

# Balmalloch Primary School



## Young STEM Leaders

### Believe in Yourself, Achieve your goals

responsi**B**ility

gr**A**atitude

**L**earn to believe in yourself

hu**M**ility

persever**A**nce

**L**ove

**L**earn to achieve your goals

h**O**nesty and gener**O**sity

respec**T**

friends**H**ip & family

## Young STEM Leaders

Young STEM Leaders (YSLs) are a group of pupils who are responsible for learning about aspects of STEM in a contextual format and then feeding back and 'teaching' other pupils.

They find out about STEM about visiting classes within Balmalloch Primary and by going on visits to learn how STEM is being used in the real world, or as part of some new innovation.

Our YSLs will meet regularly where their roles and responsibilities are explained, learning around STEM can take place and where training for becoming a YSL happens.

We currently have 6 Young STEM Leaders in Balmalloch with another 6 joining this exciting team in January 2021.

In Balmalloch, we are a STEM Delivery Centre as part of the Young STEM Leader programme. Mr. Paterson completed the training in 2020 to deliver the programme as a qualified Tutor Assessor.

These children, under the guidance of Mr. Paterson, are following the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC) programme - Young STEM Leader. The programme aims to inspire more young people to develop an interest in STEM and pursue the study of STEM subjects and relevant future pathways. In its Strategy for STEM Education and Training (2017), the Scottish Government committed to establish 'a new Young STEM Leader Programme to stimulate and strengthen the development of peer mentoring and inspiration in STEM for young people by young people.'

Our Young STEM Leaders are working on the Non-Formal version that allows them to achieve certificates and badges. The non-formal version of the programme is offered at CfE Second, Third and Fourth Levels (YSL2, YSL3 and YSL4) and is underpinned by a framework that identifies the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected of a Young STEM Leader at each curricular level.

In the non-formal version of the programme, there are four elements, linked directly to the four badges completed by YSLs: Discover, Create, Inspire and Lead. As YSLs progress to the formal version of the programme, digital badges are replaced with formally assessed learning

outcomes and performance  
criteria.

You can follow our Young STEM Leaders on Twitter - [@balmallochYSL](https://twitter.com/balmallochYSL)



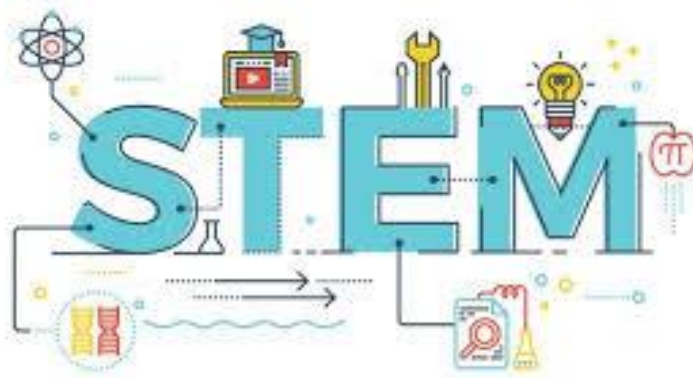
## Application Process

Pupils will be selected through completing an online application. The application will involve answering a series of questions relating to STEM and STEM education with a focus on skills and qualities that each pupil has and can offer.

Pupils who are selected will be provided with a contract to sign and keep. This contract will explain the role, responsibilities and highlight the exciting opportunity that being a YSL will provide. A copy will be signed by the pupil, staff member allocated to working with the YSLs and by their parents. All successful pupils will be provided with a copy for themselves to keep and a copy will be kept in a folder with Mr. Paterson.

## Group Format

Initially, the group will be made up of 6 Primary 7 pupils and 4 Primary 6 pupils. For future planning, these initial pupils will train potential pupils from Primary 6 and Primary 5 to ensure progression and continuation of the YSL in Balmalloch Primary.



## How do YSLs raise achievement?

- Pupils are encouraged to think creatively and independently in order to find solutions to problems.
- YSLs demonstrate greater communication skills by working with younger pupils.
- By feeding back to others, they widen interest, participation and attainment in Technology, Science and Mathematics.
- Pupils will widen interest in STEM subjects and confidence of STEM with the potential to develop confidence in teachers also.
- They gain in self-esteem by being part of an important and valuable school team.

## How are YSLs used in Balmalloch Primary?

They meet regularly as a group to learn more about STEM, discuss what they have been doing and what their future STEM steps will be. Our YSLs are used throughout the school for a variety of different purposes. They can be used to assist teachers and pupils across all primaries during STEM based lessons, using their expertise to ensure STEM education is being provided. They present at assemblies to the school to let them know what they do and what they can offer to the school. They meet with Mr. Paterson and Mrs. Convery (Principal Teacher) to discuss their roles, what they have been up to and future steps for the YSLs. Our YSLs also go on visits to other schools in the cluster and wider to observe how they do "STEM" and also visit work places and specific STEM based companies/jobs to see how STEM is used in the working world.



## Appendix 1 - YOUNG STEM LEADER CONTRACT

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations on your appointment to the role of Young STEM Leader for Balmalloch Primary School.

You have been selected because of your

- commitment to developing STEM in Balmalloch
- a sound understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- your good communication skills
- successfully completed application

You will need to use your influence and skills to teach others about STEM at Balmalloch and hence ensure that as many people as possible understand about STEM.

To learn more, we are going to take you to visit some amazing places where STEM is being offered, developed and where STEM is a key part of the working world.

In return, you must commit to the outcomes listed below and be prepared to give assemblies, write for a school blog, make videos/tutorials, make posters, add to the school website and Twitter account, give presentations to parents, teachers, senior management team and others. This is the 'Leader' part of the role.

If you agree to all of the above please sign below, get Mr. Paterson and Miss. McCarthy to sign along with a parent/carer to show that all have read this letter and that you have discussed it with them, then return the slip to Mr. Paterson.

This is an exciting post of responsibility, and if it is done well will bring recognition for you both within school and with the wider community. Good luck!

Mr. Paterson

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"Yes, I am ready to become a Young STEM Leaders, and have read and understood the outcomes listed above which I will do my best to deliver these outcomes."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Paterson (Class Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

Miss. McCarthy (Head Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Counter-signature: \_\_\_\_\_