

PTkai: 00: Intro: Why Digital Technologies?

Video Name: What have our students been missing out on?

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When I went through high school digital technologies wasn't a part of the curriculum. There was no teaching of computer science or programming. I didn't know these areas existed at all. When I got to university the only subject that appealed to my interests, which were around maths and problem solving but also design and creativity, engineering was the only one people suggested. In my first year starting that I didn't really enjoy it but I just happened to take a computer science paper where we learnt programming using Python and got an introduction to computer science. I only picked the course because I didn't want to do the chemistry one.

I ended up really loving that course and I ended up in computer science completely by accident. That course really hooked me onto it. I ended up switching to it, doing my degree in it and now I am doing my PhD in computer science. I really wish it had been at school so I didn't just happen to get into it by accident, that I'd actually had that chance to try it out then and find out what a fantastic field it is and everything I can do with it. I really hope that having this in the curriculum and having more people trying it out in schools means all students get to discover it, all students get to experiment with it and find out if they love it, if there's things they want to do that they can now do with computer science. Particularly students from under represented groups. It's really important that we have higher diversity in our industry. Everyone uses technology, everyone should be able to create it. We want the people developing technology to be representative of the people who use it. Having it in schools will really allow more students to discover this field and actually get a chance to make technology work for them rather than just using it themselves.

The main thing that I really love about computer science is the problem solving. It is all about taking real world problems, things that actually affect people, that affect me, breaking them down and coming up with solutions to them using technology.

You can use computer science in every other field. Technology is everywhere now so every single thing that you are interested in you could do computer science and technology with.