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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**Female students inspired by STEM role models through Roller Derby!**

Young women from across Buckinghamshire came together at Wycombe Leisure Centre earlier this month, to learn more about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), through a speed networking event preceded by a game of roller derby. The [Bucks Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/) event, where Roller Derby and STEM collided (STEMroller), was aimed at helping to break some myths and change perceptions of what women in STEM are like.

But why roller derby? Roller derby is the fastest growing women’s sport in the world and is full contact on roller skates. The intention is to inspire young women by putting them in front of strong, powerful women who often skate to show they are just ordinary women! All players and officials were women working in STEM.

100% of students who attended the event rated it either ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. Words they used to describe the event were ‘intriguing’, ‘empowering’, ‘interesting’, ‘engaging’, ‘cool’, ‘interesting’, ‘fun’ amongst many more.

One father stated: “My daughter had a fantastic time at the event despite her initial nervousness about attending it alone. She came home enthusiastic about pursuing a career in engineering. The people that she met were inspirational and she loved watching the roller derby live: the game was fun, fast paced and a good way to ease into the networking part.”

**more…**

**Female students inspired by STEM role models through Roller Derby: 2**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) jobs are of ever-increasing importance, from people that design a self-driving car to cutting edge medical developments to the person who prevents your computer from being hacked - all are STEM roles. By 2023 there are expected to be 142,000 extra jobs in STEM, it is predicted that all jobs in the near-future will have an element of STEM.

Karen Ironside, Enterprise Coordinator for the Bucks Skills Hub, said: “STEMroller is a fantastic opportunity for young women across Buckinghamshire and beyond to be inspired into considering roles in STEM. Through this event, young women got to meet female professionals from a wide range of STEM industries and were inspired by someone just like them. Roller Derby is also super exciting, very dramatic and was a great opportunity to see this rapidly growing game live in action.”

The STEM professionals attending on the day had a wide variety of jobs: Analytical Scientist, Mechanical Engineer, Application Tester, Systems Manager, Materials Science Quality Engineer, Trampoline Lighting Programme, Construction company owner, RAF Puma Helicopter Engineer, Tech Lawyer, Apprentice Electrician, Human Factors Researcher, Nuclear Medicine Clinical Scientist, and Astronomer.

Wycombe Leisure Centre, who donated their entire sports hall for the event have already agreed to donate it again for STEMroller 2020 (29th February 2020). The event took place in partnership with RAF Engineer, Wycombe District Council, British Science Week, RetroMum Catering, Intermesh UK and The Careers and Enterprise Company.

For further information please go to: <https://wannabebucks.org/>

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Roller Derby and STEM collided at this family friendly event for parents and guardians with girls aged between 14-19.*

*(*Photo credit: Striking Places Photography)

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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