



**Alastair  
Patterson**  
  
**Manufacturing  
Excellence Lead**

**What does your job entail?**

I facilitate and run the business activities such as daily production meetings and daily problem-solving processes. I help to embed manufacturing excellence practices such as set-up time reduction, to streamline product changeovers on our production lines to reduce and eliminate waste. I'm a change agent; I support and coach step change improvement activities and drive problem solving capability on site. My job involves 50% every day run the business activity with 50% focused on improvement.

**Outline your career to date**

I always had an inquisitive mind. I tended to enjoy STEM subjects throughout school, particularly Mathematics and Technology & Design. I'm very creative; my design projects at school were quite functional. The subjects I selected were a good fit for my progression throughout my engineering focused career.

Within Diageo my career has been:

The LYCRA® Company: Process Engineer (2007), Manufacturing Excellence Lead / Reliability Engineer (2014), Maintenance Planning and Scheduling Supervisor (2016), Senior Process Engineer (2017).  
DIAGEO U.K. plc: Manufacturing Excellence Lead (2018).

**What are your qualifications?**

Degree: Master of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering with Honours from the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, The Queen's University of Belfast.

A Levels: Mathematics, Physics, Technology and Design

AS Levels: Mathematics, Physics, Technology and Design, Business Studies, Psychology

**What qualities are required for your job?**

I need to be a good coach and mentor to others. My job requires tenacity, resilience and patience. Critical thinking is required for strong problem-solving capability.

You need to question the status quo. Embrace change and Innovation. Have an interest and aptitude for technology.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

Make the best decision you can with the information you have in this moment.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Down-the-Line Trap Clay Pigeon Shooting. I try to compete in local competitions or national qualification shoots at the weekends (before lockdown).

**Who has inspired you most in your life?**

My sister inspires me to enjoy my life, to be better and kinder. She has taught me to take things as they come and to understand the importance of my family and being self-aware.

**Tell us an interesting fact about yourself**

I captained the Irish under 21s, Clay Target Shooting team when I was 17 years old at the British Open Championships. My team won.