

CEO Introduction

Alastair MacGregor, CEO, SSERC



So the teachers' strikes have ended (in Scotland), and the soon-to-be disbanded (or should I say re-branded) SQA has indicated that practical assignments will be reintroduced as of the next academic session. There are mixed views emanating from the teacher profession regarding this latest announcement. Some, like me, see the benefits of the practical assignment as an assessment component as it reinforces the idea that practical work is a key component of a STEM-based curriculum. Others question the value of the practical assignment as a means of supporting assessment differentiation, and whilst this is a valid observation – I don't think anyone would question the importance of ensuring that practical work is at the centre of STEM-based curricular activity – irrespective of age and stage: would they?

The reintroduction of the practical assignment provides an opportunity to restate, yet again, the critical role that STEM technicians play in supporting practical-based STEM education in schools and colleges in Scotland. Is it not time that school and college STEM technicians gain the recognition that they deserve? I wonder what media support the school and college technician professionals would have got if they had gone on strike, not just in terms of pay, but also for other associated terms and conditions issues such as lack of career progression opportunities and forced changes to contract terms.

SSERCs vision for 2030 is that it is **internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for STEM learning and support**. This vision is supported by eight workstreams, one specific to technicians.

At the last STAC meeting, I shared the information provided on the next page, which restates



the SSERC commitment to supporting the professional development of school and college STEM technicians not just now – but into the future.

The STAC group also discussed the opportunities available to raise further the profile of school and college technicians in Scotland. I have agreed to write to all Local Authorities in Scotland, ADES and SLS to further promote recognition for the role and contribution that school and college technicians make to supporting STEM education and training in Scotland. The minutes from the most recent STAC meeting can be found via the [Techné site](#).

Of course, what brings to life the role and remit of school and college technicians are the contributions made to the Technicians' Corner section of our digital publication, *The School STEM Technician*. If you have something that you want to share that promotes the work of schools and college technicians – then let us know, and we can include it in a future issue.

Alastair MacGregor
Chief Executive Officer, SSERC

Medium-term to March 2027	
Review the current technician professional learning portfolio and develop new programmes as required,	On Track
Deliver a range of twilight Tech Meet professional learning sessions.	On Track
Continue to promote Techne as the professional collaborative network for schools and college technicians	Started
Continue to support the Scottish Technicians' Advisory Council	On Track
Continue to publish the School STEM Technician digital publication	On Track
Develop a school technician leadership development programme	Started
Seek to engage with partner organisations that can support school and college technician professional learning	Started
Develop new guidance, procedures and protocols to support technician activity.	Started
Promote the work and achievements of Scottish school technicians in the rest of the UK	Started
Long Term to March 2031	
Develop a National School Technician Diploma with SCQF Credit and Levelled provision.	Not started