

Ambassador Profiles

Name **Michael Fraser**

Occupation: **Senior Engineering Manager BAE Systems**

What were your interests when you were at school?

**Rock climbing**

**Athletics**

**Triathlons**

As a student were you able to take advantage of any STEM type activities outside the usual school timetable?

**No**

If so, how did this influence your career path?

What are your roles and responsibilities in your workplace now?

**I work as a senior engineering manager within a project that is designing the new generation of nuclear submarine for the Royal Navy.**

Why did you decide to become an STEM ambassador?

**I have two sons, one aged 14 and the other 8. I therefore have a natural interest in informing young people of their options/choices in life and I felt I could contribute in this regard; engineering often struggles to accurately portray itself as the fascinating and diverse field that it is.**

What do you feel are the positive outcomes of being a STEM Ambassador?

For yourself?

**Meeting a wide range of young people and getting a lot of satisfaction from seeing them become interested in Science and Engineering.**

For the pupils taking part in the activity?

**Speaking to people who are actually practicing in their field means they get information directly from the horse's mouth, which helps them make informed choices about the direction they decide to take with their life and interests.**

For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils?

**Teachers also benefit from speaking/interacting with practitioners. STEM Ambassadors are able to support them by verifying and validating views and perspectives that the teachers have about engineering and science, especially with respect to their application in industry.**

*Which STEM activity have you enjoyed the most and why?*

***Lorry in a Lab, because through the use of really cool experiments the young people involved were able to become excited about science. Light-bulb moments are very rewarding.***

*What was your role in this activity?*

***I ran an incredibly cool experiment about fibre-optics involving endoscopes and lasers, which the young people involved were able to mess around with themselves.***

*Do you think being a STEM Ambassador has enhanced your career in anyway?*

***It has enhanced the enjoyment I get from my career and been well worth the effort.***

*Do you have any advice for people who are considering becoming a STEM ambassador?*

***Go for it and make the time. A day of volunteering here or there makes a huge difference to those who receive it and is extremely satisfying.***