

A FUTURE IN FOOD

22 year old Sanya Cope is a great example of how Technology education can pave the way to an exciting career.



As a Product Development Technologist at Cerebos Gregg's, Sanya has found her dream job.

"I develop new food products or improve existing products. There is no typical day; it is all over the place. Sometimes I will spend quite a bit of time in the lab trialling formulations, another day I might be researching different suppliers. Recently, I developed a new beverage where we needed to match a competitor's product."

Looking back, she recalls how taking Food Technology in secondary school has provided her with skills and knowledge vital to her everyday work.

"Working in the product development field, I found Technology helped me gain an understanding of the development process as we went through the whole process from start to finish. This involved coming up with ideas and concepts for a food product, choosing a concept to make, trialling and testing the product, as well as designing and making the product packaging," says Sanya. For Sanya, who enjoys "finding innovative ways to solve a problem", Technology provided an opportunity to explore her field of interest, something her other subjects were not able to offer.

"My school didn't offer any Product Design papers and I wanted to do something along these lines so I did a Year 12 Food Technology paper through the Correspondence School which I really enjoyed.

"Technology created a sound base for my future study; I learnt a wide range of useful skills like problem-solving, developing solutions, and project management. I learnt how to plan for each project and account for all the raw materials I would need and the time it would take for each stage. Most importantly, I developed trial-and-error persistence which is vital in Food Technology especially when you are looking to come up with something new and out-of-the-box."

Having landed her ideal job straight from university, Sanya's focus is to "develop myself in the job so I get better at it".

"Eventually I would like to get into innovation management which involves looking at what's happening in other industries, relating it to the food industry, and coming up with new things that people don't know that they need yet".

Sanya is also a Futureintech Ambassador. She volunteers her time to work in schools as a mentor, to help students in their studies and provide career advice for those interested in a career in Food Technology.

Sanya is one of the many students who have studied Technology at secondary level and are now reaping the benefits of that learning. Technology is a compulsory subject from Years 1-10 and covers a variety of technological areas: Digital Technologies, Soft and Hard Materials Technology, Electronics, and Food and Biotechnology.

To find out more on how your child can benefit from Technology education please visit:
www.techlink.org.nz/parents

Techlink is an initiative of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

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