



## National online mentoring

### Parent/Guardian/Carer information leaflet

#### Introduction

The next round of STEM Learning's national online mentoring programme is starting this Autumn. It aims to help 14 to 18-year-olds over a 10-week period to explore their future career options in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Young people taking part will receive:

- one to one support and inspiration from a STEM Ambassador mentor
- training on how to use a secure and moderated online messaging system
- support and resources to help them make informed decisions about their future.

#### When does it start and what does it involve?

**Cohorts will run for 10 weeks from 27 February to 7 May 2023.**

Mentoring for Years 10/11 or S3/S4 focuses on providing career insights into sectors of interest for the young person. Years 12/13 or S5/S6 receive mentoring on 'life after school', whether that be Higher Education, Apprenticeships or preparing for employment.

STEM Ambassador mentors are ready to answer questions on topics such as the range of STEM career or education options available to young people, the pathways into different sectors and the essential professional skills required for success. Students also have access to a suite of fun and fascinating "Bright Knowledge" resources on matters such as health and wellbeing, independent living, money and housing to help prepare them for the future.

#### How does the mentoring take place safely?

We use a bespoke mentoring platform that is purely text-based to ensure all young people are appropriately safeguarded. All messages submitted via this platform are automatically filtered and if any "stop" conditions are flagged (e.g. attachments, web links, special characters like "@" that potentially indicate an email address etc.), the message is then manually reviewed and moderated by a person. If needed, the sender may be asked to amend their message before it is re-checked and sent on.

The mentors are all STEM Ambassadors who have undergone a criminal record check (DBS or PVG) and are informed no email addresses or personal contact information can be exchanged, nor are mentees and mentors allowed to meet in person – all mentoring must occur via the platform.

The young person does need to provide an email address and mobile phone number in order to create an account on the platform, but this information is not shared with their mentor or anyone else.

#### What do I need to do?

Nothing at this time. An educator known to your child has identified this programme as a beneficial opportunity for them to take part in so will be supporting them with next steps. Please simply encourage your child to ask any/all questions they may have so they can get the most out of this experience. If you have any questions, please contact STEM Learning via [students@stem.org.uk](mailto:students@stem.org.uk).