

Welcome to the April newsletter for Science and Engineering Ambassadors. A warm welcome to our new Ambassadors who have just joined the Programme and itching to get started in schools!

We have had a hectic last few weeks, starting with National Science and Engineering Week in March. A huge thank you to everyone who helped or hosted an event for this week. We have had great feedback from schools about events that have taken place. A special thank you to all the Ambassadors who helped at the Maker Fair at the Glasgow Science Centre on 14th March. The organiser was very impressed by all of you and could not have run the event with you, so well done!

Thank you also to the Ambassadors who helped at the 4 Careers events. Again, they were well received and all teachers ticked the "excellent" box in the evaluation forms for the Ambassador session. I know you had to give up a whole day for this, it is appreciated!

We are now into the final and summer term of the academic year. There will be lots of Finals for key activities such as the K'NEX Challenge, CREST Awards, Young Engineer Challenge etc so look out for requests for help for these on our website, www.scienceconnects.org.uk.

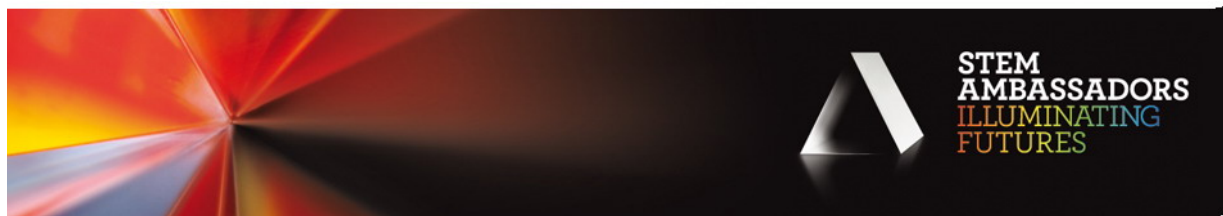
Re-naming of the SEAs Programme to the STEM Ambassadors Programme

As you will have seen in the recent newsletter from STEMNET, the Science and Engineering Ambassadors (SEAs) programme is changing its name to **STEM Ambassadors**.

The change of name reflects the true breadth of skills and careers that the programme represents, in and from STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths). To accompany the new name there is a new visual identity, which reflects the way that you, the Ambassadors illuminate what you do, and why you do it, for teachers and young people in schools and colleges.

This new branding will be officially launched on 29th April and we will announce it at our Celebration Event. After this date we will change all our branding from SEAs to STEM Ambassadors.

We have been SEAS since 2001 so it will take a bit of time get used to this new name but it is great to have updated branding and a new look to take us forward. In the UK there are currently 18,000 Ambassadors and STEMNET has set the target for 27,000 by March 2010 so there is a lot of promotion to do!



SEAS Celebration Event

You will have received your invitation by now for the Science and Engineering Ambassadors Celebration Event on **30th April** at the Glasgow Science Centre. This will be a great event for you to find out more about what is available to schools and the types of programmes and activities, which organisations are currently offering to schools. There will be lots of things for you to try out and find out just what you need to do when you go into a school. Please register your place by emailing Alan Kerr at a.kerr@physics.gla.ac.uk. Registration is essential since we have a large number of SEAS and Teachers in the East and West of Scotland, but only a finite number of places at the event.

If you have any resources you have developed as an ambassador and are interested in sharing them with other Ambassadors, please feel free to bring them along. Please let me know if you would like to do this and I can arrange space for you.

New STEMNET website

We are pleased to announce that STEMNET, the national body for the Science and Engineering Ambassadors Programme, has a new and exciting website, www.stemnet.org.uk. It has been designed to be more informative, easier to navigate, and be a useful resource tool for users.

When you visit the new site you will find more case studies, videos, reports and a preview of their stunning new exhibition, *Leading Lights*, which was published in last Saturday's edition of *The Times* and will also be touring the country from May 2009.

Ambassador activity will still be recorded through this website, as well as new online registrations.

If you visit this website you will also get a look at the **new branding of the Science and Engineering Ambassador Programme to STEM AMBASSADORS**.



Disclosure Renewals

In order to become and remain an authorised ambassador, you are required to have a valid enhanced disclosure. These disclosures last 3 years and must be renewed for you to remain an Ambassador. Gail, our co-ordinator, regularly contacts Ambassadors whose disclosures are due for renewal so please do not ignore this or you will be removed from the database within 2 months of your disclosure becoming invalid!!

Disclosures can be renewed by bringing your ID (1 photographic proof such as driving licence, passport and 1 proof of address) to the Celebration event next week, or dropping by our office at Glasgow University. If you are unsure when your renewal is due please contact Gail at seas@physics.gla.ac.uk

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 are the ones we have had a while! 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)
Glasgow Academy – Atholl	As soon as possible	Visit from Civil Engineer to talk to nursery children
Killermont Primary, Bearsden	Various dates	All different kinds of Ambassadors required, see details below.
Bocclair Academy and associated primaries, Glasgow	April/May 09	Help with Science Club project – helping out with experiments etc at primaries in the cluster.
Smithycroft Secondary and associated primaries, Glasgow	April/May 09	Help with Science Club project – helping out with experiments etc at primaries in the cluster.
Darvel Nursery, Ayrshire	8th May 09	Help with science inclusion day for nursery children and parents
Chapellhall Primary, Airdrie	6th-8th May 09	Talk to pupils about forensic science
Inverclyde Academy and associated Primaries	Week beginning 18th May 09	Help with ICE Bridges to Schools Challenge
Institute of Physics Lab in a Lorry – see schools below		
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
St Andrews Academy, West Dunbartonshire	1 st May 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	17-18 June 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Albert Primary, Glasgow	9th June 09	Help with careers activities for P5,6,7
Cadder Primary, Glasgow	Anytime	Help with P1-3 with science topics
Hollybrook School	Anytime	Help with science club

Ladyton Primary, Alexandria	Anytime	Help with Thinking Skills Group for Gifted Boys
K'NEX Area Final – St Francis Hall, Glasgow	13 th May 09	Judges for Area Final (Challenge in conjunction with Glasgow Nautical College)
K'NEX Area Final – Loudon Castle, Ayrshire	26 th May 09	Judges for Area Final
K'NEX Area Final – South Lanarkshire College	20 th May 09	Judges for Area Final
K'NEX Scottish Final, Dundee	18 th June 09	Judges for Scottish Final

Glasgow Academy – Atholl (Milngavie)

Atholl Preparatory School, based in Milngavie, is keen to have a civil engineer visit their nursery class (3-4 year olds). They are looking for someone who could take along a tool or two, hard hat, overalls etc and give a very basic intro to civil engineering. Young engineers get younger and younger!!

If you would like to visit the school and talk to the class about civil engineering at a very basic level please get in touch with Gail.

Killermont Primary School , Bearsden

Killermont Primary in East Dunbartonshire is very interested in the Ambassador Programme and the teachers are very keen to experience different topics that Ambassadors can cover. They have requested the following help in a variety of topics.

The one on the **Weather is very much desired** so if you can chat to P1s and P2s about the weather please let us know ASAP!

Topic	Nature of Support	Class
Forces and their effects	Discuss, demonstrate, experiment	P5
The weather	How we measure, predict	P1/2
Solubility	Experiments	P5/6
Sound and electricity	Practical tests and experiments	P6/7
Magnets	Explain forces, experiments	P3/4

If you can help with any of the above requests please contact me and I will put you in touch with the relevant teacher. Since the school are very enthusiastic it would be great if we can fulfil these requests!

Chapelhall Primary, Airdrie

Chapelhall Primary is running a series of science events during 6th to 8th May. The organiser is looking for an Ambassador to help by giving a talk to outline the role of a forensic scientist, relating to activities revolving round a crime scene investigation.

Please contact Gail if you would like to help.

Science Club Project – Boclair Academy cluster, Bearsden

As part of the Glasgow University Science Festival Science Cluster Project, we are delighted that another cluster has registered to take part.

Boclair Academy and its cluster primaries, **Killermont, Westerton, Torrance and Colquhoun Park** have all signed up to be included in this project.

We would like Ambassadors to support each of these primaries in this new Science Cluster Club.

Ambassadors can be involved by

- Attending the "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.
- Help schools during the 6 weeks with the experiments and projects they undertake as part of the pilot (experiments are provided)
- Attend a Science Fair at the Secondary school, which showcases 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 local Ambassadors.

If you would like to help please contact me. [The Science Club project starts next week](#) so time is tight!

In terms of commitment, you can offer as much help or as little time that you can afford. If we can have each primary and the secondary have a minimum of 1 visit from an ambassador during this period, it will help the schools enormously. An Ambassador does not need to visit each school – you can choose which one you wish to help, if time is limited.

We are still looking for support for Smithycroft Secondary and its associated primaries for the Science Club project so if you can help at any of these please get in touch with us.

Darvel Nursery, East Ayrshire

Darvel Nursery is looking for help with an inclusion day for parents and children on 8th May. Children will be ages of 3/4/5years and each one will have the support of an adult. It will run from 9am - 2.45pm. Each group would be a max of 22. There would be staff to support the person doing the challenge and it would not need to be too complex.

If an Ambassador could help with this day, by either running a challenge or having ideas as to what they could do as a challenge it would help. It may be a KNEX Challenge or similar. Science Connects can offer suggestions of help if required.

Please contact Gail if you would like to help.

Inverclyde Academy – Bridges to Schools

Inverclyde Academy is hosting the Institution of Civil Engineers Bridges to Schools event for its feeder primaries, for up to four days **w/b 18 May**. Feeder Primaries are Earnhill, Inverkip, Oak Primary, Lady Alice, Overton, Ravenscraig and Wemyss Bay.

If you would like to help them build an 8m cable stayed bridge, using a kit supplied by the organisers please get in touch with Gail.

Once the bridge is constructed, the pupils will be able to walk across and show the strength of the construction.



Lab in a Lorry – Institute of Physics

Lab in a Lorry is a mobile laboratory that gives young people, aged 11 – 14, the chance to explore science through hands-on experiments. The programme is guided by volunteers who want to share their passion for science and their curiosity about the world we live in. On board the lorry, pupils are guided through real experiments designed to let them explore and learn for themselves how real science works.

Examples of experiments include challenging pupils to use sound to bend but not break wine glasses...or using water to extract oil from rock. The Lorry has three experimental zones; each group will spend 15 - 30 minutes working on one experiment.

There is a timetable of schools that have booked Lab in a Lorry listed in the Requests Section.

NOTE That there are a few visits scheduled for **NEXT WEEK** and in particular, the **ones listed below have NO volunteers as yet.**

29 April - Vale of Leven, West Dunbartonshire

1 May - St Andrew's Academy, West Dunbartonshire

A full briefing on the experiments will be given to SEAS before the day starts. For more information please see www.labinalorry.org.uk

Please contact Gail if you want to help with any of the visits.



Cadder Primary, Glasgow – Science help

Cadder Primary (G23 in the Gilsochill area) is trying to arrange a science project for P1-3 culminating in a Science Fair type display of knowledge. They do not have any science experts on staff and would like advice and/or tips. It would be great as a start if the children could talk to Scientists of any discipline about science.

If you can offer any assistance to Cadder please let us know.

K'NEX Challenge - Area Finals

The K'NEX Challenge is now well under way with schools all over the UK now holding Cluster Challenges to find the best teams to go forward to the Area Finals.

These Finals have now been organised and we are looking for Ambassadors to volunteer as judges for these Finals:

Inverclyde 11th May
Glasgow 13th May
Lanarkshire 20th May
Ayrshire 26th May

For venues please see "Requests" list. The Area Finals are a great way to become involved as a SEA. You are paired with another SEA and given one category to judge so you can compare notes with each other as you work through the teams.

We need 10 judges for each event so please let Gail know if you would like to volunteer.



Albert Primary, Glasgow

Albert Primary, Barclay St (G21) is having a Careers Day on **9th June** for children in the upper primary - Primary 5,6 and 7, ages approximately 9-12. This is approximately 75 children.

If there are lots of different activities, it has been proposed by their Deputy Head teacher that they might invite another local school to join in the afternoon. This would double the numbers participating. Their school is due to merge and the event could be used as a way of the getting children together from both schools.

The teacher would like to run the afternoon on an appointment basis where up to 10 children can make an appointment to be involved in any activity. If each activity lasts about 15 minutes this would allow the children to make about 6 appointments allowing for movement between each activity.

If you would like to help run a career related activity, provide an activity or just talk to pupils about your career, please get in touch with Gail.

Hollybrook School, Glasgow

Hollybrook School (G42 area of Glasgow) is a special needs school for secondary pupils - learning difficulties and some behaviour difficulties. Their pupils really enjoy practical science and maths and the teachers are interested in having a science lunch time club – as well as having some careers input to the careers programme.

If you are interested in helping them out in any capacity please get in touch with us.

Ladyton School, Alexandria, West Dunbartonshire

Ladyton Primary school in Alexandria has set up a Club called The Thinking Skills Group. This is for a group of gifted boys. They would like any help in terms of science so that they can do science related activities with the group.

Please let Gail know if you would like to volunteer to help.

Glasgow University Science Festival

The popular Glasgow University Science Festival starts again in April with a series of Public Lectures, open to all. This **free** Thursday Evening Lecture Series runs from 7th May to 11th June at 7pm. No booking required, just turn up on the night.

Opening Lecture, 7th May

"Smart Fabrics and Interactive Textiles", Dr Roger Wardman from Heriot Watt University. Introduced by Sir Muir Russell.

Venue: Wolfson Medical School, University of Glasgow.

Venue for all other lecture will be Boyd Orr Lt2, University of Glasgow

Science Sunday: 14th June, 10am to 4pm at the Hunterian Museum. Free. No booking required. Includes: Family Fun Day and Meet the people Behind the Breakthroughs

Saturday Science Clubs: 2nd May to 30th May, 10am to 12 midday at Hunterian Museum. Booking Essential. Very limited spaces. £40 for 5 weeks. call 0141 330 5370.

For further information on events taking place throughout the festival please visit www.glasgowsciencefestival.org.uk

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of the Science Festival events, including the family fun day on 14th June please get in touch with Gail.



