

# SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

# ACADEMY

## THE HOME OF SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

**How do we feed growing populations, find new energy sources, make effective new medicines or clean up our oceans?**

**Scientific research, creative thinking and innovation will almost certainly be key to tackling challenges such as these.**

Too few young people are aspiring to careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), which is creating a gap in the skills that employers and our society need. Despite significant investment, STEM initiatives over the years have not made enough impact on the take-up of STEM subjects.

### **TAKING A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH**

We know this is a complex issue with many influencing factors, but we also believe that a lack of academic research has impacted on the effectiveness of some of these initiatives.

We have worked in partnership with research teams at King's College London, University College London and BP to use the concept of 'science capital' to understand how people from all backgrounds engage with science and how their engagement can be increased.

We have been leading the development of the practical application of the science capital concept for the informal science learning sector, and the Science Museum Group Academy is one result of our pioneering work.



Imagesw: Science Museum Group Collection





## SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

The situation is urgent – it takes time to effect change on a generation of young people, so we need to act now. If we do not play our part in increasing engagement with STEM subjects, more young people will miss out on the chance they deserve to fulfil their potential.

We know that we cannot achieve our ambitions alone: building on our hubs in London and Manchester, we want to develop pop-up sites and partnerships with other organisations worldwide to help us inspire future generations.

Join the Science Museum Group on a journey to give future generations the skills, confidence and inspiration they will need for tomorrow's world.

## WHAT IS SCIENCE CAPITAL?

Science capital is a measure of your engagement or relationship with science, how much you value it and whether you feel it is 'for you'. It highlights the significance of external influences in shaping attitudes towards STEM – for example what you know about science, how you think about it, what science-related activities you do and who you know in your life who uses and talks about science.

With the Academy, we now have a unique opportunity to roll out impactful engagement techniques underpinned by this research at scale.

Based at physical hubs in London and Manchester, the Academy runs courses for primary and secondary teachers, museum and science centre educators, and other groups such as scientists and technical professionals. Our approach is focused on supporting teaching practices, to help educators have greater effectiveness with all students. The Academy aims to establish a community of best practice in STEM engagement and lead the way in generating fundamental change across the sector.

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**'It was one of the best courses I attended in 20 years of teaching.'**

Teacher after attending a Science Museum CPD course

**'Interactive and helped me to think of ways I can link science to students' lives.'**

Teacher after attending a Science Museum CPD course

For more information please get in touch:  
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