

## STEM Ambassador Activity CASE STUDY



### SPEED Networking

#### Penwortham Priory Academy – Preston

**1. What time period elapsed between having the idea/s and actually making it happen?**

At Priory we have key dates outlined for PSHE days. We wanted a day dedicated to STEM careers so we had to put this into the diary before the new school year. I was conscious that I wanted a high volume of ambassadors so I was keen to get started and contacted STEMFirst on September 17<sup>th</sup> with my request. Our STEM careers day took place on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2012. I do believe it is important to get your request out early especially if you want a high volume of ambassadors for the students to meet.

**2. What problems, if any, did you experience?**

The only thing that I would say caused me stress is the arrival time. If I was to do this event again I would make sure I had ample time to greet the ambassadors and fully brief them prior to taking them to their rooms. The reason this didn't happen is that I was assigned to a group of students on a different task (the day ran on a carousel) so needed to be with them so they were supervised. This made the greeting very brief. I would recommend that you are free to stay with the ambassadors throughout the sessions.

**3. How many students took part?**

This event was for all year 9 students. We had 170 students in total taking part.

**4. How many staff took part?**

We had 6 members of staff that took part and the students were split into 6 groups.

**5. What evaluations did you do?**

I carried out a STEM survey with the students prior to the event to enable me to see what their knowledge of STEM Careers was. This was done to ascertain what they

know about STEM and STEM careers. This was followed up by an evaluation asking them similar questions. This allowed me to measure the success and impact of the event.

I also asked the ambassadors themselves to carry out an evaluation of the event.

#### **6. Where there any issues to resolve on the day?**

The only thing I would say is that some students hadn't come with prepared questions. I made sure I had a bank of questions available which enabled the students to begin a dialogue with the ambassadors. The day ran really well both from the students and ambassadors perspectives.

#### **7. What were the key learning points for you as a teacher?**

The main thing that I learnt was that our students do not get enough time to speak to real people who do real things. Their career knowledge is very narrow and it has highlighted a bigger issue in the school that needs addressing. We need to provide opportunities for students to experience real things to enable them to make good option choices for their futures. I will definitely be looking for all subject areas to embed something into their schemes of learning that will link content to STEM careers.

#### **8. What would you do differently next time?**

From the feedback from the students they would like a bit longer to talk to the ambassadors. The students had 5 minutes with each ambassador and then moved onto the next. They felt they wanted longer as they had just got into the deeper questions and then it was time to move.

Also from the feedback the ambassadors suggested that they could do a brief talk prior to the speed dating which would then give the students some points to question them on.

As I mentioned before I would allow myself to be free to be with the ambassadors throughout the morning and not be assigned a group of students to be with.

Overall the day went fantastically well. The students met a wide range of STEM Ambassadors and were able to find out about a huge range of careers and opportunities that they were not previously aware of.

We have used STEM Ambassadors in school for a variety of opportunities and it is a great resource that can not only support curriculum consolidation but also a wide range of careers and employability skill development. I would recommend all schools use STEM Ambassadors and just keep putting in requests as it is so very easy!