



Kerry Vacara, 1999

What Career are you in, and what sort of things does this entail?

Head of Training for an assistive technology that make hardware and software for communication aids for people who cannot speak. Similar to the sort of thing Stephen Hawking used. We use a lot of eye gaze technology which allows people to operate a computer with their eyes. I manage our training offering for the markets we work with in the UK and the rest of the world. Before this, I was a secondary school teacher.

What inspired you to go into your chosen career?

I studied English Language A-Level and was really interested in the child language development element to this. This lead me to do Linguistics at university specialising in speech and Language disorders and child language development. I considered being a speech therapist but initially trained as a teacher before moving to work for an assistive technology company. I now work very closely with Speech and Language Therapists and Teacher amongst other professionals.

What advice would you give to anyone interested in working in your career area?

Our team come from such a wide variety of backgrounds and we have roles from software developers, admin teams, engineers, teachers and Speech Therapists. Whatever you study think about what skills you develop along the way that might be transferable to different careers. My teaching qualification lead me into training and my background in Linguistics directed me towards assistive technology.

What do you know now, that you wish you'd known when you were leaving Malbank?

What you decide to study Y11 and 13 doesn't necessarily have to be your life long career. It can be part of your career journey and provide the best foundation for the start of your chosen career but your career journey might have several stages.

If you would like to get in touch with Matt to find out more about careers like this, please contact Mr Batty in the Sixth Form Office, or via Teams