



# *Hannah Tarrant, 2012*

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

I am an economist at the Department for Education. I do research, analysing data to look at things like the relationship between educational attainment and lifetime earnings. I use my understanding of economic concepts to help inform policy-making. There is a lot of coding involved, which often surprises people!

## **What inspired you to go into your chosen career?**

Education is so important! I was fortunate to have had a supportive environment and some brilliant teachers, which helped me to reach my potential. I care about making sure everyone has this opportunity. I feel incredibly lucky to work in a role that lets me use my skills to contribute to that.

The nature of the work appeals to my love of maths and statistics. They are such powerful tools for helping to understand how the world works.

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

1. Study Economics when you get the chance. It may be a subject you feel you don't know much about, but if you care about issues affecting our society and enjoy maths, it can be incredibly rewarding.

2. Learn. Be curious There are some great (non-technical) books out there that can give you an insight into the kind of things economists spend their time thinking about. Try googling "must read books for aspiring economists". There are also some great podcasts, such as "Understand the economy", on BBC Sounds.

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

1. It's fine to not know what you want to do with your life, and don't expect to have it all worked out before you start work! Take that pressure off yourself and just give something a go. You may have an idea of where your interests lie, but properly understanding what sort of job you'll enjoy only comes with experience. The good and the bad experiences all teach you more about what career is right for you.

2. Whenever anyone gives you advice, consider what perspective they're giving it from. How did/does their life experience relate to yours? Always consider a piece of advice at arms length before deciding whether you should listen to it. Even if it comes from someone you look up to, like your parents. This also applies to any advice I may be giving in these answers!

***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***