



Name: Gemma Cann
Job Title: Science Technician
Organisation: Middlesbrough College
Qualifications: Access extended science
 BSc (Hons) biological sciences
 PTTLS (Preparing to Teach in
 the Lifelong Learning Sector)
Salary: £15,000 - £20,000

About me and my job:

I have always loved biology and I enjoy carrying out experiments, especially those related to microbiology. My role involves providing a day to day service to teaching staff to support their activities in science laboratory areas.

I am required to set up and test laboratory equipment as well as prepare materials requested for classes. I assist teaching staff during practical demonstrations and after the class has finished I clean the equipment that has been used. I am responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the preparation room, chemical store, fume cupboards and the rest of the laboratory. I must promptly deal with bench and floor spillages. In addition, I must maintain an accurate stock record, ordering new stocks when required.

I organise the appropriate storage of laboratory equipment, materials and substances, as well as ensuring that equipment is in good working condition. I provide further support to teachers by testing new experiments and helping to devise new practical work. I actively participate in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, this allows me to contribute to the success of the College as well as develop and acquire new skills. My role is flexible and close to home and so I am able to have a career that can fit around my daughter's needs.

My job changes every day. I enjoy working in the classroom and alongside students. I see a diverse range of students every day and it is interesting to see what they come out with. The advances, new experiments and equipment available for the classroom really bring the subject to life.

Advice about the sector:

It is important to study hard early on. English and maths at grade C or higher are very important in my role as well as an HND science or a science subject. In terms of career progression, there is the opportunity to progress to a senior science technician or to go into teaching. At the moment, I'm studying for my teaching qualification while in my current role.