



# RAiSE

Raising Aspirations in Science Education

## RAF Lossiemouth- STEM In the Workplace Event .

### September 2017

### Case Study

Over 900 schoolchildren from 24 schools around Moray attended this three day event, which brought together RAF personnel with local and national industry partners to showcase how STEM is used in a wide variety of work places.

The activities provided were as varied as the STEM disciplines themselves, with interactive displays from RAF Lossiemouth's Dental & Medical, Physical Education, Fire & Rescue and engineering sections whilst Defence partners such as Rolls Royce BAE Systems and Raytheon showcased high tech equipment and techniques.

Local businesses and organisations as diverse as Diageo and the Royal Northern Countryside Alliance also participated ensuring there was lots of opportunities for the children to get a 'hands on' feel for the varied and ingeniously showcased technologies and to learn that STEM could be found in the most unexpected of places.

### Rationale

Vital to the success of this event was the strong and enduring partnership between Moray Council and RAF Lossiemouth. Key partners were Janey Irving (RAiSE PSDO), Scott (ESO Skills 3-18), Sarah Riley-Evans (RAF Community Development Officer) and Flight Lieutenant Fie Padbury (STEM Lead).

From our initial discussions on how the Royal Air Force could best support local STEM activities, we were struck by the high numbers of organisations wanting to engage with schools. This was creating two problems; some schools were overwhelmed with often competing or duplicated offers whilst other schools were struggling to generate even the most basic output.

To resolve this we agreed to a bespoke programme for Moray which ensured an equity of STEM offer to all schools which included a dedicated P6 event.

### Is it for me?

This case study will be of interest to Education Support Officers/STEM Officers , Regional DYW Teams and STEM Businesses.

### What does it cost?

Transport Costs for schools.

Businesses donated their time.

RAF Lossiemouth provided the venue and hospitality costs

### Where can I find out more?

Janey Irving; the RAiSE PSDO for Moray will be more than willing to discuss any queries you may have.

[janey.irving@moray.gov.uk](mailto:janey.irving@moray.gov.uk)

## Benefits

**Key Benefit:** ALL P6 pupils in Moray had the opportunity to attend this event ensuring equity of access to high quality STEM provision.

Other Benefits; Schools could pre-plan attendance, event directly linked STEM to future career options, participating organisations could reach majority of local schools in three days.

Quotes from Press Release:

Maxine Scott of Moray Council's 'Moray Skills Pathway' explained: "It's much more engaging for the young people to take part in things where they feel they're contributing. The more 'hands on' the activities are, the more memorable they are for the children."

Wing Commander Dan Lunnon-Wood, RAF Lossiemouth's Officer Commanding Base Support Wing concluded: "Today is about inspiring and enthusing young people and making them aware that STEM permeates every facet of their lives. As we move towards the centenary of the Royal Air Force, we are looking to our second century and in particular inspiring the next generation."



## Impact

### General Comments/Feedback from Teachers & Parents:

"What a fabulous morning! The kids are buzzing after the RAF event and, for the first time ever, are keen to complete their reflections!!!"

"As a teacher I was impressed that you had so many woman STEM ambassadors, as we all know we really want to push STEM to our young girls in school to try and close the huge gap in employment in the STEM industry. It's something I feel very strongly about and I feel the way forward is exposing our primary children to female role models to show them STEM isn't just for boys! I thought the afternoon provided an insight to the jobs available locally and I thought it was great that a variety of jobs and employers were showcased."

"As a parent I just wanted to write and say thank you. My daughter returned from school with a sparkle in her eye when she spoke about her afternoon. Trust me, that doesn't happen often."

### Sample Quotes from the Collated Feedback in response to the following 4 questions:

#### Did this event meet its goal of "inspiring and enthusing" students to continue studying STEM based subjects and to open their eyes to the career potential in their home area?

"Yes definitely, we returned to school and reflected on the event and one pupil actually wrote "I was inspired to think of different career options". The whole class said they wanted to go back again next year. The only complaint they had was that they didn't get to go round everything! We could have happily spent the day there. All the children were still engaged in learning at 12 o'clock."

#### Was the event well organised (ie did the pre-event information received enable the school to plan their visit? Did the event match expectations?)

"I thought the day was well organised and the fact the children moved on every 15 minutes kept the children on task and focused. The information we received prior to the event was informative and we felt well prepared."

#### Where the activities provided suitable for the students age range?

"I was impressed with the quality of activities provided by all your partners, the children were really engaged and



there was something there to suit everyone. The activities were appropriate to the age of the children P5-P7 and fit in well with the curriculum for excellence outcomes”

“They loved the hands on nature of the event; the group I accompanied got to take apart and rebuild the jet engine parts with Rolls Royce and to do the experiments with Diageo. These were very inspiring for the pupils.”

**Was this event worth the effort for both schools and the organisers?**

“Very much so. Hugely positive feedback from pupils, staff and parents, all recognising what a great opportunity and how well organised it was. We hope we can come back next year.”

“We would love to take part in this again next year and look forward to following up on what we learned in the classroom.”

“Thank you very much for organising and we would love this to be a regular feature in our calendar for future year groups to participate in and enjoy.”

“The feedback from staff, pupils and parents has been fantastic. The pupils were “just buzzing” and the range of contributors gave such a wide variety that they could not help but be inspired. Thank you to everyone involved, we would love for it to be repeated!”

**Next Steps:**

We are currently working together to plan the RAF—STEM in the Workplace Event for September 2018. Its shaping up to even bigger & better!



RAF Lossiemouth personnel (in particular the lead officer for STEM) have become a key member of the Moray STEM Strategy group as we developed our position statement, had the first STEM Showcase & Partner’s Fair and now as we develop our STEM Strategy for Moray in line with the National STEM Education & Training Strategy.

*This case study has been prepared by Janey Irving. The views contained in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the RAiSE Project, Education Scotland, and/or The Wood Foundation.*

