

Happy New Year to you! Hope you all enjoyed the festive break and are now raring to get your teeth into Ambassador opportunities. A huge thank you to all the Ambassadors who responded to our requests in the last newsletter. We managed to fulfil around 80% of our requests last month, which is fantastic news, unprecedented in fact! As we get more and more schools on board it is really important that we can meet schools' needs and hence build the Science and Engineering Ambassador Programme into a reliable and sustainable resource for teachers.

I am in the process of giving presentations to teachers in local education authorities in our area (we have 12 LEAs), spreading the good news about the Ambassador program. This is generating requests from schools that have not previously been involved with an Ambassador and we are keen to match them quickly so please have a look at the list overleaf to see where you can help.

Can I please remind you to change your password, if you have not done this already, on the SEAS database at www.stemnet.org.uk/ambassadors_seas For data protection purposes, it is really important that you update your record with a new password. If you do not know your username or password please contact Gail at seas@physics.gla.ac.uk to request details.

Website

The old setpointscotlandseas website has finally been replaced by www.scienceconnects.org.uk and Ambassador information exists on this website for information on requests for help etc.

The Ambassador section on the new www.stemscotland.com website is live but needs a few tweaks before we launch it. I know we have been waiting on the website for a while but it is taking some time to get all 4 STEMPOINT contract holders' information onto the website. Patience will pay off!

PhD Studentship Opportunity

For Ambassadors who have really enjoyed working in schools and are keen to take Science Communication further, applications are invited for a three year PhD studentship offered by Interdisciplinary Centre for Research and Teaching in STEM Education (ICRTSE) based in the University of Glasgow Faculty of Education and funded by the Glasgow Science Centre through support from GSK. This will be based on the theme "Improving the Health of the Nation - The Challenge". If you are interested in finding out about this please contact me at a.hamilton@physics.gla.ac.uk and I can send you more information. Start date is, or soon after, 1 April 2009.



REQUESTS for HELP

The following requests have been made by schools and organisations. **If you can help please email us at seas@physics.gla.ac.uk or phone on 0141 330 6396** and we can liaise with the appropriate school on your behalf. The ones in RED are requests that have been on the list before and the teachers are very keen for help.

Please see overleaf for more information on each of the requests listed in the table.

SCHOOL / EVENT	DATE	REQUEST
New Cumnock Primary, East Ayrshire	As soon as possible	Help with Young Engineers Club, Thursdays after school – either ad hoc or regular.
Ravenscraig Primary, Greenock	As soon as possible	Help with Imagineering Kits at Young Engineers Club. Fridays 2-3pm for P6 pupils (10 max)
Mossneuk Primary, East Kilbride	As soon as possible	Help with Young Engineers Club (Jan 09 till March 09)
Harestanes Primary, Kirkintilloch	As soon as possible, til March 09	Help with Young Engineers Club from 20 th Jan – 3 rd March. 3-4pm for P6 and P7 pupils
St Joseph's Primary, Milngavie	As soon as possible	Offer advice and help with setting up new Young Engineers Club
Boclair Academy Cluster Killermont, Westerton, Colquhoun Park, Torrance	February 09	Help with delivering KNEX Workshop and Challenge. 1.5 hour session
Jordanhill School, Glasgow	As soon as possible	Help with Physics club for S1-S3 pupils
Jordanhill School, Glasgow	As soon as possible	Talk on current technology for Energy Resources Project for S2
Tinto Primary, Hillpark Drive, Glasgow	As soon as possible	Help with KNEX Challenge
St Andrews Secondary School, Shettleston, Glasgow	Jan / Feb 09	Talk to group of 30 S4/S5/S6 pupils on working in the science sector.
Dumfries and Galloway Primaries	2 nd February 09	Training Session for Ambassadors to help with D&G schools
Institute of Physics Lab in a Lorry – see schools below		
Gourock High School, Inverclyde	26 th March 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
St Columba's High School, Inverclyde	27 th March 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, Dumbarton	28 th April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Vale of Leven Academy, West Dunbartonshire	29 th April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh	30 th April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm

Wellington School, Ayr	29 th May 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Hillpark School, Glasgow	17-17 June 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
West of Scotland Secondary Schools – all over	Term 4 09	Companies to help with School Science Club project on a cluster basis
Strathclyde University Summer Academy	29 th June – 3 rd July	Help with S4/S5 Summer school for engineer and science related topics

Help with Young Engineers and Science Clubs Scotland – various schools

The Young Engineers Club network in Scotland has recently undergone a re-branding exercise and now has a new name, Young Engineers and Science Clubs Scotland, as well as a new logo. Their new co-ordinator, Jane Martin, has been in post for 6 months now and has been working hard to encourage existing clubs to do more and new clubs to start up in schools. As a result we have a lot of clubs looking for assistance from Ambassadors. As an Ambassador you can add a lot to a club – by helping with activities they take part in, helping with things they build and impart knowledge you have from the “outside” world. You can be a regular helper or else help when you can, for example once every month or so. Even a one-off visit to a club can be a big boost for the pupils.



Young Engineers and Science Club's new logo

We can help you familiarise yourself with Imagineering kits before you visit the school or provide you with information as to what the clubs are trying to achieve, projects they can do etc.

Please have a look at the list above and offer to help where you can. New Cumnock Primary in Ayrshire is VERY keen to have an Ambassador visit the school so if you live or work anywhere near East Ayrshire please consider helping out. They are looking at Mechanical and Electrical projects but will welcome any input.

More information on the Club network can be found at www.yecscotland.co.uk

Boclair Academy Cluster, Bearsden

4 Primary schools in the Boclair Academy Cluster, namely Killermont, Westerton, Colquhoun Park and Torrance are entering the K'NEX Challenge for the first time this year and would like help with a K'NEX Workshop and Challenge for the P6 pupils. Each session will last 1.5 hours (per P6 class) and we can provide worksheets and K'NEX kits to run the sessions.



I am running the sessions at Killermont Primary on Friday 6th February from 10:45am-12:15pm and then 1pm-2:30pm to cover their two P6 classes. Ambassadors who are keen to help with the other primaries are welcome to help with (one or both of) the Killermont sessions to familiarise themselves with the workshops and how they are run. They can then take the materials to any of the other primaries in the cluster to run the workshop.

Jordanhill School, Glasgow

Jordanhill School would like help with a **Physics type club** for S1-S3 students. They don't currently offer extra-curricular clubs in Physics and hope that the use of an Ambassador would generate interest with the students.

In addition, as part of the S2 course, they will be doing an **Energy Resources** project in January 09. An Ambassador is requested to give a talk on current technology in this area.

St Andrew's Secondary, Glasgow

Careers Scotland, part of the new Skills Development Scotland organisation, is in the process of organising occupational talks for S4/5/6 pupils at St Andrews Secondary and has 30 pupils who have expressed an interest in hearing from someone in the science sector. They are looking for an Ambassador to talk to this group of pupils. The talk would be for approx 50 mins and if possible, in either January or February (excluding the last week in January and 1st week in February). They are flexible with regards to the type of Science specialism.

If required, the Ambassador can include an interactive activity within this 50 minute period and science labs can be made available if needed.

If you are interested in volunteering for this please let Gail or me know as soon as possible so that it can be arranged.

Dumfries and Galloway Ambassadors

Calling all Dumfries and Galloway Ambassadors!!



In conjunction with D&G Council, we are organising a training session at Dumfries and Galloway College, in Dumfries, on 2nd February for Ambassadors and Teachers to familiarise themselves with the K'NEX Challenge, how it is run, how to run a workshop, how to use K'Nex etc. This will then enable Ambassadors to visit local primary schools and help deliver the K'Nex Challenge with the teacher. It is a great opportunity to meet other ambassadors and teachers in a relaxed environment.

We will be running 2 x 2-hour sessions during the day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon to suit Ambassadors and teachers' needs. During the 2-hour session we will also be running Ambassador Induction training for new Ambassadors (1/2 hour) so if you have not completed your training or disclosure you can undertake this at this session. You might also take this opportunity to renew your disclosure if this is due, disclosures must be renewed every 3 years.

If you are interested in attending this training session please let Gail know as soon as possible and time of day (ie morning or afternoon) that suits you best.

Institute of Physics Lab in Lorry

The Institute of Physics Lab in a Lorry is on the road again and has a calendar of schools planned for the rest of the year. Please see the list of requests table for schools and dates. The dates may be subject to change but those are the ones planned at the moment.

Training will be given before the day starts so no worries about not knowing what to do! This is a great way to get involved in the SEAs program with someone else taking responsibility for what you do!

For more information on Lab in a Lorry please see www.labinalorry.org.uk



Science Club Project – Secondary Schools. Company Mentors wanted!

The Glasgow University Science Festival is working on a new project to develop 2 new Science Cluster Clubs in the West of Scotland. These clubs can be in any of our 12 local authority regions. If you are looking for ideas for your company to get involved in an education program this might be for you!

We are looking for 2 companies to support a new Science Cluster Club, using a group of ambassadors from within the company. You are welcome to recommend a secondary and its associated primaries that you want to work with to develop a Science Club strategy, however this is not a necessity - we can find the school for you.

The GUSF is looking to work with a secondary school and its feeder primaries and encourage each school to run a Science Club (either at lunchtime or at the end of the day) **for a 10-week pilot program.** The features of this program are:

- A "start up" CPD Session for Teachers and Ambassadors to find out "What is a Science Club", Activities to do in the club etc. This will last between 1-2 hours and will probably be hosted at the Secondary school.
- Schools are offered funds to buy materials etc that they need for their Science Club.
- At the end of the 10-week program, there will be a Science Fair at the Secondary school to showcase what the clubs have done.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a secondary to develop a science club and its associated primaries to have a science club also (but with the "big brother" help of the secondary) as well as having input from a local company.

We need an Ambassador for each club (or a group of ambassadors that rotate round the clubs) to make this happen. We would expect one secondary and up to 4 or 5 feeder primaries to take part in the project. As a company, this would offer you a definitive program with a finite timescale that your SEAS can be involved in and know that the GUSF is there to help and guide the clubs to get it off the ground.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact me as soon as possible.

Summer Academy, Strathclyde University



The Summer Academy @ Strathclyde has been running since 1999 at the Jordanhill Campus of the University of Strathclyde. The ten-day experience is traditionally tailored for 15 year olds, from diverse backgrounds, who have the potential to enter Further or Higher Education but require additional support and motivation to achieve the necessary grades.



This year for the first time, there will be an additional program called [S@S Accelerate](#) which is aimed at S4 or S5 pupils who have an interest in Science and Engineering subjects. This will be run from 29th June to 3rd July and hosted at Jordanhill. The pupils will be involved in a Challenge that lasts most of the week and covers a science or engineering theme, dependant on their interest. They will also take part in career workshops, debates, as well as recreational activities.

The organisers, Innovate Routes to Learning Team, would like Ambassadors to help out with the week – either for the Challenge on every day or the career workshops on the Wednesday afternoon. In addition, they would like to hear from any company who is interested in providing sponsorship towards the programme, site visits or similar.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Ambassadors to get involved in a week long program and enhance their science communication skills and experience working with young people.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact me.

Induction Training

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 20th January at 3:00pm** in the University of Glasgow. If you would like to register for this induction please email or call us and we will reserve a place for you. The training will last around 1.5 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also. The next training after this will be Tuesday 3rd March 2009 at 3pm.

We are delighted that the Science and Engineering Ambassador Programme is really working now and we have a great team of dedicated and enthusiast Ambassadors. Well done to all of you and keep up the great work!

Thanks

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aileen Hamilton'.

Science Connects Operations Manager