



CHRIS SMITH

(Lee 1984)



Now the Managing Director, European Astrotech Ltd, Chris studied Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A level.

“AGS was a wonderful place for Science, with some great teachers; in particular Mrs Taylor for Chemistry, Mr Drury for Physics and Mr Jones for Maths. I informed Mr Drury that I was going to work in the space industry in the 4th year I believe; thankfully he didn't laugh and was a source of encouragement throughout my Physics endeavours.”

“I went on to study Chemistry at the University of Leicester by way of Oxford Brookes.”

Chris subsequently joined the aerospace industry, working for British Aerospace and Astrium (now Airbus) before starting European Astrotech in 2007.

“I have been extremely lucky in my career, having worked on many spacecraft including planetary and deep space missions such as Cluster, Mars Express, Herschel and Planck. Perhaps my most exciting challenge was working as Lead Design Engineer and then Propulsion Test Team Leader and Propulsion Launch Team Manager for the Rosetta probe which landed on Comet 67P last November. Currently, at EAL, I am responsible for the launch of all of the European Space Agency Galileo GPS satellites (currently 22 of which 8 have been launched) as well as various others.

“Although I was already committed to Science, AGS provided everything I needed to enable me to thrive and achieve what I needed to progress in my chosen field, and I shall always be thankful for the efforts of the excellent teaching staff who were, without doubt, hard task masters, but made learning an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience.”