



## JEN GUPTA

Trainer, Persuader and Supporter

“ One of the best things about my role is changing the way that people think about Physics ”

Jen Gupta, Outreach Officer, Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation at the University of Portsmouth

### What kind of person is Jen?

Jen is a very understanding, empathetic and helpful person. These personality traits really suit her job, which is all about understanding how young people feel about Physics. Sometimes, students have had negative experiences with Physics so Jen is great at relating to them and then motivating them to give Science a go again!

### What is Jen's job?

Jen is an Outreach Officer for the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation at the University of Portsmouth. That means she's in charge of programmes that engage schools and other public bodies. Jen's job is really varied and she does things like organise public astronomy events, go into schools to run workshops about cosmology, deliver shows in an inflatable planetarium, develop new activities to explain research and even train university students to deliver outreach activities. Jen sometimes gets to do slightly unusual things like go to music festivals to talk about Physics or be interviewed on TV and radio about recent Astronomy news!

### How did she get that job?

Jen had a long list of careers she wanted to follow when she was young, from astronaut to musician, but she settled on Physics during A-Levels and then focused on it during university and eventually did a PhD in Physics as well. She only realised she wanted to be an Outreach Officer halfway through her PhD—which was a bit of shock to her considering she hated public speaking up until that point! Her starting pay was £27,500, which is a great a salary to start on.

### Why is Jen the 'Trainer', 'Persuader' and 'Supporter'?

Jen is a brilliant example of the 'Trainer', 'Persuader' and 'Supporter' types because she focuses so strongly on teaching and supporting a whole range of people to engage with Science. She uses lots of techniques and tools to persuade them that Physics is worth getting involved in. Jen thinks the 'People Like Me' quiz would have been very useful because when she was at school she wasn't aware of all the different types of jobs there are in Science!