



STEM Exchange

Exchange of Excellence

Connecting forward-thinking employers and Further Education practitioners to improve the quality of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) teaching and training is key to the future success of the UK's economy.

It is why The STEM Exchange was launched, to allow industry to engage with teachers and tutors to ensure STEM training for Apprenticeships, Higher Apprenticeships and Further Education is closely aligned to business needs.

A wide range of employers have signed up to and actively support the STEM Exchange, including JCB, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd, FSL Aerospace, RPC Containers, Martin Manufacturing UK Ltd, Specialist Heat Exchangers and Asmech Systems.

They have committed to providing teachers with access to work-related experience – anything from short periods of work

shadowing to attending a company induction – and supporting Continuous Professional Development, as well as providing careers information, advice and guidance for their students.

Employers complete a simple enrolment process indicating their industry area and a brief outline of the support they may be able to provide.

Individual tutors and teachers register themselves and complete a personal profile and search for employers in their area who are willing and able to provide relevant CPD support to them.

Once a suitable employer has been identified by a tutor they indicate their interest via the site. At this stage the tutor is only able to view the employer name and industry areas – no contact information or employer job role data can be accessed.

“Employers are critical in helping those tasked with reducing this skills gap, in doing so they contribute to improving their own competitiveness, economic sustainability and growth.”

Al Parkes
Chief Operating Officer, Semta



Romanby Hair Salon are signed up to The STEM Exchange... opening their doors to share best practice.

**The
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The employer contact receives an email indicating an education professional wishes to contact them. The employer can view the profile for the individual and either accept or decline the invitation.

The employer makes contact with the tutor and specific arrangements are made. Reporting on these interactions is maintained to help improve the matching process.

Al Parkes, Chief Operating Officer of Semta, the not-for-profit organisation charged with engineering skills for the future and facilitating the STEM Exchange said: "The need for the STEM Exchange derives from employer feedback about the quality and relevance of training delivered by the FE sector. As these key areas of the UK economy move quickly in response to changes in technology and international market pressure, those tasked with teaching new entrants can become quickly disconnected with the most recent developments.

"The effect of this can be felt in the skills gap reported by employers. The Royal Academy

of Engineering reports the need for 160,000 engineers, scientists and technicians by 2020, this does not factor in the effects of an ageing workforce and international brain drain.

RPC Containers Ltd manufacture rigid plastic packaging for a wide range of industries including food, health, beauty and industrial sectors. The Group employs over 15,000 people worldwide – with more than 2,000 employees in the UK - and produces a diverse range of high quality packs for a wide variety of customers, including many household names.

Gillian Doughty, HR manager at RPC Containers (Oakham) Ltd said: "With an ageing workforce across manufacturing and skills shortages beginning to bite, it is vital that industry and further education collaborate to ensure we have the right skills to meet the future needs of both RPC and the wider industry – that's why we have signed up to the STEM Exchange."

Lauren Taylor, 21, co-owns Romanby Hair Salon near Northallerton in North Yorkshire with business partner Claire Shuttleworth. The salon has become a member of the STEM Exchange.



Lauren Taylor, co-owner, Romanby Hair Salon

"Science and maths is so important, for example, when creating a new product or using ratios in mixing colours before applying the solution to a customer." says Lauren.

"We are opening the doors to the salon for tutors and students to see for themselves a business in action – what goes on in the salon and behind-the-scenes in terms of ordering, book-keeping and management – areas you don't get the chance to study in a college environment."

"STEM education is as important in a hairdressing salon as it is in other industries"



RPC Containers

The STEM Exchange helps teaching practitioners understand your business needs, the technologies you use and the challenges you face, so they can shape their teaching to align with industry needs.



to watch our video about The STEM Exchange go to www.stemexchange.co.uk or scan the QR Code



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