

MY INTERNSHIP AT TECHFEST

CAREER READY 2024



BY CADHLA RUTHERFORD

The scrapbook page has a light beige, textured background. At the top, the title 'MY INTERNSHIP AT TECHFEST' is written in large, bold, black letters on a yellow brushstroke. Below it, 'CAREER READY 2024' is on a yellow torn-edge paper. A central photo of four women is held by brown paper tabs. Below the photo, 'BY CADHLA RUTHERFORD' is on another yellow torn-edge paper. At the bottom center is a 'career ready' logo on a brown paper square. The page is decorated with hand-drawn triangles and a butterfly at the top, and paper flowers at the bottom corners.

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ABOUT US!

SENUKI

This is Senuki. She's my fellow Career Ready intern who I worked with to create the STEM advent calendar! She made most of the powerpoints and slideshows used for the activities in it.



CADHLA (ME)

This is me! I'm the other 2024 Career Ready intern at TechFest, and I worked with Senuki to produce TechFest's 2024 STEM Advent calendar. I made and designed a lot of the instruction and guide sheets for the activities.



KIRSTY

This is Kirsty. She is our Career Ready mentor, so we spent the last year or so getting to know her. She is on TechFest's team, which is why we had our internship there! She gives us a lot of our tasks, helps us with questions, and informs us about our schedule.



MY PROFILE.

My name is Cadhla, and after Summer, I'll be beginning my 6th year at Northfield Academy. I did several Highers in S5, including English, Music, Physics, and Applications of Maths, and I will hopefully be adding onto these as I am taking Highers in Modern Studies and Art & Design in S6. I enjoy several hobbies such as cooking & baking, crochet, playing the guitar, the bass guitar, and the drums, playing video games, and reading & watching television (I'm a massive fan of The Lord of The Rings). I also own an eight-year-old orange cat called Tigger!

I am not entirely sure what I want to pursue as a career or even do after school, although I have been debating to apply for a media course at university, and I am currently doing a college course in photography as a part of school links. Part of the reason I actually decided to enrol in Career Ready was to figure out what I might like to do in the future!



MORE ABOUT CAREER READY.

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To put it simply, Career Ready is a two-year programme for young people, and it includes things like mentorship, masterclasses, workplace visits, and paid internship to help people close to finishing school get a kickstart into the world of work.

I began my internship in July 2024, during the Summer holidays between my S5 and S6 years at school. I found out about Career Ready during a school assembly at the end of S4, and I decided to apply for the opportunity as it seemed like a once-in-a-lifetime chance to help build my experience early, and as I had been thinking about getting a job, I thought it would be a good idea to understand what a workplace might look like. I was quickly matched with my mentor, Lyn, who I met at a Career Ready event at P&J Live. However, due to circumstances, there was a switch-up and Kirsty became my mentor instead. Since my mentor is based in TechFest, I got to visit the office during the mentorship, and that is why I had my internship there.

I would absolutely recommend Career Ready to any young person like myself who gets the chance. It's an incredible experience to put on your CV, you can understand what a job might be like without going in blind when you're hired for the first time, it really builds on your skills — I found myself much more confident during the internship than I did before — and it's also great fun! There aren't many opportunities like this, especially while you're still in school, so if you can do it, go for it.



INTERNSHIP: WEEK 1



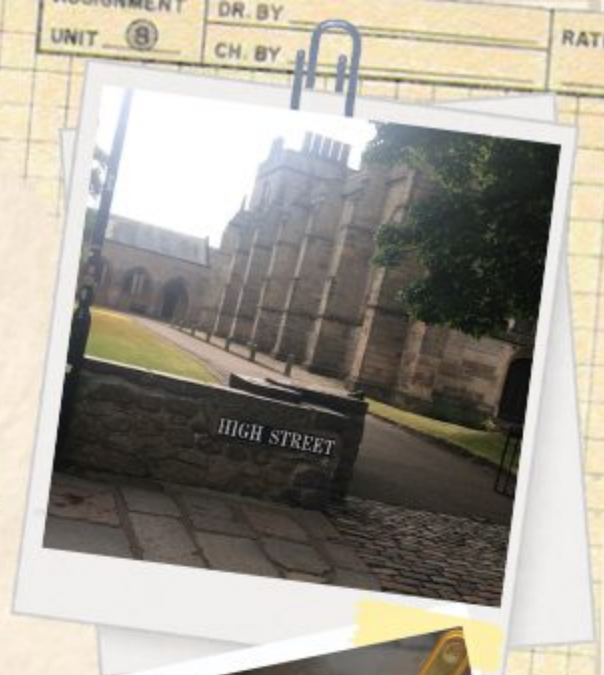
Most of week one of the internship involved numerous induction activities. It also served as time to get to know the office, our surroundings, and how things usually worked in TechFest.

I also discovered how I was comfortable with doing things. I often take an earlier bus to avoid being late, which results in my arriving to the area about 20 minutes too early. As TechFest is on the university campus next to King's College, I decided that I enjoyed sitting down for a while or taking a nice walk around the campus before it's time for work.

When I arrived, Kirsty welcomed us and allowed us to settle in before giving us a brief tour of the office and letting us know what we would be doing during our internship. We were given a plan for the week (we were provided with a new one for each week). We also had some paperwork to fill in, regarding employment and emergency contacts and other protocols. We also got a tour of the university campus — there are lots of cafes to have lunch at!

Senuki and I began to brainstorm and plan ideas for the '24 Days of Stem' advent calendar, and we began to design instruction sheets, activities, and powerpoints. We also met Li over a Teams meeting, a PhD student who was also an intern at TechFest (though not with Career Ready), and who was also working on the advent calendar.

We got to meet other members of the team as the week went on, too, such as Eve, Julia, and Yashka. From Monday to Wednesday, we worked on the calendar and some admin tasks (such as documenting feedback forms from the festival). We got to work from home on Thursday, where we worked more on the calendar, and we got Friday completely off!



INTERNSHIP: WEEK 2

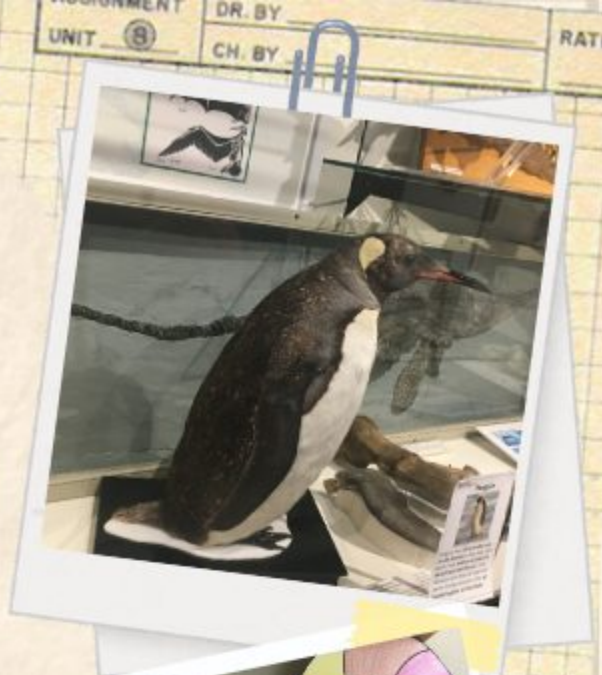


The first day of week two, the Monday, was a work-from-home day! I continued to work on parts of the advent calendar. When we work from home, we also have a Zoom meeting in the morning just to let Kirsty and everyone else know what we're going to be doing, and some basic information for everyone regarding the week.

On Tuesday, we had a great opportunity. Senuki and I got to go to Aden Country Park in Mintlaw for a STEM in the Park outreach day, with Eve and Jenny! We set up a few gazebos and tables for workshops to go onto, and we opened up late in the morning. We were quite busy — the workshops were very popular for families in the area. Some of the activities included the making of paper spinny-tops and windmills, binary-code bracelets, and more. It was a warm and nice day, and during our lunch break (which was half an hour), Senuki and I went for a walk around the park. We continued work at the gazebos until things started quieting down at about 3 O'clock, and we packed up.

On Wednesday, we were supposed to go back to Aden for another outreach day, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to a yellow weather warning in the area. Instead, we stayed in the office and continued work on the calendar project, and also helped Eve sort out boxes which held materials for festival workshops — this was fun since I worked as an usher at the festival, so I recognised a few workshops.

On Thursday afternoon, we had another wonderful experience at the Zoology Building. We walked down with Kirsty and we got a tour of the museum, getting a lovely insight of information about the exhibits and animals. This was probably one of my favourite experiences of the internship just because it was so fascinating and because we received a tour from somebody who actually worked there, which meant we could ask lots of questions and get awesome answers instead of just wandering around clueless.



INTERNSHIP: WEEK 3

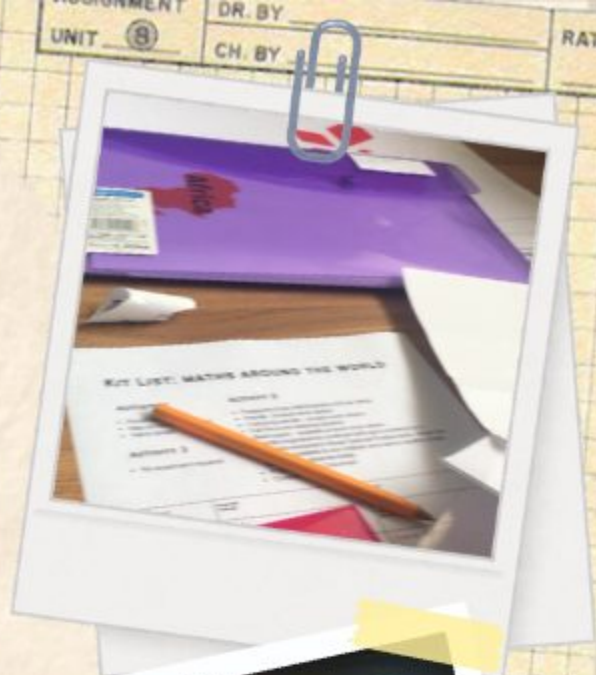


Monday, once again, was a work-from-home day. I worked on a few advent calendar activities alongside starting work on my presentation for the end on the internship and this blog! The advent activity involved baking which was really enjoyable, and it turned out really well (granted not perfectly, but that's just because I was making things I hadn't made before).

We did the same thing on Tuesday, working on the calendar and blogs and also joining in on another team meeting.

On Wednesday, we had another exciting outreach day, this time at Seaton Park which is quite close to the TechFest office. We once again went with Eve and Jenny, but also met Tish and very briefly Sarah when we arrived. The weather that day was a bit iffy in terms of temperature, with the first half being very cold and the second half being very warm. It was actually a lot busier compared to the outreach day the previous week at Aden.

Thursday was another day in the office, though we found that we only had one week left of our internship and some things still needed to be done. We worked even harder on 24 Days of STEM, and sorted more outreach workshop boxes, this time proving quite difficult as the workshop had so many parts and components.



INTERNSHIP: WEEK 4



Week four, the final week, is when we kind of realised that we didn't have much time to finish anything that still needed to be completed. Senuki and I cracked down on our project and began to tinker with any unfinished 24 Days of STEM activities, along with our blogs and presentations.

Kirsty helped us practice our presentations on Tuesday, where we got some feedback and advice on things to work on for the real thing.

On Thursday, our last day of the internship, Senuki and I made our final edits to our presentations before we walked over to the Sir Duncan Rice library to present. I found this quite nerve-wracking at first as I had to present in front of somebody I hadn't met before, but I quickly got into the flow of things, and once I finished I got some really nice feedback from Kirsty, Eve, and Yvonne and Gabi (who were watching the presentation from Microsoft teams).

Once we finished our presentations, we went to a cafe called Killau Coffee for lunch (I had some really nice pasta and a smoothie), and me, Senuki, Eve, and Kirsty just had a chat and ate there for about an hour before heading back to the office.

Once we got back to the office, things were quite stressful and time-oriented as we only had about three hours left to finish everything: this included our blogs and the 24 Days of STEM activities. Once time was up, we handed everything over to Kirsty with notes on what was finished and what still needed to be tinkered with. Then, our internship was pretty much done.



WOULD I RECOMMEND?

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I would absolutely recommend a Career Ready experience if you ever get the chance, and I would especially encourage anyone who gets paired with TechFest to try their hardest and to be outgoing. It's been a very fun experience with a great environment and I'm very grateful that I've gotten the opportunity to take part in it.

Some days may have been the same, but others (like the outreach days) were so unique and different and a rare opportunity in the world of work. It really helps you to figure out what you like -- I discovered that maybe a purely office-based job isn't quite for me as I found myself getting fidgety some days, but I did enjoy getting up and doing hands-on work such as the admin jobs or the outreach workshops.

I've found that my skills and qualities have also been impacted by this experience as I feel much more confident and responsible in a working environment and in general than I had been before my internship with Career Ready and TechFest.

