

2025 - 2026

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

in South West England



WINNERS & HIGHLY COMMENDED

**celebrating time given to creating meaningful STEM opportunities
for the benefit of schools and young people**

**as recognised by Graphic Science
STEM Ambassador programme delivery partner for South West England**

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE

2025-2026 RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME IN SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Celebrating those who were successful during the 2024-2025 Recognising Excellence Programme, who have been nominated again for their continued participation in STEM events during the 2025-2026 academic year. The following people have demonstrated outstanding ongoing commitment to supporting young people within their schools and communities.

Garry Packer

Garry is an exceptional STEM Ambassador whose ongoing support for Mary Elton Primary School is helping to create new and exciting STEM learning opportunities for students. His patient, enthusiastic approach successfully breaks down learning barriers, ensuring that children with low confidence, behavioural challenges, or SEND needs fully immerse themselves and experience academic success.

Genoveva Esteban
Bournemouth University

Genoveva has an incredible ability to spark a passion for science in others. As a dedicated STEM Ambassador, she has delivered a wide range of activities including River Explorers, Investigations Using Microscopic Algae, and Molecular Ecology, and events at the Dorchester Science Festival. Through these hands-on experiences, she has ignited curiosity, raised aspirations and empowered countless people to pursue STEM with confidence and enthusiasm.

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE

Geoff Goring
Goring Engineering
Consultancy

Geoff delivered exceptional impact across EDT initiatives by serving as a Future Skills live panellist and providing comprehensive follow-up guides on entrepreneurship and product lifecycles. His virtual mentorship for the EDT Bronze Industrial Cadets successfully guided Northampton Academy students to produce exceptionally high-quality project blueprints.

Joss Benyon
Raytheon UK

Through enthusiastic leadership of Raytheon's school outreach programme, Joss has inspired hundreds of young people through cyber activities and the Quadcopter Challenge, while consistently volunteering his time to deliver engaging STEM experiences in schools. Joss coordinates and supports team mentoring through FIRST Tech Challenge, and regional outreach activities across the South West, ensuring volunteers and students have the guidance, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed.

Nigel Thornber
Babcock International

Nigel has demonstrated outstanding leadership as the voluntary STEM Site Visit Lead at HMNB Devonport, organizing a highly successful tour program that showcases world-class facilities and clear engineering career pathways. His dedicated, professional outreach successfully provides local young people with unique insights that effectively raise career aspirations.

WINNERS

2025-2026 RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME IN SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Every winner of the 2025-2026 Recognising Excellence programme is remarkable. They represent the very best STEM Ambassadors, employers and teachers who have committed their time and passion to creating invaluable opportunities for young people, using STEM to help them thrive during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Adam Spencer
Devonport High School for Boys

Adam has enthusiastically coordinated a vast array of extracurricular STEM events at his school, challenging pupils well beyond conventional lessons. His dedicated leadership ensures students at Devonport High School for Boys have the opportunity to expand their understanding of different career pathways, as well as earning prominent accolades such as the Industrial Cadets Gold Project of the Year Award.

Andrew Brearley

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Andrew has dedicated time to tutoring and mentoring, providing sustained support in coding and mathematics that played a vital role in recent academic success at GCSE level. Through years of patient, selfless tutoring and encouragement, Andrew has transformed learning into a source of joy and inspiration, becoming a trusted mentor whose impact extends far beyond tutoring sessions.

WINNERS

Benjamin Forster
Student, Exeter College

As leader of the Engineering Society at Exeter College and Faculty Representative on the Learner Leadership Team, Ben actively champions student voice, peer tutoring, and inclusivity. Through regular volunteering at the Exeter Library Makerspace and serving on the STEM Learning Youth Advisory Panel, his dedication shapes regional outreach and provides vital hands-on technical mentorship to the local community.

Beth Freemantle
The Stonehenge School

Beth has gone above and beyond this year, dedicating countless hours to running the STEM and Robotics Club, and creating opportunities for students to develop skills, confidence, and a passion for science and engineering. Her kindness, selfless commitment, and willingness to give her own time have ensured students feel encouraged, included, and valued, leaving a lasting positive impact across the school community.

Cheryl Brown
Mary Elton Primary School

Cheryl is an exceptional teacher who has transformed digital learning at her school, creating an engaging computing curriculum that prioritises technology skills, online safety, and responsible digital citizenship. Cheryl has successfully partnered with STEM Ambassador volunteers for the past three years, bringing programming, mathematics, and engineering activities to pupils and enriching their learning through real-world STEM experiences.

WINNERS

Deborah Payne
UK Hydrographic Office

Deborah has led the growth of the UK Hydrographic Office's STEM Ambassador programme, inspiring colleagues, building education partnerships, and helping young people explore STEM careers across Somerset. Through her leadership and commitment to connecting education with STEM careers, Deborah has raised aspirations, increased awareness of geospatial and technology professions, and left a lasting positive impact on both UKHO and the communities it serves.

Equinox

Equinox and its 26-partner supply chain ecosystem deliver gamified 2-hour STEM workshops across Bristol schools to bridge education and industry. Launched in 2023, the modular programme combines problem-solving, logistics, and budgeting with clear defence career pathways to address regional diversity challenges. The initiative has successfully engaged over 350 students.

Imerys
Abi Poole,
Alex Leigh Pearson,
Clare Sleeman &
Sarah Rogers

Imerys has been a powerful champion of STEM opportunities in rural Cornwall, actively promoting inclusive career pathways and inspiring more girls to consider careers in mining, engineering and geology through meaningful outreach and hands-on experiences. Through initiatives such as Women in Engineering Day at Truro High School, where students took part in rock identification and engineering challenges, Imerys has challenged stereotypes, championed diversity, and helped young people discover exciting STEM careers available within their local community.

WINNERS

Kaydy Edwards
Wadebridge School

Over the past two years, Kaydy has built a thriving STEM Club from just 8 students to 30 active members, creating a fun, inclusive environment where every student is encouraged to find their voice, build confidence, and achieve success through STEM Awards and CREST projects. Through imaginative challenges such as surviving a zombie apocalypse, egg astronauts, silent shoes and rocket engineering, they have made STEM exciting and accessible, helping even the most reserved students grow in confidence and enthusiasm both in the club and the classroom.

Keely Burch
Millfields Inspired

Keely and the Millfields Team work tirelessly to create life-changing enrichment opportunities for students from some of Plymouth's most deprived communities, broadening horizons through events, visits, and meaningful employer engagement. Despite operating on a minimal budget, they successfully bring together local businesses and organisations to provide inspiring experiences that raise aspirations, build confidence, and help young people recognise their potential and the opportunities available to them.

Leonardo
Ben Kimberley,
Ben Waring &
Katherine Taberer

Over the past year, the Leonardo Bristol STEM team successfully formulated a new site-wide STEM curriculum, drawing on the expertise and support of colleagues from across the business while maximising its first outreach budget to expand engagement with local students from a few hundred to more than 1,000 young people. By introducing bespoke events and partnering with organisations such as the EDT, the initiative engaged the entire apprentice cohort and built strong collaborative bonds across three previously siloed departments.

WINNERS

**Matt Squire, Katy
Kendry & Mike Johnson**
Cleeve School

Teachers Matt and Katy from Cleeve School, alongside STEM Ambassador Mike, have created exciting STEM opportunities for young people with a focus on astronomy and science. Together, they have helped spark curiosity and a love of STEM across the local community through practical hands-on projects, such as the Cheltenham Education Partnership's Mars Rover Project.

Matthew Primmer
Babcock International

Since joining Babcock, Matt has embraced his role within the STEM Leads team with enthusiasm and determination. Through skilful coordination of site visits, balancing complex security protocols with school engagement, he has opened doors for countless young people to experience engineering in action. His dedication has laid the foundations for significant programme growth, with annual tours set to double and schools already eager to return.

My Future My Choice
**Hugh Thomas &
Polly Barnes**

My Future My Choice has created opportunities for STEM Ambassador volunteers to inspire young people through engaging, hands-on activities, making it easy and rewarding for volunteers to connect with schools and communities. Activities are coordinated by Hugh and Polly, whose energy and enthusiasm has fostered a welcoming and positive volunteering environment that motivates volunteers, develops their skills, and maximises their impact on young people's STEM learning.

WINNERS

Dr Nigel Price
Newquay Tretherras

Dr Price has significantly driven social mobility by supporting students from diverse backgrounds in conducting detailed solar rotation research. Under his enthusiastic guidance, students from Newquay Tretherras School in Cornwall successfully secured a prestigious invitation to present their scientific findings nationally at the Royal Society.

Philip Lovell

Phil is a highly dedicated STEM Ambassador who has demonstrated exceptional reliability when volunteering with schools and young people. He connects effortlessly with children through his infectious energy, safely encouraging them to experiment. With over a decade of service, he has also grown into a confident communicator who excels at putting young people at ease.

Science Team
HoD: George Davis
The Thomas Hardy School

The Science Team at The Thomas Hardy School goes above and beyond to create inspiring STEM opportunities for students through initiatives such as Genesis Club, STEM Racing, the Big Bang Competition, TeenTech and national research programmes. Their dedication has helped students develop valuable skills, achieve national recognition, and grow in confidence, curiosity and ambition as they explore the exciting possibilities within science and engineering.

WINNERS

Sian Lydford
Wey Valley Academy

For four years, Sian has orchestrated the school's Year 7 STEM day, creating engaging activity carousels and empowering student leaders. By forging lasting partnerships with external agencies, she has seamlessly embedded external STEM organisations directly into the school curriculum, careers strategy, and work experience initiatives.

Sophie Hooper
Amentum

Sophie has demonstrated exceptional organisation and leadership in developing and sustaining a high-quality work-related learning programme at Amentum. Through coordinating placements, engaging with schools, and giving her own time to support delivery, she has created valuable real-world STEM experiences for students while showing outstanding commitment as a STEM Ambassador.

STEMCourage

**Connie Wilson, Devon Jones,
Emelia Galkowska, Ian T Miller,
James Wilkins, Matt Thompson,
Megan Harvey, Michelle Sherman,
Ollie Newman, Rebecca Bond &
Rebecca Eves**

Developed by Connie Wilson, with support from a passionate team of volunteers, STEMCourage is a unique A Level mentoring programme adopted by the Smallpeice Trust for Arkwright Scholars. Since 2021, it has helped young people explore robotics, cyber security, and future skills, inspiring young people to pursue STEM degrees and apprenticeships while building confidence, curiosity and career ambition.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

The following people and organisations stood out among a strong field of nominations, demonstrating an incredible work-ethic and consideration for young people and their futures. These nominees are Highly Commended, in recognition of the impact they have had on young people, schools and communities.

Bridmet

**Beth Ford &
Laura Mackay**

Bridmet, an independent sheet metal manufacturer, has been working to increase support for future talent through STEM outreach, school partnerships, work experience, and apprenticeships, inspiring young people to explore careers in engineering. Working closely with schools, the Dorset Careers Hub and Yeovil College, the Bridmet team is determined to help shape engineering education to address local skills gaps, ensuring students gain industry-relevant experience and a stronger pathway into manufacturing careers.

First UK

First UK drives outstanding national impact by continually scaling the FIRST Tech Challenge to engage a growing network of youth teams in engineering, coding, and robotics. Supported by a an extensive volunteer network at their events in Gloucestershire and Bournemouth, they coordinate high-quality tournaments that inspire the next generation of technical innovators across the UK.

HIGHLY
COMMENDED

**Falmouth Rotary Club
& Gemma Dower
Falmouth Primary Academy**

Falmouth Rotary Club, acting in partnership with Gemma Dower and Falmouth Primary Academy, have been leading a STEM initiative across 10 local primary schools, providing training, resources, professional networks and careers engagement with the aim of creating a consistent, high-quality approach to science education. With long-term support from education and industry partners, the programme is building science capital, strengthening teacher confidence, and inspiring the next generation through sustained collaboration between schools, businesses and the wider STEM community.

**Gillian Coutts
Renishaw plc**

Gillian is a passionate advocate for diversity in STEM, using her role as a female engineer and STEM Ambassador to inspire girls and underrepresented young people to see exciting and achievable futures in engineering and manufacturing. Through hands-on K'NEX workshops, careers fairs, school talks, and major industry exhibitions such as MACH 2026, she has championed inclusion and encourages all young people she engages with to explore STEM careers with confidence.

**John Armstrong
South Dartmoor
Community College**

John is an outstanding teacher, who consistently places student well-being, inclusivity, and academic success at the heart of their daily practice. Their exceptional professionalism and unwavering commitment to providing a supportive pastoral environment make them a valued school role model thoroughly deserving of recognition.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Lily Abraham
Babcock International

Lily is a proactive and inclusive STEM Ambassador who goes out of her way to ensure everyone feels welcome, supported, and confident in their participation in Babcock STEM events. Through initiatives such as the Tamar Crossings Women in STEM event, she has helped create accessible and engaging experiences, combining excellent organisation with a warm, welcoming approach that encourages involvement and inspires future participation in STEM.

Oliver Bouchier
Leonardo

Oliver has shown exceptional commitment to DigiLocal and their community coding clubs, volunteering regularly as a mentor, championing the programme within his workplace, and actively supporting fundraising efforts to raise its profile. Alongside his apprenticeship, he has been a tireless advocate for STEM events, supporting schools and the community, helping ensure more young people can benefit from STEM opportunities.

Sarah Grose
ATSL

Sarah demonstrated exceptional community dedication by participating in 24 voluntary sessions with the Worktree Career Workout program, demystifying workplace transitions and building core employability skills for students. Sarah also supports weekly River Thames environmental fundraising litter picks to drive a positive ecological impact locally.

Stephen Moore

Stephen is a 100% reliable volunteer who is meticulous and calm under pressure, he effortlessly handles large groups of up to 60 children and thrives on solving unexpected operational challenges. Stephen's enthusiastic support of My Future My Choice activities ensures that each event is successful, fun and well-organised.

CONTACT

Graphic Science

STEM Ambassador Programme Delivery Partner for South West England

Graphic Science is a leading STEM engagement consultancy based near Bristol, UK. Our portfolio of support for engagement with science and technology includes strategic guidance to research funders, industry and HEIs on the development of public engagement programmes, evaluation and training, working with schools, and resource development. As the [STEM Ambassador Programme Delivery Partners](#) for South West England, we help to generate and coordinate STEM events across the region, working closely with STEM Ambassadors, schools, colleges and employers to create meaningful STEM opportunities for the benefit of young people.

Contact us: ambassadors@graphicscience.co.uk



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