

## CASE STUDIES

These women completed our People Like Me Quiz and have shared some interesting information about who they are.



### ALYS BRETT

Communicator, Entrepreneur and Explorer

“Software is one of the driving forces of change in the world so there are loads of opportunities to combine it with other interests.”

Alys Brett, Data and Coding Team Leader, Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

### What kind of person is Alys?

Alys describes herself as a friendly and intuitive person. Those personality traits help her to get the best out of the team she manages. She's also quite inventive and logical, which is great because her job is all about understanding tricky technical details and coming up with solutions to challenging problems.

### What is Alys's job?

Alys is a Data and Coding Team Leader for the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy - a research organisation which operates the world's largest nuclear fusion experiment. Nuclear fusion is really exciting because it could one day provide the world with clean, safe energy. She manages a team of six software developers who build tools to manage and use the experimental data. In order to lead them effectively she needs to have the technical knowledge to understand the software they create, as well as being aware of the bigger picture. Alys spends a lot of her time communicating with nuclear fusion scientists to understand their needs and potential problems, and then gets her team to work out appropriate software solutions. She loves seeing ideas turn into real solutions that could help the world one day!

### How did she get that job?

Alys actually wanted to have an artistic job when she was growing up. At around the age of 16, she became fascinated with Science because of the way it fundamentally explains the world around us. She did Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A-Level and a four year MSc degree in Physics. She planned to become a physics researcher but changed to focus on software development because it combines creativity with problem solving and she loves the satisfaction of creating something using logic. When she started work in 2005, she earned £20,000 as a web developer at Oxford University.

### Why is Alys the 'Communicator', 'Entrepreneur' and 'Explorer'?

Alys is a 'Communicator' because she makes sure people work together in the best way possible. She fits the 'Entrepreneur' quite well too because she's always striving to improve her projects. Alys is also an 'Explorer' because she's interested in Science and it's what motivates her to work in this field. Alys likes how the 'People Like Me' quiz shows that there is a variety of STEM roles available no matter what personality type you have!