

STEM Ambassador Newsletter

Welcome back to all our STEM Ambassadors and a big hello to all the new Ambassadors who registered over the summer! The summer holidays are over and the school term has started again, ready for another year of STEM related activities (we hope)! We are already starting to gather in requests from schools for Ambassadors so please take a look at the list overleaf and see if there are any schools or events you would like to get involved in. Teachers are getting more and more organised – we even have requests for January 2012! We also have requests for schools outside our area but we advertise these since some Ambassadors work/live outwith the West of Scotland and may be interested in taking part. If there is something you would like to volunteer for but are a bit unsure about, let us know and we arrange for you to “shadow” an Ambassador who is taking part so you can build your experience and confidence.

Please remember to look at our website www.scienceconnects.org on a weekly basis and click on “Help Needed” section to see new requests which have arrived.

Science Connects awarded STEMNET contract until 2015

Science Connects is pleased to confirm that we have agreed new arrangements with STEMNET, with effect from 1 July 2011, to manage the STEM Ambassadors Programme and the Schools STEM Advisory Network in the West of Scotland until March 2015. This means we can build on the strong STEM Ambassador relationships we already have and continue to develop and enhance the fantastic work which Ambassadors are doing in schools.



Through the new STEM Advisory Network, we will keep schools in our area informed about high-quality activities they can access to enrich and enhance the STEM curriculum and enable them to use a range of STEM Ambassadors so that teachers can incorporate into their teaching exemplary links to the world of work.

In the near future Science Connects will be contacting Ambassadors and Teachers to gain feedback on their experiences of the STEM Ambassador programme and to highlight examples of best practice and identify areas of improvement. We will be working to link Ambassadors with Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes to enable teachers to see where Ambassadors can add benefit and bring STEM topics to life for pupils.

You can follow STEMNET on Twitter, @STEMNET, which is a great way of communicating with STEMNET regularly and sharing links of what's going on. STEMNET is also developing the content on YouTube channel and you can watch videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/stemnetwork>

In line with new STEMNET contract, we have a new email address!

You can now contact us using STEM-Ambassadors@glasgow.ac.uk

REQUESTS for HELP

Please see below requests from schools and STEM Providers for Ambassador help. The **requests which have additional information available are clickable** to take you directly to the appropriate section. If the school is not clickable, this is all the information we have currently on the request. To go to "Other information" [click here](#).

If you can help please email us at stem-ambassadors@glasgow.ac.uk or phone Gail Penny on 0141 330 6396

SCHOOL / EVENT	DATE	REQUEST
GENERAL REQUESTS		
St Andrews Secondary, Glasgow	ASAP	Mentor for pupil's 6th year project, preferably on "why pollen causes hay fever" but any human biology project suggestions welcome
Carrick Academy, Maybole	August 2011 onwards	Looking for help with various topics, see section
Aillemill Primary, Greenock	August 2011 onwards	Help needed to support science, maths and technology lessons for P7 pupils.
Turnbull High School, Bishopbriggs	August 2011 onwards	Support with the maths curriculum for pupils at all levels. Also support for Science.
Cumnock Academy, East Ayrshire	21 st Sept 2011	Careers day for P7 pupils from local primaries
Kincaidston Primary, Ayr	Sept 2011	Help or Talk related to topic on Energy Conversions for P7
Williamwood High School, East Renfrewshire	5 th Oct 2011 7-9pm	Help or ideas for science activities for P7-S2 pupils (and their parents) at evening science and maths fair. FunMaths Roadshow will be attending and looking for Ambassadors to help with their activities
Williamwood High School, East Renfrewshire	1 st Nov 2011 7-9pm	Ambassadors to attend Careers Evening to represent their company/employer
Kirkintilloch High School	January – Feb 2012	Careers talks on numerous subjects – see section
Grange Academy, Kilmarnock	18 th Jan & 9 th Feb 2012	Ambassadors from an engineering/construction background to talk about their career/subject choices etc to S5/S6 pupils
LAB IN A LORRY		
Loudoun Academy, Galston	8 th – 9 th Sept 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
Lanark Grammar, Lanarkshire	13 th -14 th Sept 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
Kilgraston School, Perthshire	15 th Sept 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
Craigie High School, Dundee	20 th -22 nd Sept 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
Schools Walsay, Yell, Unst (Shetland)	4 th -7 th Oct 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
Inverness Royal High School	25 th -26 th Oct 2011	Help with Physics Experiments on board lorry
BUSINESS DYNAMICS		
Falkirk High School, Falkirk	5 th Sept 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Beaconhurst School, Stirling	13 th Sept 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day

Douglas Academy, Milngavie	15th & 22nd Sept 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Graeme High School, Falkirk	27 th Sept 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Bo'ness Academy, West Lothian	29 th Sept 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh	6 th & 7 th October 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Larbert High, Stirlingshire	13 th Oct 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
Bearsden Academy, Bearsden	9 th Nov 2011	Help with Business Awareness Day
GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE		
Construction event	15-23rd Oct 2011	Engineering experts to assist at Build It a series of events taking inspiration from the new M74 extension.
Planet Dinosaur	17th - 23rd Oct 2011	Experts in Archaeology and Palaeontology to assist with the Planet Dinosaur exhibition and activities.
Fears and Phobias Weekend	29th & 30th Oct 2011	Public Engagement Halloween related activities – things that scare people!
International Year of Chemistry	Nov 2011	Help with activities

Carrick Academy, Maybole, Ayrshire

Carrick Academy is very interested in the prospect of visits to the school by STEM Ambassadors to enthuse pupils and help them to see the relevance and importance of Science in their lives.

The teacher is looking for as many visits as possible from now onwards. The main topics of interest are Telecommunications, Electricity, Medical Physics, Electronics, Forces, Energy, Radiation and Space.

The ages of the Physics students range mainly from 15-18 but the teacher is also be interested in Ambassadors working with pupils aged 11-14. If you would like to assist please get in touch with us. ([back to list](#))

Aillemill Primary, Greenock

Aillemill Primary schools is a newly built school in Greenock. The Primary 7 class teacher is very keen to motivate and engage the pupils through stimulating teaching of science, maths and technology, and would like to use any additional skills and knowledge to be able to do this effectively. Having used an Ambassador before in a previous school, the teacher knows of the benefits that come from an Ambassador's expertise and knowledge.

If you would like to assist the teacher to work with the P7 class in any aspect of science, maths or technology please get in touch with us. ([back to list](#))

Turnbull High School, Bishopbriggs

Turnbull High School would like to have the opportunity to have an Ambassador within the Maths department to work on curricular areas with the pupils. Also, the science department have shown an interest in becoming involved with an Ambassador to support any of the science topics.

If you can offer assistance of any sort to Turnbull please let us know. ([back to list](#))

Cumnock Academy, East Ayrshire

Cumnock Academy is hosting a Careers day for P7 pupils from the Cumnock Learning Partnership primary schools and is looking for Ambassadors who can provide workshops/hands on activities which last 10-15 minutes, loosely based on their companies main line of work. The format of the day is for the pupils to be divided up into small groups to rotate round the interactive workshops run by the various businesses/organisations present. Each session should last approx 10-15 mins.

If you can offer help or hands-on activities for this event please let us know. ([back to list](#))

Kirkintilloch High School, East Dunbartonshire

Kirkintilloch High is looking to attract guest speakers from different curricular areas to come in around options time (Jan - March 2012) to discuss with S2 and S5 PSE classes academic and career paths, as well as detailing their current jobs - the more interesting the better! The pupils will then be asked to research one of the jobs of a guest speaker and may require to further contact the Ambassadors.

If you would like to be involved with Kirkintilloch next year and start discussing what you can do please let us know. ([back to list](#))

Lab in a Lorry, all over Scotland

Lab in a Lorry is an interactive mobile laboratory, run by the Institute of Physics, which gives 11-14 year olds the opportunity to explore science through open-ended experiments. Volunteers guide the students through the experiments (oil and viscous liquids, sound and resonance, light scattering and colours, climate change and energy sources, optoelectronics) and makes sure everyone gets to be involved through hands on experience.

As an Ambassador you will oversee an experiment for the day. You receive training on the Lab beforehand and the organiser sends you all the background material in advance. Ambassadors commit to a minimum of one full school day but you are welcome to come along for as many days as you like. Please see the Requests table above for schools and dates in our area. If you would like to be involved please get in touch with us – you don't have to be a Physicist to take part! ([back to list](#))

Business Dynamics

Business Dynamics aims to bring business to life for young people. Volunteers from companies introduce pupils to the opportunities and challenges of business as well as improving their key skills in preparation for the world of work. Business Dynamics operate Business Awareness days and would like Ambassadors to help with the sessions. Ambassadors talk about their expertise and role within their company in relation to the topic, and then run a business exercise based on that topic, to help pupil participation and learning. Full information will be sent to you before the event. ([back to list](#))

The Glasgow Science Centre – Volunteering Opportunities

The Glasgow Science Centre would like to invite STEM Ambassadors to take part in events throughout the year. In the next couple of months, the following events are looking for engineers and science communicators:

Build It! is a series of events at the Glasgow Science Centre all about big building projects. Taking inspiration from some of the work currently happening in central Scotland such as the M74 extension, Commonwealth games regeneration and the new Forth crossing, they will be looking at all aspects of a large scale building projects from planning to the environment to moving huge structures and excavating sites.

Build It events are running on the following dates:

15th to 23rd October 2011 – Build It! Public
25th to 27th January 2012 – Build It! Schools

In addition, events will take place as part of their school Sustainable Science event on the 8th and 9th March 2012.

If you work in any area of building and would like to let the public know more about what you do, the GSC would love to hear from you.

Fears and Phobias Weekend 29th and 30th October

As part of the GSC's Halloween celebrations the GSC will be looking into the sorts of things that people are scared of and why they develop a fear. If you are an expert in fears and phobias or if you work with things that often scare people, they would love to hear from you. The GSC is looking for STEM Ambassadors who are keen to engage with the public via drop in activities or workshops.

In addition to the above events, the Glasgow Science Centre is also running **Planet Dinosaur between 17th - 23rd Oct 2011**. They already have STEM Ambassadors who are experts in Archaeology and Palaeontology assisting with the Planet Dinosaur exhibition and activities, but if you are interested in being involved please get in touch with us.

Activities connected to **International Year of Chemistry** will be taking place in November in the Science Centre. If you would like to be involved in these activities please let us know.

If you would like to take part in any of the exciting opportunities above please get in touch with us and we will pass your details on to the Glasgow Science Centre. This is an opportunity to get involved with science communication to a wider audience, not only school children ([back to requests list](#))



Other information of interest to Ambassadors...

STEM Central

On 1st September, Education Scotland will launch a new resource, STEM Central, which supports learning in sciences, maths and technologies using relevant and engaging Scottish engineering contexts. Aimed at teachers, but useful for STEM Ambassadors, STEM Central provides opportunities for pupils to broaden their understanding of the applications of concepts and skills developed through learning in curriculum areas.

As well as including resources to help with Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes, the website raises awareness of career opportunities in the energy sector and engineering in Scotland and globally. STEM Central aims to help to bring the curriculum to life through Scottish contexts and links industry and education together more closely.

The new website features many STEM Ambassadors in the STEM Careers section. If you would like to be profiled in this area, please let us know and we will contact you to discuss this further.

To view this new resource, visit www.educationscotland.gov.uk/stemcentral

Education Scotland is a new organisation which brings together the functions of Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS), HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the National CPD Team and the Scottish Government's Positive Behaviour Team.



Induction Training

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 6th September at 3:00pm** at the University of Glasgow. To register for an induction please email or call us and we will confirm your place. The training will last around 2 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also. The next training after this will be Tuesday 4th October 2011 at 3pm.

Please do consider all the requests listed in the newsletter. Thank you for all your efforts and please do remember to record your activity at www.stemnet.org.uk or drop us an email with the activity and we will do it for you

If a school you would like to work with is not listed in the request section above please do contact us and we will endeavour to arrange an introduction for you at a school of your choice.

Regards

Email: aileen.hamilton@glasgow.ac.uk