

Jayne Hamilton - Winner of ENTHUSE Award, Excellence in STEM Teaching (Secondary)

At the start of the 2019 academic year, I was appointed as PT Positive Destinations for Bannockburn High School. Having worked alongside fantastic colleagues in the DYW working group, this opportunity was a real springboard to start embedding STEM learning into wider achievement opportunities and support our young people and their parents when it came time to make subject choices.



At this point I had also embedded an alternative vocational curriculum pathway for the young people at Bannockburn High School to include Level 5 Lab Skills and Level 6 NPA.

Through SSERC's STEM Engagement Offer, I was able to access a Grand Challenge ENTHUSE Teacher Placement. I along with colleagues from across the central belt spent two days at Canon Medical in Edinburgh and one day at The Imaging Centre of Excellence at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. This opportunity provided valuable insights and networking opportunities that would go on to benefit my own practice and provide unique learning opportunities for pupils at Bannockburn High.

In November, I took part in another 3-day Teacher Placement funded by the Biochemical Society at Glasgow University. Once again, an opportunity for networking and making connections and speaking

directly to lecturers and employers on what they are looking for in young people coming to university.

Armed with a new vision of inclusivity and opportunities for all, I organized a Women in Medicine event at my school. This was supported by Canon Medical staff, a past pupil who is now a qualified doctor, a local business owner and a vet. This provided a springboard for young female students to hear from inspiring women in their respective fields and the challenges and successes they have encountered. This then led to pupils setting up a Medic Society and Bannockburn High now have a partnership with Medic Mentors and You can be a Doctor.

I organised our Future Pathways and Wider Horizons events for S4/5/6 and S2 respectively. This involved over 30 partners from a range of colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and employers in school over two days to share information

with parents and pupils. Through the two placements, I also received funding to put on a full two day Wider Horizons event for S2 pupils including a STEM Extravaganza. With activities including building a suspension bridge, milking a (fake) cow, meeting STEM Ambassadors, filtering scat samples to identify organisms, Lego Coding, and Robotics, pupils were armed with a knowledge and insight they would not have had before when choosing subjects. The engagement with parents was significantly improved and many felt more secure in their child's future pathway.

With encouragement from colleagues, I put in an application for an Enthuse Award. This happened in March 2020 pre-lockdown, pre-COVID and what feels like another reality. As the thoughts of awards slipped out of my head and were replaced with blended learning and the world of Google Meet, I never considered the possibility of winning. The shock and pride felt in equal measure when I opened the email will not go unforgotten, neither will the memories that I and the pupils I work with shared in life before lockdown. I feel hugely privileged to have received this recognition award for Excellence in STEM Teaching. <<

