

Anne-Marie Imafidon
Doctor of Science
Durham Cathedral, 3rd July 2024

Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon stands as a beacon of inspiration and a paragon of excellence in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Her journey is a testament to the power of determination, intellect, and an unwavering commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in STEM.

Born in Walthamstow, East London, Anne-Marie's prodigious talent was evident from a young age. Remarkably, she became the youngest girl to pass A-level computing at just 11 years old and went on to earn her Master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Oxford by the age of 20. Her early career saw her holding significant technical roles at renowned firms such as Goldman Sachs, Hewlett-Packard, and Deutsche Bank, where she amassed a wealth of experience that would later underpin her entrepreneurial ventures.

In 2013, driven by a profound experience at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, Anne-Marie co-founded Stemettes, a social enterprise dedicated to inspiring and supporting the next generation of girls, young women, and non-binary young people to pursue careers in STEM. Under her visionary leadership, Stemettes has reached over 60,000 young people across Europe, providing free resources, workshops, hackathons, and mentorship programs. Stemettes is more than an organisation; it is a movement that challenges the status quo and champions a future where diversity in STEM is not just an aspiration but a reality.

Dr. Imafidon's contributions extend beyond Stemettes. She has been a prominent voice in advocating for gender diversity in technology, regularly appearing in the media and delivering keynote addresses at major conferences. Her influence is further cemented by her role as the 2022-2023 President of the British Science Association, her service on the Council of Research England and as the maths genius on the TV programme Countdown.

In addition to her organisational and advocacy work, Anne-Marie is also an accomplished author. Her book "She's in CTRL" explores the under-representation of women in tech, providing both an analysis of the problem and a roadmap for change. "She's in CTRL" is a powerful call to action, encouraging women to take control of technology and use it as a tool for empowerment.

Anne-Marie's achievements have not gone unnoticed. In 2017, Anne-Marie was awarded an MBE for her services to young women and the STEM sector. She was also named the 'Most Influential Woman in Tech in the UK' by Computer Weekly in 2020, further solidifying her status as a leading figure in the tech community.

Dr. Imafidon's vision for the future is one of inclusivity and balance in STEM. She hopes that one day organisations like Stemettes will no longer be necessary because the landscape will have fundamentally changed to be naturally inclusive and supportive of all talents.

Vice Chancellor, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to science and technology, her unwavering commitment to diversity, and her relentless pursuit of excellence, I present to you Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon, who is eminently worthy of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.