

How did you join the Supply Chain arena?

I joined Mars as member of the Mars Leadership Experience after graduating from university with a degree in International Business and Modern Languages. At that time, I imagined myself working in Marketing or Finance and had never considered a career in Supply Chain. For my 3rd, 12-month assignment on the program I was given a role at one of our manufacturing facilities as the Site Industrial Engineer. I was to discover a whole side of business that my degree hadn't taught me anything about and I soon developed a passion for Supply Chain.

I've experienced many facets of Supply Chain since then, having held diverse roles including Shift Leader, Lean Coach, Quality Manager, Operations Manager and now S&OP & Demand Planning Director. Each role has provided me with new and unique experiences to learn and grow and cemented my love and advocacy for this great part of our business.



**Grace Smith, S&OP Director,
Mars Pet Nutrition, UK**

Which statement motivates or inspires you?

"...sometimes all you need is twenty seconds of insane courage. Just literally twenty seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you, something great will come of it." – Benjamin Mee



What are you passionate about in SC?

- **PEOPLE** I am fortunate to work with a great variety of people, I am passionate about developing talent in Supply Chain, and I love the team spirit of working as one.
- **PROCESS** lies at the heart of everything we do, and I firmly believe in the KAIZEN mindset to deliver repeatable processes that drive efficiency up and costs down.
- **PERFORMANCE** in Supply Chain you see the fruits of your efforts almost instantaneously whether it be delivering great Customer Service, or supporting business growth to name just two!
- I want to encourage more people, from all backgrounds to consider a career in Supply Chain. I have never planned to become a Supply Chain professional and now I plan never to leave.
- As the rate of change in the world increases, so too does the need for us to build lean and agile supply chains! I am excited about the endless possibilities and opportunities this affords us all working in Supply Chain to learn, grow and deliver!