

# BRINGING LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Raising aspirations of young people through STEM



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STEM Clubs with the support of STEM Ambassador volunteers, spark imagination and offer a richer experience of STEM subjects.

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STEM Clubs can:

- ✓ **ACCESS** free activities
  - ✓ **SUPPORT** your local community
  - ✓ **DEVELOP** life skills for young people
  - ✓ **HELP** you find volunteers
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[www.stem.org.uk/enrichment](http://www.stem.org.uk/enrichment)



One London library has successfully delivered a STEM Club in their local community and we want others to get involved too.

“ The main reason for introducing the STEM Club was to support the progress of children through a different approach. Whilst the school curriculum can be rather rigid and compact, STEM Clubs are fun and take place in a very relaxed library atmosphere. ”

Dhurata Loku - Development Officer, Brent Libraries.

## What is a STEM Club?

STEM Clubs are a powerful and enjoyable way to engage communities with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. They also allow young people the opportunity to explore and try new things and to gain knowledge, skills and experience, in innovative and inventive ways outside the curriculum.

STEM Clubs are supported by STEM Ambassadors – a network of 30,000 volunteer professionals, representing a vast range of STEM-related disciplines across the UK. They are an important free of charge and DBS checked resource for communities engaging with young people.

## How it all began

Satisfaction with Brent's libraries remains high amongst its young users. Launching a STEM Club seemed the perfect opportunity to increase its offer to young people, by giving them and their families a chance to get involved with a wide range of STEM related activities.

Ealing Road library was identified as the ideal location for Brent's first STEM Club. Working with the London STEM Ambassador Hub, Sarah Smith, Libraries Development Manager at Brent Culture Services, prepared for the launch of the STEM Club.

The STEM Club was advertised with posters in the library, online, in the library's seasonal brochure and flyers were given to local schools.

## Brent's first STEM Club is launched

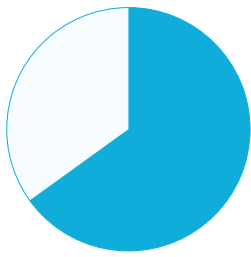
The STEM Club launched with an enthusiastic group of young people and parents, and numbers exceeded expectations. It was a huge success and numbers continued to grow for upcoming STEM Clubs. The attendees got involved with a wide range of activities including 'build a torch' and 'create a brain' workshops.

[www.stem.org.uk/enrichment](http://www.stem.org.uk/enrichment)

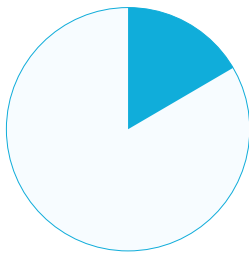


## Where did attendees hear about STEM?

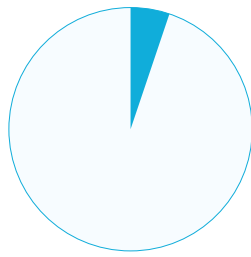
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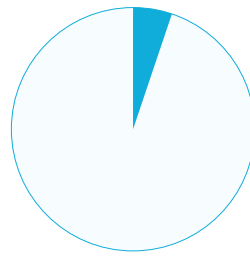
Library  
**65%**



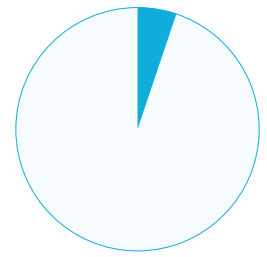
Friends/Family  
**17%**



Brent Magazine  
**6%**



Brent Website  
**6%**



Other  
**6%**

### STEM Club success

Raising awareness of and interest in STEM and the careers young people can have if they choose to study STEM subjects at school is incredibly important. The UK has a STEM skills gap and a lot of jobs now and in the future will require a workforce which has STEM skills. The STEM Club had a big impact on young people, with 65% of attendees saying they had heard about STEM through Ealing Road Library, giving people who have not had the opportunity before to learn more about something which can impact on their future working lives.

Ealing Road library's STEM Club is now in its second term. STEM Ambassadors continue to get the local community engaging in STEM-related activities, improving their problem solving, communication and team working skills as well as increasing their understanding of STEM with workshops on "gut health and bacteria" planned.

**“ The purpose of volunteering is to be a mentor, to help children discover the world. To trust their own forces and to become independent and accountable! ”**

STEM Ambassador feedback

### STEM Clubs are growing

Other libraries are hearing about the impact Ealing Road's STEM Club is having on young people and families. With gathering interest from Local Authorities, the London STEM Ambassador Hub hosted a networking event to match STEM Ambassadors to libraries. STEM Clubs have now launched or plan to be launched in multiple London libraries.

### How you can get involved

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STEM Ambassador supported STEM Clubs can have a positive impact on any local community across the UK. What has worked in London can work in any other parts of the country.

**To learn more about setting up a STEM Club in your library please email [stemclubs@stem.org.uk](mailto:stemclubs@stem.org.uk)**