



## STEM Ambassador profile

### RICHARD ASHWORTH COLOUR EXPERIENCE MANAGER



#### ? What do you do?



I'm the manager of the SDC Colour Experience in Bradford. I'm responsible for coordinating and delivering the SDC's educational activities on the theme of colour.

Colour covers a wide range of subjects. Colour science includes the physics of light (light sources, reflection refraction, diffraction, electromagnetic spectrum) the biology of colour vision (ourselves, other animals and problems such as colour blindness) or the chemistry of colour creation (Food and textile dyes, paints and inks). Colour comes into technology through food and textile dyes and paints, but also through the design elements of colour and the impact it can have on us emotionally (fast food places use a lot of bright reds and yellows to stop us from relaxing, eat quicker (and more) and not stay too long). Colours also have an effect on the colours around them (pointillist paintings and the art of Bridget Riley) which again can feed into technology and design (carpet makers and textile weaving).



#### ? How did you get to where you are today?



I trained as a teacher. I had taken A levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Engineering Design, then chose "the wrong course" at University and ended up dropping out after a year. Whilst working in a school as a lab technician I worked alongside some brilliant teachers and this inspired me to go for teacher training. I signed up for a four year BEd at Bradford College and once I'd qualified I taught science and technology for a number of years. The opportunity to work at the Colour Museum, as it was then, came up and I started delivering workshops here on a freelance basis and continued teaching part time. The workshops developed to such an extent that there wasn't time for me to be teaching in schools. About 5 years ago the previous manager retired and I took over.

#### ? What advice would you give to someone studying STEM subjects?



Go for it. Teaching science is a great career - it's really hard work if you're going to do it well - loads of preparation and really being on top of things - but it is so rewarding when you can see students making connections and really starting to understand what you're trying to put across. It's great to be involved in inspiring the next generation of scientists and technologists.

#### ? What activities would you like to support?



I've worked on a number of STEM engagement projects in schools and at our base in Bradford. All of the sessions that I deliver count as STEM engagement through the Ambassador Programme, and I have worked alongside some great ambassadors who have supported our activities. I'm really enthusiastic about STEM subjects and it's great to be able to pass on that enthusiasm to young people.



#### How your school can access STEM Ambassadors

We work with schools so that you can access our database of **FREE** STEM Ambassador volunteers, enabling you to incorporate exemplary links to the world of work within your teaching. Each STEM Ambassador has a STEM background - they are usually experts or professionals in their field.

All of our STEM Ambassadors have also undergone an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check to enable them to work with young people in school; and they have also attended an induction session with West Yorkshire STEM staff on how to approach classroom and school-based teaching sessions. To request a STEM Ambassador, email us: [ambassadors@wystem.co.uk](mailto:ambassadors@wystem.co.uk).

