

Linking Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and STEM

Lochaber STEM Fair

This will be of interest to all practitioners, STEM leads in school, and those establishments keen to forge STEM partnerships.

Rationale

The one-day Lochaber STEM Fair was designed and delivered by RAiSE, Highland Council, Lochaber Geopark and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland to engage primary practitioners and learners in STEM opportunities at a local level. This event focussed on the [Science Capital Teaching approach](#) and its links with DYW. The event also sought to forge stronger cluster relationships around STEM learning, and establish meaningful industry links.

The event

In advance

A twilight meeting was held to secure the support of local practitioners. At this session, professional learning was provided on gender balance, the Career Education Standard, and investigative work focussing on fair testing in science.

Schools' showcase

P5 classes from the eight Lochaber High cluster schools showcased their STEM learning. Displays included work on plastic pollution, website design and chemical reactions. These were judged by STEM Partners attending. This was an opportunity for practitioners to share good practice and informally discuss the moderation of key assessment tasks — a Highland Council priority.



What does it cost?

Hire of Venue – £0 (local primary school)

Transport – £480 (sponsored by local business)

Catering – £150

Display Boards – £40

Workshops – £0 but future costs could be £250

Where can I find out more?

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Developing the Young Workforce West Highland [web article](#).

Careers Hub

- Eighteen employers attended the event including Liberty Alcan, Forestry Commission, Bam Nuttall, British Sawmills and the Ben Nevis Distillery. This provided a platform for practitioners to:
- Engage with local STEM professionals
- Introduce pupils to a wide range of STEM careers
- Inspire pupils to aspire to STEM careers
- Raise awareness about the importance of skills development and educational links to the world of work.



Workshops

The first year, two workshops were organised: a geology workshop from Lochaber Geopark, and a coding workshop from a local teacher with expertise.



In the second year Liberty Alcan provided a STEM workshop facilitated by the Engineering Development Trust This allowed more time for pupils to tour the Careers Hub.



Impact

The event had a wide range of impacts including:

- Providing a valuable opportunity to share good practice and begin moderation activities
- Increased links between schools and local STEM professionals and employers
- Increased awareness of careers education resources and the importance of careers education in primary schools.
- Deepening partnership working between the RAiSE and DYW West Highland
- Increased science capital for the Lochaber area
- Creation of a database of STEM contacts for local schools to access
- Provide a strong platform for future collaborations. This fair is now an annual event which will sustain the development and keep STEM at the forefront in the area

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