

STEM Ambassadors

What's the actual impact of STEM Ambassadors in schools? Do they increase pupil engagement? Is there any overall value for teachers?

These are just some of the questions answered by the recent impact report produced by STEM Learning, the new administrators of the UK wide STEM Ambassador programme. Published in late 2016, the report shows the full effect that STEM Ambassadors can have on young people to enthuse them in STEM subjects. The report used independent data collected from a network of STEM Ambassadors, as well as teachers and young people. The results are favourable, with 90% stating that

STEM Ambassadors increase young people's engagement in science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, while 81% said STEM Ambassadors improve teacher understanding in their discipline 'so they can better articulate information about STEM careers'. Across the UK there is a network of 19 Hubs that manage the volunteering opportunities for the UK's 33,000 registered STEM Ambassadors. As of October 2016, SSERC assumed lead role in Scotland for the STEM Ambassadors programme working collaboratively with the 3 Scottish Hubs, delivering STEM Inspiration.

STEM Ambassadors work with young people to bring STEM subjects alive through real life experiences. They are volunteers from age 17 years upwards, representing a vast range of STEM-related jobs across the UK. Ambassadors help to open the doors to a world of opportunities and possibilities which come from pursuing STEM subjects and careers. As well as inspiring young people Ambassadors can also support teacher CPD by demonstrating and explaining current applications of STEM in industry or research.

To find out more about STEM Ambassadors in your area, please visit www.stem.org.uk [1]. To read an interview with a STEM Ambassador, please visit www.gla.ac.uk [2].



References

- [1] www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassador-hub-contacts.
 [2] http://www.gla.ac.uk/explore/scienceconnects/news/headline_523990_en.html.

Hello... Goodbye



Alastair MacGregor



Fred Young

In September, SSERC will have a new Chief Executive Officer. He is Alastair MacGregor, known to many of you as Head of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at SQA. He takes over from Fred Young, who joined SSERC in 1999. Fred was previously head of Chemistry at Lochgilphead High School. His first role at SSERC was as the Chemistry Advisor but in 2005 he became Chief Executive Officer.

Fred has led SSERC through a period of enormous change. With the replacement of subject PTs by Faculty Heads and the reduction in numbers of Science Advisors and Senior Technicians, SSERC's advisory role is even more vital than ever. SSERC has also addressed fundamental issues in primary science education with a highly regarded programme that empowers teachers to confidently bring real, practical science into their own classrooms. Technician CPD is stronger than ever as there are now levelled, SQA accredited SSERC courses for support staff. Following the acquisition of another building, our support for technology education has also expanded. Whilst Fred would be the last person to claim sole credit for these innovations, his sharp mind, leadership, good humour and sometimes astonishing levels of persistence and patience with outside agencies has helped to make them all possible. We wish him well.