



JOANA BAPTISTA

AGE: 18 years old FROM: England - South East

“It’s so important to believe in yourself and the causes you fight for, even if not everyone agrees.”

I believe that achieving is only worthwhile if you’re helping others to achieve too.

I’ve worked to help others reach their potential through a series of volunteering projects, including teaching science, computer science and internet safety to children from economically disadvantaged communities. I support the pastoral team at my school, looking after new Year 7 students, and have also run sessions with every teacher at my school to equip them with the tools to help girls combat online misogyny.

Most recently, I’ve founded She Dot, a social enterprise which aims to bridge the socio-economic gap for young girls pursuing traditionally male careers, such as STEM and entrepreneurship.

She Dot has two strands. First, a social enterprise creating a series of children’s picture books tackling social issues by rewriting traditional fairytales with a modern twist. Second, a volunteer arm where we create conferences and panels, and give talks and workshops to provide skills, advice and career insights.

In the last two years I’ve given talks around the world where I’ve spread the message of female empowerment and shared my love of technology. It’s been extremely rewarding to work to change policy, from talking at the Institute of the Future of Work to being an ambassador for Women in Tech and STEMettes.

Having laid down the foundations, now’s the time for She Dot to grow into an organisation that can create more meaningful interactions with young girls from economically disadvantaged areas.

I’m also looking to launch at least two more books in the social issues fairytale series, including one focusing on disability discrimination and another on xenophobic anti-immigrant stances.

Social action is important because it amplifies young people’s voices and gives them the power to influence the world around them. To truly thrive as a society, we all need to have our voices heard.



ORGANISATIONS I’VE WORKED WITH

WOMEN OF THE FUTURE, STEMETTES, OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL, WOMEN IN TECH ORG, WORLD SUMMIT AI, QUEENS COMMONWEALTH TRUST, WEARETHECITY, INSPIRINGJUNIORS (INSPIRING FIFTY), WOMEN2WOMEN, LAUNCHX, US EMBASSY IN THE UK.

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

LEADERSHIP, RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION, COMPASSION, PROBLEM-SOLVING, SOCIAL JUSTICE

