



# STEM Ambassador Programme

## Case study: STEM Ambassador – Mick Hancock

### Overview

Mick Hancock is from Mansfield and was our most active STEM Ambassador in 2019. He has given his time - over 581 hours - to support young people in STEM. This has involved over 65 activities and working with over 7030 young people.

Charlotte Land, STEM Ambassador Hub Manager for North Midlands, South and East Yorkshire said, "Mick joined the programme in December 2018, so this is an incredible level of support in a short space of time. It's a real inspiration to others considering joining the STEM Ambassadors programme!"

### Education/career journey

Mick attended Swanwick Hall School in Derbyshire and enjoyed physical training, sports, history and geography. After leaving school, Mick did numerous jobs including working on the dodgems in Ingoldmells for two years. He moved into the mining industry in 1980 where he did 15-years-service.

During the miners' strike, Mick joined the Territorial Army reserves and realised it was something he was good at and enjoyed. He has now served in the British Army for over 33 years. Mick is currently an Engagement Warrant Officer based in Nottingham and has gained many qualifications throughout his military career including a BTEC Level 4.

Mick became a STEM Ambassador after joining the Engagement Team in 7 Brigade based in Chilwell. Mick said, "Charlotte from STEM Hub visited us to tell us all about the programme and how we could get involved. This made us keen to go out to inspire young people within schools, change their perceptions about military life and inspire a generation. My main aim was being able to build confidence within the students, create better communication skills and generate teamwork."



Mick continued, "The best part of my role is giving confidence and knowledge to numerous students, inspiring them and showing them that learning can be different, fun and creative. There are lots of ways to learn and everyone does it differently, I really enjoy finding out how to inspire people differently."

## **STEM Ambassador activities**

In 2019, Mick has delivered a wide range of activities.

### **Activity days**

Mick delivers a range of activity days or incorporates activities within his talks etc such as:

- BATAK game to increase hand eye co-ordination and improve reaction.
- building a basha (tarpaulin) as quickly as possible using a waterproof canvas, supported with bungee cords or ropes tied to a tree, and camouflaging to the area.
- cooking in the field with real army operational ration packs.
- crawling under camouflage netting and collecting something to bring back under the net in the cam-net challenge.
- kit demonstration and then getting to try it on.
- STEM challenge that involves following instructions and working as a team to build a communication tower.
- stepping-stones command task to engineer a crossing between two prominent points using planks and ropes.
- working in pairs to complete an obstacle course, where one person is blindfolded and the other gives instructions to help encourage trust.

Talking about one of the activity days, Mick said, "The day was met with massive enthusiasm and noise. I spoke to the students about what they had learnt from the day and how it related to their own school's values and standards. A really good day, well received by students and teachers alike."



### **Other activities**

Some of the other activities Mick has delivered include:

- Class activity to research various aspects of a humanitarian aid mission to the Central African Republic after the civil war. Working in groups, students must research climate, terrain, government, infrastructure, roads etc and then produce a PowerPoint and present the research back to the class.
- Engagement courses run over several days to teach military personnel about how to go into schools, colleges etc and deliver talks and so on. Things covered include cultural awareness, social media, good/bad practices, how to use the army STEM kits and how to best deliver activities.
- Question and answer sessions on World War 2.
- Talk about the modern armed forces in Britain, and discussion and comparison to the Roman Army.
- Talk about various careers and jobs within the military.
- Visits to Chilwell and Chetwynd barracks including a kit demo, an apprenticeship video, a visit to the explosive ordinance disposal team, display by the military working dogs' team and much more!

Mick has also done mock interviews at many local schools and supports lots of local community events such as careers fairs, summer fetes and scout/girl guide days.



Mick also attends many of our Hub events such as networking and training on some of our resources. Recently he attended a training session on using the Tetrahedron kit and his team have since purchased their own kits to use in schools.



Mick said, "Being a STEM Ambassador gives me the satisfaction that I am being a role model for the armed forces. I have also recently started working with alternative provision schools and the police to try and install confidence in more young people and help unlock the potential that they all have."

When talking about giving advice to young people, Mick said, "I encourage them to have the correct attitude. Think big, and then think bigger, believe that whatever you want you can achieve through analysis, creativity and hard work. Make a plan and then make it work, and ALWAYS do everything to try and make it work. As Winston Churchill once said, 'success is failing over and over again without losing enthusiasm.' "

## **Impact**

Mick said, "I believe that what I am doing is beneficial to young people and they can see that I genuinely care and am trying to help them. This has greatly increased my confidence, improved my creativity and desire to find ways to support young people. It has made me more enthusiastic to succeed and if I can inspire someone to think more about themselves in any walk of life then that is what I want them to get out of my time with them. The response from the pupils, teachers and everyone else within the learning environment gives me inspiration every day."

## **Future plans**

Mick is already in discussions with several schools to arrange activities in 2020.

These include:

- Careers week support at Queen Elizabeth's Academy, Nottingham.
- Five visits from Nottingham College to Chilwell barracks for a leadership and activity day.
- Visit to Fountaindale School in Mansfield for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Visits to other schools throughout Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and even further afield.
- Delivering training to many soldiers on engagement courses so that they successfully register on the STEM Ambassadors programme and have the same level of same success.

Charlotte Land, STEM Ambassador Hub Manager for North Midlands, South and East Yorkshire said, "It's truly inspiring for young people to hear first-hand from people from the world of work. Thank you so much to Mick for all the support he has provided this year and helping to encourage young people to consider a career in STEM."

## More information

If you'd like to share your own involvement as a STEM Ambassador, please follow our:

- [HUB twitter account](#) and tag us into your posts about your STEM activity using the hashtag #STEMAmbassadors.
- [LinkedIN company page](#) and join our [HUB group](#) – we are setting this up as a way for STEM Ambassadors to talk to each other about their experiences and to share good practice, resources etc.
- [Instagram page](#) and tag us into your photos showcasing your STEM involvement using the hashtag #STEMAmbassadors.

If you're inspired about Mick's story and would like to know more about becoming a STEM Ambassador or working with a STEM Ambassador please email [ambassadors@debp.org](mailto:ambassadors@debp.org)