

# Working with STEM Ambassadors in West Yorkshire



Our STEM Ambassadors can contribute both to regular lessons or participate in extra-curricular activities such as STEM Clubs, Careers Days and visits. They open the door to a whole new world for young people, helping them to see STEM subjects and careers with a fresh perspective and engage their interest and imagination in new ways. Here are some of the popular ways that they are currently being utilised by schools, and some of our top tips for working with them.



## Let's Talk ...

These events encourages students to engage with a particular topic by debating the issues around it in a relaxed informal setting. An Ambassador spends around 10 minutes presenting a topic to students and then hands over to them to debate amongst themselves, answering questions and stimulating discussions where required. The events can last around 30-60mins minutes and are usually held in school in an informal setting such as a common room, cafe or sixth-form centre.



## STEM Ambassador 'hot seat'

This activity enables students to meet a science professional and find out about the career path that led them to their current role. An Ambassador gives a short talk to students on their profession and their career path and then invites questions from students. This works well with undergraduates and PhD students and science professionals as speakers and talks can be adapted to focus on areas of research and science topics too. The session lasts around 30-40 minutes and is held in school.



## Careers events

If you are running a careers event in school we can invite a number of Ambassadors to run Ambassador Hot Seat sessions, to answer questions about their role or the industry they work in or assist with activities that you already have planned. We can invite Ambassadors from across the four STEM areas or ask for specific specialisms (e.g. mechanical engineering, IT & telecommunications, biosciences etc.)



## Expert help

If you are already running an activity in school and would like support from an expert we can ask Ambassadors with expertise in specific fields to participate. Ambassadors can help to relate curriculum-based activities to real-life applications and often offer a new perspective to students.

## Working with STEM Ambassadors: Some guidance and 'top tips' for schools

When you ask us for Ambassadors to support an event we will ask any interested parties to contact you directly to confirm the arrangements, initially by email. To ensure that the Ambassador has all the information that they need to successfully support your event, please can you make sure that they have the following information:

- time and date and duration of the event
- address of school and any useful directions
- details of where to report to and who to ask for
- any documents (e.g. CRB) or resources required

When an Ambassador visits your school, please can you make sure that they know the locations of the toilets, fire exits and refreshment facilities.

If an Ambassador is visiting for a whole day it is often difficult for them to find a place for lunch so it would be very much appreciated if you could arrange access to the school lunch facilities.

Please remember that our Ambassadors are all volunteers and many manage their Ambassador role around full-time work or study. In order to give Ambassadors enough time to plan to attend your event, please give us as much notice and as many details as possible. We often advertise events months in advance and this often means that you are more likely to receive a positive response to your request.

Our Ambassadors volunteer because they are passionate about STEM and want to encourage young people to study STEM subjects - but it's still nice to feel appreciated so please don't forget to say thank you.

Although we actively promote school events to Ambassadors in person, by email and on our website we cannot guarantee that an Ambassador will volunteer to participate in your event. The more notice you give us, the more likely it is that we are able to find Ambassadors for you.

