



GETTING STARTED AS A MINERALS MATTER STEM AMBASSADOR

www.minerals-matter.co.uk

Congratulations on becoming a Minerals Matter STEM Ambassador!



We are sure you will find it an incredibly rewarding experience, inspiring the future workforce to consider a career in the minerals industry.

This information will provide you with guidance on how to deliver sessions in schools, and signpost you to useful resources to enhance your experience of being a Minerals Matter STEM Ambassador.

First things first, please make sure that you have joined the Minerals Matter scheme within the STEM Ambassador portal. This will ensure that you are part of the Minerals Matter community where you can share experiences and resources with other volunteers from the sector, and we are able to contact you with more information about opportunities in schools and colleges, CPD sessions and ways to share your views on the STEM Ambassador programme.

Finding opportunities

The STEM Ambassador portal shows the latest opportunities that are available in schools and colleges across the UK, so this is a great way to search for an activity close to where you live. Visit **STEM Learning Digital Platform** to search and view opportunities.

There will also be projects and events organised by Minerals Matter and your company that you can get involved in. These will be shared with you throughout the year.

If you have direct links with schools/colleges in your area then you can absolutely arrange a session directly with them, just remember to log your hours on the portal. Please get in touch if you would like to be connected to your local Careers Hub.

Adding an offer

If you have an activity or careers talk that you are keen to promote to schools and colleges, you can add this in the portal for teachers to view and follow up with. This can be done by visiting **STEM Learning Digital Platform** where you can add the details and post.

Recording your hours

Once you have started volunteering make sure that you record your hours on the STEM portal as this will provide us with important data that shows the impact that Minerals Matter STEM Ambassadors make to young people. It's also great to be able to share this with your employer so that they can see how you are promoting the industry and company to students. You can do this on your dashboard **STEM Learning - Ambassador Dashboard**.

Don't forget you can give as much or as little time to volunteering. As long as you complete at least an hour of volunteering in a year, you will be rewarded as an active ambassador.



Popular activities for Minerals Matter STEM Ambassadors

So now you have signed up as an ambassador and are keen to get started, you will no doubt want some guidance on what information schools and colleges are looking for from you. Below are the key types of activities that ambassadors are asked to get involved in, and more information and guidance is given below for each activity.



Classroom



STEM Club activities



Career talks



Speed networking



Online mentoring



Site visits & hosting work experience



Large science festivals & fairs



Non-school group

Classroom delivery

Primary, Secondary and College

This is essentially a lesson takeover, where you would deliver a session linked to the curriculum to students of a particular subject (e.g.: science or geography) for approx. 1 hour. It would be important to work with the teaching staff at the school or college to ensure that the content of the session is suitable for the age of the student, and relevant to the curriculum.

This type of activity would suit ambassadors who are confident in speaking to young people and able to put together a lesson plan which links the curriculum to the minerals sector. Examples of lesson plans can be found on the Minerals Matter website.

Careers talks and fairs

Primary, Secondary and College

This is a very popular option for schools and colleges when delivering careers education, as students learn a great deal from having external speakers share their stories. This could take place during an assembly slot or as part of an off-timetable day. Each school or college will be different. Your job will be to bring the minerals sector to life for young people and get them thinking about it as an option for their future career, sharing your experience of working in the sector and the benefits of it.

A slide template is available to help you develop a presentation to accompany your talk, using the Minerals Matter branding. This is available on the **Minerals Matter website**.

STEM Club activities

Secondary

Many schools offer extra curriculum clubs either in lunch time or after school, with STEM clubs being a popular choice. This activity would allow you to meet with students who have an interest in STEM, and either take part in a hands-on activity with them or share more about your career journey.



Speed networking

Secondary

A growing number of schools and colleges are organising speed networking events for large groups of students, to give them the opportunity to meet a variety of employers from the local area. The events generally take place either in the school/college hall or at an external site for a few hours during the school day. Students will rotate around a number of employers and will ask you questions about your job in the sector for around 10 minutes, before the next student/s meet you.

This is a great way to speak directly to a range of students about your career journey, and share some of the things that makes the minerals industry a great one to work in.

Example questions for speed networking events can be found on the Minerals Matter website.

Mock interviews

Secondary

Most schools will organise mock interview days for Year 10+ students, to give them the opportunity to experience being interviewed by someone from industry. This is a really valuable chance for students to understand what is required of them in an interview so that they are more prepared for the future.

Schools will provide the questions so there is little preparation needed for this activity, however it will usually require more of your time – interviews usually take place across the whole school day.

Example questions for mock interview events can be found on the Minerals Matter website.

Online mentoring

Secondary

STEM Learning offers a free national online mentoring scheme, in partnership with **The Brightside Trust**, which has been designed to help 13-19-year-olds explore their future career options. By chatting with trained and experienced STEM professionals, young people can ask for careers advice, learn more about potential careers and consider life after school, including education at university, apprenticeships, or preparing for employment.

Students can message their mentor at any time during a 10-week mentoring period and mentors will reply as soon as they can. Conversations take place via text-based messaging, a bit like email, so mentors and mentees do not need to be online at the same time.

To keep mentees safe, conversations can only take place via the secure and moderated mentoring platform.

If you are interested in **Becoming a mentor visit [Become a mentor on our National Online Mentoring programme](#) | [STEM Ambassadors: News and Support](#)** for more information and to sign up!

Site visits and hosting work experience

Primary (site visits only), secondary and College

We know that site visits and work experience programmes are tricky to deliver in risky environments like quarries and mines, so this activity may not be possible. However, if you are able to organise visits for a small number of students to controlled areas of your site, this can have a very powerful impact on young people. It not only gives them access to a local employer, but it also allows to meet with a range of employees to learn more about different careers within the industry.

If you would be interested in organising a site visit but aren't sure where to start, email **Hannah.higley@minerals-matter.co.uk** who can provide guidance and ideas.



Large science festivals and fairs

Primary, Secondary and College

Large scale events like the Big Bang Fair are a great way for students to meet with a vast range of employers from across the STEM landscape. If your employer is involved in events like this and has a stand, then being part of it is a great way to share your experience of working in the minerals sector with young people from across the UK.

Non-school group

Variety of ages

You can also deliver sessions or talks to groups such as Guides or Scouts, which may be relevant to a specific badge that the young people are working towards.

Minerals Matter resources

We have developed online resources for you to use as you wish during your ambassador journey. These are available on the Minerals Matter website.

If there is anything else you would like to see, or resources you have that could be share with other ambassadors please get in touch.

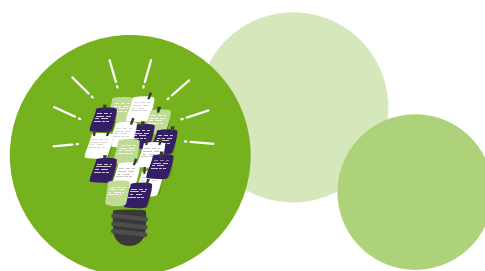
We also have a fantastic online resource available for Minerals Matter STEM Ambassadors to use in schools, that takes young people through the quarry environment, and explains why it is essential for the creation of materials that they see every day in their community. The resource is linked below, and if you would like guidance around using this with young people, please get in touch. The resource can be accessed from a laptop, tablet or smart phone as long as it is connected to the internet and can also be viewed with VR headsets for enhanced delivery.

Journey through Resource Extraction (uptale.io)

STEM Learning resources and training

There is a whole range of activity suggestions, how to guides and training opportunities available through the STEM Ambassador community page. Visit the link below to take a look.

**STEM Ambassador Training Hub
- STEM Ambassadors**



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