

# Q & A with Sian Doyle – Chemicals Northwest Young Talent award winner

Following on from the Chemicals Northwest awards in March, Chemicals Northwest wanted to gain an insight into having a career in the chemical industry from our young talent winner Sian Doyle who works as a Shift Team Leader at Livent. Read the questions and answers below.

## 1. What first attracted you to working in the chemical industry? How does it now feel to be working in the sector?

I was just finishing my A levels and wasn't quite sure what route I wanted to go down so instead of just going to university like all my friends, I decided to see what else was out there for myself. I knew that I enjoyed more maths and science related subjects and decided I wanted to explore engineering. I found a college called TTE (Training Tomorrows Engineers) and after tests and interviews I was invited for an interview with Livent for sponsorship. I was taken on a plant tour and the process was explained to me and from that moment I was really drawn in and I wanted to explore this field more. Luckily, I got offered that sponsorship!!

I feel as though I have come a long way and I really enjoy the field I am working in and I can't wait to see what's to come.

## 2. What advice would you give to anyone about to leave education for a job in the chemical industry?

I feel as though it's tough for young people to know what they want to do straight from education, so my advice would be to explore all your options and to keep an open mind, if you can do some work experience grab it with two hands so you get more of an understanding of the field. I feel like working in the chemical industry is a great career option and I don't think you would be disappointed with this choice!

## 3. What do you think can be done to attract future talent?

More promotion of jobs/ apprenticeships in the chemical sector specifically for people who are about to leave

education. I found that I had to go looking for my apprenticeship more so than there being any promotion within my college. If colleges/ schools promote it more then I think there will be more interest in the field.

## 4. What is it that those who join the industry as a first job can do to help those who have worked in the sector for a long time? What changes do we need to make to enable that to happen?

I feel young people coming into the industry as a first job are very enthusiastic and open minded and I hope this is rewarding for people who have been in the sector for a long period of time to see. I feel it is refreshing and rewarding for them when young people develop skills that have been taught to them by the more experienced workers.

I can only really speak from my experience, and it has been a



very positive one I have had a lot of support over the years from more experienced workers and I am so thankful for this knowledge and therefore I wouldn't change anything.

## 5. What do you consider to be the biggest challenges facing our industry right now?

The biggest challenges in our industry right now are probably the continued risks of ongoing conflict, energy prices and inflation.

## 6. What do you think the industry will look like in ten years' time?

I think the industry is only going to grow exponentially and I can not wait to see what it is

like and to also be a part of it!

## 7. Are we becoming a more diverse employer? Where should the EDI priorities be?

100% I believe that we have come along way, and we are just growing day by day. I feel so comfortable working in the industry as a woman and as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

I feel as though we should continue to embed how important equality diversity and inclusion is to us and those around us within our sector as well as outside our sector.