

Closing the STEM skills gap in Berkshire: inspiring the next generation

The UK faces the biggest skills shortage for decades affecting all industry sectors and employers are looking at alternative ways to recruit people to fill their vacancies. In Berkshire, there is a specific shortage of candidates to fill STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) positions, with 27% of all jobs in Berkshire within this sector. 1 in 10 jobs in Berkshire is in digital technology, which is 3 times higher than the national average.

How you can get involved

We are looking for local employers who are interested in working with us to engage people of all ages and educate them about the opportunities that exist with a focus on critical skills gaps that Berkshire businesses need to fill.

You can:

- Become a mentor and help young people to think about their future aspirations and career goals
- Join the STEM champions programme – run workshops, provide hands-on experiences and offer work placements
- Sponsor an event

You will gain:

- Access to young people to develop the skills and experience needed for your business
- Recruit from a talent pool
- Build your network of like-minded professionals
- Evidence of your commitment to corporate and social responsibility
- Improved local recruitment
- Positive brand awareness





Women in STEM: not just for the boys

The perception of career opportunities within the STEM sector is still relatively male orientated and Government figures prove the perception is reality with just 24% of women employed in STEM industries. There is no doubt a more diverse workforce would have a positive effect on productivity within businesses and to fill the ever growing skills gap that perception has to change.

Schools and employers can work together to engage young minds (particularly girls) in all areas of the curriculum that touch on STEM subjects. Inspiring children from a young age enables them to see that these subjects are fun and exciting, leading them to more informed choices at GCSE and A Level. As they progress through education, it is vital to show female students there are clear career paths into positions in STEM industries from actuary to teacher, architect to software engineer and even HR in a STEM business, the list is vast.

Join the STEM revolution

If you would like to be a part of this exciting journey (both men and women) and help inspire the next generation of budding scientists, engineers and ICT professionals we would love to hear from you.