

Together Making Futures Careers E-Mentoring Programme

Supporting young people in Wales into
STEM, life sciences and healthcare
careers, regardless of their background

A guide for schools, colleges, training & youth organisations

The Mullany Fund is supported by:
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**ENILLYDD 2024
WINNER 2024**



Who are we?

- The Mullany Fund is a social mobility charity based at Swansea University. Since the charity's foundation in 2008, our goal has been to help remove barriers to STEM careers for young people in Wales.
- Social mobility in Wales is low. We are committed to giving young people the opportunity and support to explore their futures, both to improve the prospects of individuals and to strengthen and diversify the STEM workforce of the future.
- We focus our resources and our mentors' time on young people in Wales who may not have career connections and advice through friends and family.



Who do we mentor?

As a social mobility charity, we know that some young people do not have career connections through friends and family. We particularly aim our programmes at young people who meet one or more of our criteria:

01

Attends a school where over 20% of students receive free school meals

02

Parents did not attend university

03

In care or a young carer

04

In receipt of free school meals

05

Living in an area in the bottom 20% of the WIMD

06

Attending a Welsh-medium school

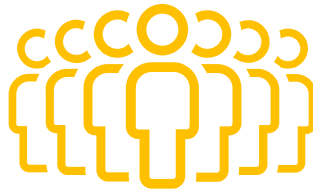
07

Has a registered disability

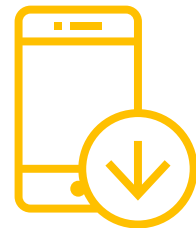
What is Together Making Futures?



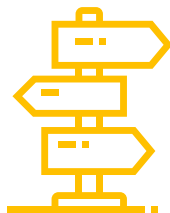
Grown from a 2014 pilot in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, **Together Making Futures** is our flagship programme. It won the **Best Educational Programme (not-for-profit)** STEM Cymru Award 2024.



To date, we work in **40+ schools and colleges** in 8 key areas of South Wales and our **300+ mentor group** has worked with **2000+ young people**



The programme works in three stages, but starts with our **bilingual e-Mentoring**, through our e-Mentoring app **Mentora**.



For young people completing their 10-week programme online with their mentor, there are **Insight Talks**. For some, we can arrange work experience as a **Future Routes follow-up option**.



Through the Mentora App, we match the student to a one of our specialist **mentors, who are all working or studying in a STEM field**.

Our mentors



Our dedicated mentors come from **43 different specialisms** in STEM, lifesciences, engineering and healthcare.

They are all volunteers and are **DBS-checked**.

As our mentoring platform, Mentora is operated in-house, we can be sure of its security. All messages sent on Mentora are **moderated**.

How does e-Mentoring work?

01 Students register online

and select their career interests from our available areas of support

02 Matching

using our software, we pair students with mentors according to career interests and mentor specialties

03 Mentoring

during an 8-10 week 'session' student and mentor exchange messages over our moderated and secure app Mentora



Fitting in with busy lives and work

- We run 3 **e-Mentoring 'sessions'** of 10 weeks, one 'session' per school/college term. The young person or staff can choose which term to join.
- The young person commits to send a **minimum of one message per week to their mentor** - so **10 messages**. Of course, many students send **a lot** more!
- Mentora Mullany is a **free, time-conscious, online programme** - to make access easier.

Working with teachers and youth leaders

- We'll ask staff to **choose carefully** the young people who'll most benefit from our mentors' support
- We'll send a weekly update to staff about how students are connecting with their mentors, so they can track students' engagement.
- We'll send publicity to share with young people on our **Youtube channel**:
[Together Making Futures](#)
[Creu Dyfodol Gyda'n Gilydd](#)
- We welcome follow-on requests from teachers and youth leaders for **Insight Talks, to celebrate the end of session** when the young people have completed their e-Mentoring.

You might also like to know

- ➔ The app is available in **Welsh and English**, and we'll match young people who request it with a Welsh-speaking mentor whenever we can, so that messaging is also in Welsh.
- ➔ During the 10-week mentoring session, we focus on **Weekly Themes**, sending resources and ideas to guide student and mentor online conversations. Weekly themes are age-appropriate: for example GCSE options or Welsh Bacc support.
- ➔ Eligible students can stay with Mentora for more than one term, if they want to **explore another career** with a differently-qualified mentor. Or **stay on with the same mentor**.
- ➔ Students can also choose to be part of our **alumni network**, receiving updates and external opportunities in our newsletter. We've been delighted to welcome mentees back as mentors.
- ➔ We welcome **young people's voices**; be part of our new youth panel.



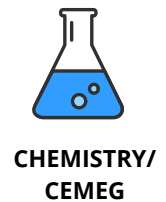
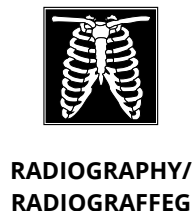
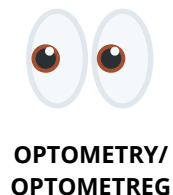
"It is a thrilling experience to talk to someone with a scientific background and get advice on life choices."
 - Year 12 student

Virtual work experience >

Mullany e-Mentoring

Are you interested in a STEM, life science or healthcare career?
 Maybe you need support about future options and getting there?

Young people in Wales (aged 14-19) can register for Mullany's award-winning, online, free *Together Making Futures* offer. We'll match you with an expert mentor from the career you're considering, who'll give you personalised support via our app.



"My mentor has helped me think about what steps I need to take to achieve the career that I want."
 - Year 11 student



More about E-Mentoring >

Learn more

<https://themullanyfund.org/>

Register

<https://themullanyfund.org/students/registration/>





Insight Talks

Our Insight Talks are online or in-person talks on careers, options and applications. It's an area we are busy developing, working with our partners: SEE Science, STEM Ambassadors and EESW



Future Routes

For some, there are follow-up Careers and Work Related Experiences. Recent opportunities have included a workshop day with the Assistive Technology Innovation Centre in Swansea and work-experience via a mentor at engineering firm AECOM

Our next e-Mentoring session will start in January 2026 – register from 7 December



Learn more about our offer to young people here:
<https://themullanyfund.org/>



Young person? Register here:
<https://themullanyfund.org/en/students/registration/>



Contact us:
office@themullanyfund.org



New to the scheme?
Contact Kathy James (Engagement) for an intro chat about the programme : Kathy@themullanyfund.org