

## **STEM Ambassadors Newsletter – January 2010**

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Dear Ambassador

Welcome to the January 2010 edition of the STEM Ambassadors Newsletter from STEMNET. There are plenty of exciting opportunities for you in this edition. Perhaps, if you haven't done so already, you might go along to see the acclaimed “Leading Lights” exhibition as it tours the country? Would you be interested in helping out at one of the ASSEC (After School Science and Engineering Clubs) celebration events to be held over the next couple of months? Have you recently had a particularly positive experience as a STEM Ambassador that you'd like to share with us? Would you like to provide your input to HM Government on what you think the STEM jobs of the future will be? We've also included news on a range of other exciting developments which we think will interest you such as an update on how our plans are progressing to give you much more content and connectivity on the STEM

Ambassadors part of our website and information on our STEM Ambassadors survey and how you can participate. We very much hope that you find at least one thing in here that will inspire you to get involved.

### **Future Developments for the STEM Ambassadors Database ([back to top](#))**

The STEM Ambassadors networking platform developments are continuing to progress well and we are very excited about how it's starting to take shape. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the Ambassadors who attended the workshops that took place in October in Birmingham, London, and Manchester and also the recent workshop that was held in London. Your input and ideas have been absolutely essential to this project and we really appreciate the time and effort you have put into this project so far.

STEMNET and Headshift have been working very closely together to make some of your ideas a reality and we should have a prototype ready for testing in the next few weeks. If you are interested in being involved in the testing process as an Ambassador then please send an email entitled 'STEMNET Testing' to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk). We will provide further details once the testing process has been confirmed.

### **Share your Successes as a STEM Ambassador ([back to top](#))**

Have you had a particularly successful experience as an Ambassador that you'd like to share? Has one or more of your Ambassador experiences had a positive impact on you, teacher(s) and/or student(s)? If so, STEMNET would like to hear from you! If you have any good news stories you'd like to share please send an email describing your good news story in no more than 350 words. Please entitle the email 'Share Success' and send it to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk). We will share your story on our website and get back to you if we require any further details.

### **ASSECs celebration events ([back to top](#))**

To celebrate and share the success of the [After School Science and Engineering Clubs](#) (ASSEC) programme, STEMNET will be holding events for the 500 schools that have been running Clubs over the past two years. The events will be hosted by selected ASSEC schools and there will be approximately 30 events taking place across England. They will be open to students and teachers involved in the Clubs

The majority of attendees will be teachers and students and as such this as a great opportunity for STEM Ambassadors to get involved. As an Ambassador you will be able to get involved in a number of ways - for example, you may wish to view the activities that have taken place in the Clubs and speak to

students about their experiences, or you may want to help present the special activities that we're planning.

The details of the events can be found [here](#) ([http://www.stemnet.org.uk/news/viewitem.cfm?cit\\_id=382978](http://www.stemnet.org.uk/news/viewitem.cfm?cit_id=382978)). If you're interested in being involved please send an email, entitled 'ASSECs celebration events', to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk). Please include in your email the area of the country in which you are based, including region and town. We will then be able to advise you how you can get involved once the details of the events are finalised.

### **STEM Ambassadors Survey 2010 – win a book voucher ([back to top](#))**

Through feedback from teachers and students, STEMNET knows the difference STEM Ambassadors can make to young people's motivation, attainment and enthusiasm for STEM subjects and careers.

We know that working as a STEM Ambassador can have significant benefits for you, and are keen to understand your views on what these benefits are. We are also keen to understand better the potential economic contribution that Ambassadors make – to schools and colleges, to companies and to the future of UK PLC.

We would therefore appreciate your completion of our survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SPYT9GG>, which we expect would take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Please also enter your contact details if you wish to enter the draw to win one of five £10 book vouchers for you or a school with which you work.

### **Would you like to be a STEMNET Case Study? ([back to top](#))**

Are you planning to do an inspiring activity within the next three months? Would you be happy to have a photographer come along so you can then be featured in a case study? If so then please let us know by sending an email entitled 'Case Study' to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk).

### **STEM Ambassadors “Leading Lights” Exhibition ([back to top](#))**

Leading Lights - our inspiring exhibition of portraits by award-winning photographer Richard Cannon - continues to be extremely popular. It showcases 19 STEM Ambassadors from all over the UK who are using science, technology, engineering and maths to push the boundaries of what is possible and to make the world a better and more exciting place to live.

The Leading Lights exhibition is touring nationally, and can currently be seen at the **W5 Centre in Belfast until 7 March 2010**.

If you have any ideas of places that you think would benefit from hosting the Leading Lights portraits, please do let us know by sending an email entitled 'Leading Lights' with your suggested venue to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk).

### **Jobs of the future – or are they already here?! ([back to top](#))**

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills in partnership with futurologist Rohit Talwar recently launched 'The Shape of Jobs to Come', a speculative look at the type of jobs some of us may be doing in 2020. As well as recently generating significant media coverage for BIS's 'Science: [So what? So everything]' campaign, this future scanning exercise is also a good way to stimulate interest in STEM subjects, particularly as, in the case of some occupations, the future is already here.

You can access and read the full report on the Fast Future website <http://fastfuture.com/?p=129> and also view interviews and case studies on the campaign website <http://sciencesowhat.direct.gov.uk/>.

BIS is keen to extend this initiative through STEM Ambassadors so if you think you too can offer a glimpse into the future in the work that you are doing then please let us know by sending an email entitled 'Jobs of the Future' to [ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk](mailto:ambassadors@stemnet.org.uk).

### **GetSET Women ([back to top](#))**

The UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC) has a new web environment for any women in science, engineering and technology. It's easy to join and free and it's the best way to keep connected and informed.

Join GetSET Women today and:

- expand your network
- showcase your work
- apply for positions on public bodies
- attend training and events
- inspire others through public speaking, mentoring and blogging
- get concessionary rates and advance notice of events and bursaries
- promote your organisation and profession

The UKRC is piloting GetSET Women Coaching from January 2010. If you live in Scotland or the south east of England, you can apply for up to six hours of subsidised coaching with a professionally qualified business coach. You then pay just £30 per hour – a real bargain. What a great way to start 2010!

You can join GetSET Women at [www.getsetwomen.org](http://www.getsetwomen.org)

Two STEM Ambassadors are sharing their stories on the GetSET Women blog in the next couple of months. Amber Williamson is currently live until

3 February and Lindsay Chapman will be online from 16 February to 7 March. Ask questions and join in the debate at [www.ukrc4setwomen.org](http://www.ukrc4setwomen.org).

### **Are you a STEM Ambassador with a Maths background? ([back to top](#))**

Following the recent launch of the National HE STEM programme, even more STEM Ambassadors will be needed to encourage school pupils to pursue STEM related University courses and subsequent careers. To encourage more mathematicians to register as STEM Ambassadors, 'Mathematics Today' would like to invite current STEM Ambassadors to provide a profile for publication.

'Mathematics Today' is the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) Members' magazine. The IMA is the professional and learned society for professional mathematicians. It exists to support the advancement of mathematical knowledge and its applications and to promote and enhance mathematical culture in the UK and elsewhere.

STEM Ambassador profiles provided may also be published on the MathsCareers website: [www.mathscareers.org.uk/](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/) , parallel STEM websites and the IMA's own website.

If you would like to submit a profile please contact Rebecca Waters, Editorial Officer of Mathematics Today for further information.

Email: [rebecca.waters@ima.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.waters@ima.org.uk)

### **The Further Maths success story and how you can help ([back to top](#))**

Since the Further Mathematics Support Programme [www.furthermaths.org.uk](http://www.furthermaths.org.uk) started work in 2005 the number of students taking A level Further Maths has doubled to over 10,000, the number taking AS level Further Maths has more than trebled to over 13,000 and the proportion of state funded schools and colleges with students taking A level Further Maths has risen from below 40% to around 60%.

Despite this success, there is still much to be done to encourage more young people to take Further Maths. If you have an AS or A level in Further Maths and would be willing to be used as a case study to show how studying Further Maths has helped you to succeed as an engineer or a scientist, please contact Charlie Stripp, Programme Leader, The Further Mathematics Support Programme at: [charlie.stripp@mei.org.uk](mailto:charlie.stripp@mei.org.uk)

### **Do you fancy yourself as a filmmaker? ([back to top](#))**

The Future Morph STEM careers website has got together with the Planet SciCast shortfilms competition to launch a new category. Can you make a fun and engaging three and a half minute long film showing how STEM

knowledge of skills are used within a job? Please note this doesn't necessarily mean you are currently working in a STEM job so you can really let your imagination fly. The films we will be made available through SciCast and Future Morph so fame beckons! You could also win £250 in Amazon vouchers and the chance to attend the red carpet Awards Ceremony.

To find out more visit <http://www.planet-scicast.com/> or [http://www.futuremorph.org/planet\\_scicast.cfm](http://www.futuremorph.org/planet_scicast.cfm).

### **£3000 to Inspire the Scientists of the Future! ([back to top](#))**

Would you like to take part in a project investigating a stimulating aspect of science or engineering?

The Royal Society are looking for enthusiastic teachers, scientists and engineers to collaborate on innovative projects in schools that will help show students how exciting science can be!

The Royal Society can offer up to £3000 to schools as part of its Partnership Grants scheme - recent projects include manufacturing biodiesel, designing the perfect beehive, and building a powerboat.

The next round of applications closes on 5 March 2010. For more information on the scheme, go to <http://royalsociety.org/partnership>

### **Media Fellowships Scheme - organised by the British Science Association ([back to top](#))**

The British Science Association Media Fellowships create a greater awareness and understanding of the workings of the media among practising scientists, clinicians, social scientists and engineers.

Experience first hand how science is reported by spending 3-8 weeks on a summer placement gaining experience of working with a national press, broadcast or internet journalist at hosts such as The Guardian, The Scotsman, Nature and BBC News.

Come away better equipped to communicate your research to the public and your colleagues. Learn to work within the constraints of the media to produce accurate, well-informed pieces about developments in science.

Details about the **Media Fellowships** scheme, including an online application form can be found at: [www.britishsociety.org/mediafellows](http://www.britishsociety.org/mediafellows)

You are eligible to apply for the scheme if you:

- are a scientist, clinician, social scientist or engineer
- have a minimum of 2 years postgraduate experience in your field
- are a resident of the UK

- work at any level in an academic or research institution, industry, civil service or any other similar organisation

The deadline for application is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

### **Transition to Teaching ([back to top](#))**

As an Ambassador your contributions to schools may have led you to consider the possibility of a career in teaching for yourself one day.

The Transition to Teaching Programme supports graduates at any point in their career through all stages of the career change to teaching. For Ambassadors considering teaching Mathematics, Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) or Information and Communication Technology (ICT), a professional development adviser from Transition to Teaching can support you with your research of teaching and the routes through teacher training.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) developed the Transition to Teaching programme to help address the shortage of teachers in these key STEM subjects and at the same time to encourage high calibre professionals from other sectors to bring their experience, expertise and enthusiasm to secondary school classrooms as full time teachers.

The service, funded by the TDA is free to any graduate considering a career as a mathematics, science or ICT teacher.

Ambassadors considering a career in teaching mathematics, science or ICT should register with the Transition to Teaching Programme:

[www.teach.gov.uk/transition](http://www.teach.gov.uk/transition)

Transition to Teaching Helpline: 0845 6026 880

Email: [support@transitiontoteaching.co.uk](mailto:support@transitiontoteaching.co.uk)

### **WISE (Women into Science, Engineering and Construction) ([back to top](#))**

WISE (Women into Science, Engineering and Construction) is thrilled to be celebrating its 25 year anniversary, and to mark this fantastic milestone the WISE Team are planning an event for Summer 2010 to which they want to invite as many women as possible who have experienced one of the many great WISE activities. So if you remember being inspired by a WISE Insight or Outlook course, you were influenced by a WISE role model or were fascinated by the Spark magazines, then they'd love to hear from you. Please click here to get in touch with WISE: <http://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/wise25alumni.cfm>.

**Last but not least...**

Finally, again please do accept our sincere thanks for all the work you do as STEM Ambassadors. The Programme really is viewed by teachers, industry, scheme providers and government as a great success. As we mentioned earlier, STEMNET has been asked to expand the number of STEM Ambassadors to 27,000 (from the current base of over 19,000) by 2011 and this is a clear reflection of the amazing difference you all make to young people's enthusiasm for STEM.

**With thanks from the STEMNET Team and our sub-regional partners managing STEM Ambassadors.**