally found the perfect opportunity to unite my interest in art and maths, so I went into animation and I have not looked back.

As Technical Director at Cartoon Saloon, I love being a part of creating film and TV, and working with so many fantastic artists, and I love the daily opportunities for the kind of problem solving I fell in love with in maths class.

DOMINIQUE KNIGHT - Electrician

I started my apprenticeship with Suir Engineering in September 2024, where I use maths on a day-to-day basis.

It would be something as simple as just adding numbers or sometimes more complex, depending on the job

I always enjoyed maths in school as I liked having to solve challenges, but I think it is important to knuckle down in school so that you can achieve your goals in the future.

For instance for most apprenticeships you have to pass maths. You're in school for a short period, so you may as well make the most of it and just learn as much as you possibly can.

STÉPHANIE DOSSOU - Artificial Intelligence

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) Director at Mazars, I use maths to analyse information to make good decisions.

The results can also tell us a story that will help us better understand the problem we are working on, where we can design better solutions. In addition, we have a budget for researching and implementing new AI technologies.

Here, I consider how much it will cost to implement new technology and if it's helpful for Mazars. I can use basic maths to assess the costs of implementing new technology and decide if we have the budget to implement it.

Whatever you do in life, maths can help you at any level now and in the future.

KEVIN O'NEILL - AgriFood

I'm a Milk Recording Supervisor at Progressive Genetics.

The work I do helps farmers assess cow performance and profit. I use maths daily to track each cow's milk yield, quality, and profitability. Feed, milk volumes and milk quality (fat, protein, lactose etc) are measured and recorded on computer. Maths is involved in every step. This data supports better decisions in feeding and breeding and helps increase herd performance across farms.

I would encourage all students to engage and focus on maths in school as it is a subject which is used every day both in the world of work and in your personal lives.

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