



Case study

STEM engagement for scientists' busy schedules

It can all be done as and when you have time... it's a great introduction to public engagement.



Hayley Pincott, University Dental Hospital

As part of the Californium Zone, Hayley spent two weeks chatting with school students about her role as an Associate Practitioner Healthcare Scientist.

Hayley found the experience flexible enough to fit around the workload of a public sector scientist, and it gave her the skills and confidence to do further public engagement.

Suited to those with busy working lives

Hayley was recommended the *I'm a Scientist* activity by a friend who'd previously taken part, but admits she was initially "slightly dubious about how easy it seemed to fit in around work."

It didn't take long for her to "completely fall in love" with the experience, though. "You don't have to go out to visit, and it can all be done as and when you have time." This flexibility throughout the two weeks helped her balance the activity with her day job, and even when her availability changed

she was still able to engage with students at a time that suited her. "I could sign up to as many live chats as I wanted, and if my workload meant I could no longer attend a live chat then there was no pressure... there is always ASK [questions from students], which can be done at any time."



The confidence for further engagement

Following "some amazing chats with great students", Hayley felt she'd gained the confidence to do more public engagement with a range of audiences, not just the primary age students she'd previously had experience with.

Hayley is also continuing to engage with students in *I'm a Scientist* through the Careers Zone, answering questions about her career path, what it's like working in a University Dental Hospital and the wider world of biomedical science.

Read the full case study: ias.im/96.11884

Register to take part: imascientist.org.uk/scientists