

The Brilliant Club Case Study



Tutor Name:
Katherine Steele

PhD Research Area:
Uses of 3D modelling for
historic church buildings

PhD University:
Sheffield Hallam University

Tutor since: Autumn 2019

Brilliant Club Programme:
The Scholars Programme



Which schools have you taught at?

Rawmarsh Community School.

What is the name of your Scholars Programme course?

Stone Henge - just a pile of old rocks?

What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?

Teaching experience and the Brilliant Club's mission.

What has been the most rewarding moment of your Scholars Programme placements so far?

Receiving homework demonstrating the application of some difficult concepts. Hearing pupils discuss their points of view on a topic, and using language, which before the course they didn't even know existed!

Tell me about being a Scholars Programme tutor. How has it helped in your development as a research student?

Successfully navigating unexpected scenarios in the classroom, as well as explaining an aspect of my research to a completely new audience has really improved my communication skills and increased my confidence.

What have you gained from being part of The Scholars Programme community of researchers?

Met some really interesting people in other disciplines, and my own! Hearing about others' PhD experiences, and how they've approached their Scholars Programme teaching has been really invaluable.



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How has The Scholars Programme affected the way you approach undergraduate teaching?

I have really valued creating the workbook and devising activities to engage pupils in learning - I much prefer this style of teaching to lecturing and it has given me confidence that I can effectively explain the key concepts in creative and different ways.



How do you think you have made a difference to pupils as a Scholars Programme tutor?

I hope that involvement in the programme has increased their confidence; in particular those who were less keen to get involved in discussion in class at the beginning of the programme. I also hope studying a subject which is not part of the secondary curriculum helped them realise there are lots of directions outside what they might already be aware of and also that what you study at university can lead to lots of different careers, not just those it very directly relates to, because you gain so many transferable skills.

Do you have any advice for someone looking to apply to work as a tutor?

It's a bit of a whirlwind but the support you get is amazing and the value pupils get is super high - it's really worthwhile. Challenging yourself to figure out how to make your subject both accessible and interesting to KS4 pupils is an experience you won't get in any other aspect of your PhD research, and in doing so you'll gain invaluable skills in terms of dissemination and being able to communicate with a wide audience why your research is important. If you have time to commit to it, I would highly recommend becoming a Scholars Programme tutor.

THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

To find out more about how you could become a Scholars Programme tutor, please visit our website at www.thebrilliantclub.org