

# Leading the way in STEM

The delegates of cohort 2 on our Leadership in STEM Education course continue to make excellent progress as they work towards the completion of their professional enquiry.



To date, the group of twenty-one aspiring/existing school leaders have completed professional learning on:

- ✓ The Scottish educational landscape
- ✓ Key policies and drivers in education
- ✓ Internal STEM school audits
- ✓ Self-evaluation of their own leadership skills and qualities
- ✓ 2-day residential course at SSERC HQ
- ✓ Developing leadership skills, handling conflict, coaching and leading teams
- ✓ Designing their own critical collaborative professional enquiry

The six-unit course is a blend of online, face-to-face and independent research and study. Spanning around 160 hours, the course covers a broad range of professional learning topics. Aligned to the GTCS standards for career-long professional learning and middle leadership means the content and learning is so relevant to the ongoing professional learning for primary and secondary educators in

Scotland. Our delegates will also gain the GTCS Professional Recognition Accreditation on completion of this course to acknowledge the “enhanced, significant, sustained and reflective enquiry a teacher has undertaken and the development of their professional learning in a particular area”.

The delivery team at SSERC doesn't just support our delegates, each of them has the commitment from their Headteacher and In-school Coach to ensure they are given the time and opportunity to complete a range of research and leadership tasks back at their centre. Furthermore, the course is designed to bring as many external partners and agencies together as possible, all working together with SSERC to put the practitioner at the centre, encouraging them to see themselves as the learner, with input from:

- GTCS
- Education Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland

- Strathclyde and Stirling Universities
- Experts and consultants in leadership and management strategies
- Organisations that support STEM education

### What our delegates say

Jayne Mays from Fintry Primary School in Dundee completed the Leadership in STEM Education course as part of Cohort 1. Whilst the course has seen some changes in the academic year that followed her success, she has certainly gained valuable professional learning from her journey with us. Below, she details the impact of the course.

“The SSERC Leadership in STEM course was a fantastic opportunity to develop my leadership skills. As a primary teacher, who was still class committed, it was my role to lead and drive STEM forward within my setting without being in a leadership position, which at times could be >>>



delegate  
Jayne Mays.



*a daunting experience. The course provided by SSERC not only enabled, but supported, a deep dive into my leadership style - the good, the bad and the ugly - by completing a 360 with colleagues which allowed me to gain alternative perspectives on myself as a leader and the areas that I should focus on for development. I found this whole process extremely insightful on both a professional and personal level. It is important throughout the course that you have to maintain your authenticity, have an open mind, be willing to tackle those challenging moments in the process and lean on those around you for support.*

*Throughout the entire exploration of my own leadership styles and journey that I then went on, I couldn't have done it without the support of the other primary colleagues on the course, and SSERC staff. I left the course at the end of the 12-month*

*period, having learned a lot about myself on both a professional and personal level, feeling revitalised as a leader, confident and ready to lead my school on the next part of our journey.*

*The CCPE course that is required to be done is an insightful process and allows you as a leader to embark on a small project to measure something within your practice, reflect on its impact and identify both the benefits for all of the stakeholders involved and the next steps. In the sharing sessions of these projects between both primary and secondary colleagues, you gain an insight into both types of settings, learn from each other and most importantly grow your network.*

*I actively encourage anyone that I know in a similar position of leading STEM in their school to participate in this course as the benefits that I have felt from doing this course have been unbelievable".*

### **Next steps**

In June this year, our delegates will present the findings of their critical collaborate professional enquiry. This will see them complete the course and gain their final SSERC and GTCS certification.

Below an example of some of the enquiries that have been investigated this year.

### **Interested?**

If you would like to know more about our Leadership in STEM Education course or are considering applying for a place for 2024/2025, please visit [our website](#). <<

*How can AI be used as an adaptive teaching strategy in a STEM classroom to build pupil autonomy and metacognition?*

*How/in what way does inter-disciplinary learning within STEM subjects impact the pupils' knowledge of STEM careers and pathways within the primary setting?*

*How does the delivery of a renewable energy-based STEM workshop change perceptions of STEM careers and green jobs?*

