



Ambassador Profiles
Name: Jacky Chaplow

Occupation: Informatics Liaison Officer, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Lancaster

What were your interests when you were at school?

Biology, Art, Sports of all kinds, Drama, Cooking, Socialising. I also worked part time in a Supermarket.

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

No, I don't remember anything like it.

What are your roles and responsibilities in your workplace now?

To improve Science Information Management by engaging staff in the use of a suite of data, sample and archive management planning documentation and cataloguing tools via the web. What do I mean by that: we are a science organisation running experiments in ecology that produce lots of information and data – my role is to future proof that data.

Why did you decide to become an STEM ambassador?

When I left school, I wanted to become a primary school teacher- this didn't work out as I didn't get the grades I needed. Being a STEM Ambassador has enabled me to work with kids in the field that I enjoy the most – science.

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

For yourself? It's a great feeling to be encouraging kids to perform tasks that are science, technology, engineering and maths in a practical way without the kids knowing that they are learning something very complicated and clever. When the tools work and the kids get excited, I feel enthused!

For the pupils taking part in the activity? It's a great way to reward children that are well behaved and interested in STEM subjects - they are able to have a go at something that requires expensive equipment (E.g. Robodance) or build something from a kit and take it away with them (E.g. Jitterbug). I think that kids have fun when they work with adults to build/create something! I also think that STEMNET activities make the kids feel proud of themselves.

For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils? It's a chance to see the behaviour and performance of the students outside the classroom.

Which STEM activity have you enjoyed the most and why?

This is a tricky question – I think I enjoyed the events equally. I also enjoy being involved in National Science Week activities that we run at CEH Lancaster.

What was your role in this activity?

I was ran a specific activity- usually managing teams building something or directing a group in the activity.

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

Erm, probably. I think it's made me a bit more confident in presenting information to the public – maybe it's brought out my bossy side...

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

Yes, join the scheme - it's great fun. I really enjoy the days and have learnt all sorts. It's a great way to give something back to the community and great development of your own skills. I look forward to working with the Cumbria STEMNET team again soon. Not only are they are great group to work with, but the ambassadors that they attract to the scheme are interesting and fun too.