

Supporting career-related learning in classrooms using STEM Person of the Week

Information for Teachers

You are receiving this information because you or your school have been invited to take part in the STEM Person of the Week Research Study. Your participation is voluntary.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to know what your participation will involve. This leaflet is designed to give you further information.

What is STEM Person of the Week?

STEM Person of the Week is an educational project which aims to support teachers to be able to include careers related learning in their science lessons. The research is funded and carried out by the NUSTEM Group at Northumbria University. The project will begin during the Spring Term 2024 and will end in July 2024.

The project resource consists of five posters of different people who work in STEM. An example of one of the STEM people posters is shown. There is also an accompanying powerpoint presentation with the same people. The five people are chosen to represent a range of careers and backgrounds. The five careers included in the resource are: architect, mechanical engineer, Physics PhD student, social scientist, technical manager.

The posters also include three attributes that the STEM person thinks are useful for them in their job. These attributes are ones that pupils may also have, or that they could develop. This provides an opportunity to talk about what skills and attributes they might share with the STEM Person, or that they might use in a job.

Previous research on STEM Person of the Week showed that after the five week project children tended to use fewer stereotyped words to describe scientists and other people who work in STEM.



Why are we doing this new research?

The new research study is investigating how a wider range of teachers and schools could include the posters in their lessons, and also whether using the posters and presentation prompts more career discussions with pupils.

We will use the findings to help other teachers use the resource in their lessons. This is also described as a research study because we would like to write about out what we find out and share this with the wider education research community and other people interested in improving careers and science education.

Who is doing this study?

NUSTEM will be delivering the research study. They are a STEM outreach and research group at Northumbria University, who develop and deliver a wide variety of STEM activities with schools and the public. NUSTEM's education work is research informed and we are conducting our own research



to inform the STEM engagement practice of others. You can find out more at nustem.uk.

If you have any questions about the project or the research study, you can contact the project's lead researcher, Carol Davenport on carol.davenport@northumbria.ac.uk.

Research Ethics and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

We know it is important that we conduct our research to a high ethical standard. We abide by the Northumbria University Code of Ethics and all research activities are approved by an Ethics Committee.

NUSTEM at Northumbria University collects and processes data from children, families and teachers in its partner schools. The lawful basis for use processing this data 'Public task' where "processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller" (Article 6(1)(e) GDPR Regulations). In the case of the University, our public task is to undertake research and develop knowledge. This means for GDPR we do not require informed consent from individuals in order to collect and process data.

What happens if I take part?

Teachers in schools that are taking part in the research study will be asked to complete an online survey at two points during the project. It should take around 5-10 mins to complete. The survey will be issued via email.

Items in the survey will include your personal view with regards to career-related learning, and details on your current educational practice with regards careers. This is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. We would like you to answer the questions honestly. The answers on this survey will form the data for our research.

After completing the first survey, teachers will use the posters and/or presentation to introduce five different STEM people to their pupils.

Personal data is collected so that we can track participants over the course of the study. We will not tell anyone you have taken part. Your contributions will be anonymous and de-identified in any of our reports or publications.

Project timeline:

Expressions of interest received by: 31st January 2024

Headteacher form completed by 23rd February.

Teachers complete pre-project survey: 26th February – 20th March

Project launch webinars: 21st, 25th or 28th March 4pm – 5pm

Posters and presentations sent to each school following webinars.

Posters to be used between 8th April and 14th June.

Post-project surveys completed by 12th July.

Summary of findings sent to teachers by 9th December 2024

Will my data be kept safely?

We will keep our research data secure in line with University Policy and GDPR legislation. This means that it will be stored securely on the University servers and anonymised where appropriate.



What are the advantages of taking part?

We hope that you will find the questionnaire provides an interesting opportunity to reflect on your science teaching.

We want to make sure that we have a positive impact on the children, teachers and families taking part, and we want to learn lessons from activities such as this. This way, we can improve similar projects, to the benefit of children and families in other schools across the North East and beyond.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

There is a time commitment involved with your participation. We have sought to keep this as minimal as possible.

Do I have to take part?

No. No one will be annoyed if you don't want to take part. You can always agree now and change your mind later. If at any time you would like to stop being part of the study, please email **carol.davenport@northumbria.ac.uk**

