



Deirdre Delaney

**Manufacturing
Excellence Manager**

What does your job entail?

My role is all about driving improvement in our sites. Using a structured process, we are implementing tools and process to drive us to be the best! What we refer to as a World Class mindset means we want to be the best at everything that we do, and to help our people to achieve their full potential. In practical terms this means focusing on how we solve problems, to make sure we find the best solution so that the problem never arises again. It also looks at ways of working, and supporting great team work on site

Outline your career to date

As mentioned above I started on the graduate programme, which is when my love for operations and its people began! When I came off the graduate programme I worked on shift as a brewer in St James's Gate brewery in Dublin for a number of years which helped me to really learn the craft of brewing but also get a grasp of the day to day operation of a site. From there I worked in roles in Continuous Improvement followed my Manufacturing Excellence in Dublin. From then I moved to our Bailey's and then to Belfast packaging

What are your qualifications?

I trained as a Home Economics teacher! I loved it but I couldn't see myself teaching for the rest of my career, so when I completed my degree on went on to study a master's in business management. While working, I have completed my Diploma in Brewing, a Cert in Supply Chain and various other qualifications

What qualities are required for your job?

Coaching skills & a passion for working with people. Helping people to develop is a key part of my role

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Don't get comfortable! Always push and challenge yourself to try something new

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Yoga, running (sometimes!), reading and spending time with family and friends

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I can't pick one person. Definitely my family from a personal perspective, and in work I have been inspired by many people over the years.

What advice would you give your 16 year old self?

I changed career from teaching to manufacturing. My advice to anyone starting out is to follow your passions but don't feel tied down. Some of the most interesting careers take lots of turns along the way, and the key thing is to learn from every experience along the way.