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Success – How science and maths will take you there.

This wasn't going to be just another boring old routine day in the class room. On a frosty Tuesday morning, I along with eight other students and a teacher ventured through Adelaide up to the Penrice Quarry at Angaston. We were invited to have a tour and to look at operations and possible careers in the future and the most attention drawing aspect, the blasting!

Up until this point I had only ever seen a few blasts on television and was very eager to see a blast in real life. The first blast was set up and ready to go, we watched impatiently over the pit while all the evacuation was done. The first one went off and I didn't know what to expect, it was cool how you could hear the bang and then the tonnes of raw material just looked like it was floating and then it all simultaneously collapses. While we stood and watched the workers making sure all the explosives had gone off, it was at that instant that I started to think about what that job involved and the workings behind it such as the chemistry and the chemicals that were in the explosives and all of the maths and calculations that would have been done to get the measurements right.

We then drove over to the other side of the Quarry where we were to see the second blast for the day. This second blast was amazing, we were told to watch a little white streak in the rock face which was what they were blasting but at that moment the whole face had just flown to pieces. I stood in awe; it was an amazing experience and at that moment I finally made up my mind that blasting was the career pathway I was going to take in the future.

The next week I was lucky enough to start my Certificate 1 in Resources and Infrastructure through Australian Training Alliance (ATA). This course was such an eye opener into the industry and it only encouraged further investigation into the industry and in particular Shotfiring. After looking into the career further, there were so many more perks to the job that appeal to me and it is really a dream job. Shotfiring utilises both maths and chemistry which are two subjects I really enjoy and completing these throughout the rest of my schooling will be a huge help and will hopefully mean that after much training I will be able to use those skills and be able to work in the very rewarding mining industry as a Shotfirer.