

#MonthlyMotivation: Kirti Mehta (class of 2006)



Kirti is currently working within the Digital and Transformation team at Lloyds Banking Group. Little more than eight years ago she made the dramatic move from her Classics-focused degree into a job within the world of technology. Kirti says: "The main thing is to be curious."

What made you think about the world of technology?

During my first year studying Classics at Bristol University, I attended a number of careers fairs where I looked at options across banking and finance. I wanted to gain as many different experiences as possible so I could make an informed decision about my career direction.

What was your first role?

I accepted a place on a Summer vacation scheme at Deloitte during my penultimate year, and although I didn't know specifically that I wanted to work within the 'Big Four', I decided to pursue this as a career option and started working in Deloitte's Technology Risk Assurance team.

What did this involve?

Whilst I was upskilling myself on financial technology and risk, I was also studying to become a Chartered Accountant. It was a steep learning curve given my Arts background, but a good challenge. It was a time when cyber security and data privacy issues were broadening so it was a fantastic opportunity to be working in technology.

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant and reached Manager level in the Technology Risk Assurance team. I began working on technology risk based projects across the retail, fashion and fast moving consumer goods industries.

Where did you go next?

After being approached by the luxury fashion brand, Burberry, to join their internal audit team, I made my first move into industry. I gained experience in operational risk management across the business functions (including supply chain, finance and marketing), and learnt a lot about how the fashion business works, particularly in the digital space where Burberry is considered a leading brand. During my time at Burberry, I also had the opportunity to work in the Hong Kong office.

Earlier this year, I moved into my current role within the Digital & Transformation team at Lloyds Banking Group (a big change from fashion!). I am the Risk Partner to the Digital Innovation and Mobile Banking Teams, and am also involved in the transformation strategy for the Bank, from a risk perspective.

How did Putney High School help?

Although the world of technology is traditionally a male dominated field, progress is being made to encourage more women into STEM subjects and careers. I have always been aware that, even today, I am in a minority in my team. Putney instilled strong values in me and taught me to be resilient, confident and vocal in whatever I do. I have always found that to be an asset. We study hard to gain technical credibility, however we also need to be able to present ourselves clearly and confidently, and Putney encouraged me in both of these areas.

What advice would you give to anyone looking at the world of technology?

I strongly believe that the most important thing is to study what you're interested in, and remember that whatever you study at school and university, you will be developing transferrable skills that you can apply to whatever you choose to do after that. The main thing is to be curious so take every opportunity to talk to people and read up on the areas and careers you are interested in.

Regardless of whether or not you are interested in a technology-based career, the world is increasingly reliant on technology, which is developing at a rapid pace, it's important to have an awareness of what's happening in this space and how it could impact you.