



RBS STEM Ambassador

The STEM Ambassador Coding Club at RBS Gogarburn started with a few enthusiastic members of staff and has grown, over the last two years, to now involve 40 staff working across many Edinburgh primary schools.

The Code Clubs generally have up to 10 children, aged 9-11 years, attending. STEM Ambassador Gary said: “We use a mixture of laptops, PCs, Raspberry Pis and Macs, with the young people switching between them, which helps them learn new systems. We’ve worked through the first Scratch module and are about halfway through the second, with

one of the children working solo through the HTML projects.” Engagement with the young people attending the club has helped RBS staff gain a better understanding of young people’s skills and capabilities. It has also provided an opportunity for RBS staff to better inform young people about potential STEM career pathways and the employment opportunities available within Banking & Financial Services. The hands on practical experience offered by the STEM Ambassadors also benefits the learners as it exposes them to the wider STEM agenda and offers them tangible skills and experience they can take back to the classroom and beyond.

In addition, RBS staff have had very positive experiences engaging with young learners and have been able

to build this type of engagement into their personal development plans. STEM Ambassador Ian reports that: “Volunteering helps to promote a feeling of well-being, especially when your activity is appreciated. Code Club is important to me as the country is short of people with the required IT skills. If I can help in a small way in adjusting the imbalance, then it’s definitely worthwhile.” From a teacher’s perspective it complements the teaching taking place in the classroom often in areas that teachers do not always have confidence or experience in. Due to the success at the Edinburgh site, RBS are looking to replicate this model during 2018 throughout other UK offices and sites. <<



Recognition for SSERC

We are delighted to be able to report that, at a recent meeting of a GTCS Accreditation Panel, SSERC was formally awarded with the ‘GTCS Quality Mark as a Professional Learning Organisation’.

General Teaching Council Scotland offers a suite of Professional Learning Awards [1] which celebrate, promote, and encourage teacher professionalism and professional learning at all stages of a teacher’s

career. The Awards recognise and celebrate the impact of teacher professional learning along with the leadership of learning cultures in which teacher professionalism can thrive and bring about real impact.

Recently GTCS has introduced the Professional Learning Award for Organisations. The award celebrates organisations which support and promote teacher professional learning and identifies those which aim through their work:

‘to develop and enhance teachers’ knowledge, expertise and skill; develop their professionalism, and

to impact positively on learning experiences and outcomes of children and young people’

Whilst we have always believed that the professional learning which we offer is of high quality, this formal recognition by GTCS is important as we seek to further enhance our reputation for quality. <<

Reference

[1] <http://www.gtcs.org.uk/News/news/gtcs-professional-learning-awards.aspx> (accessed April 18th 2018).

