

A SCIENTIST just like me



Tim Harrison
Science Communicator

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Hi there! I am Dr Tim Harrison – A science communicator



Where do I work?

I am based at Bristol ChemLabS, in the School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, but I work all over the world.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved most of my subjects, but I was especially good at the chemistry, physics, and maths. Curiously, I was not so good at English, as I am dyslexic. Now I spend a lot of my time writing articles and reports!

What do I like doing in my spare time?

In my spare time I like doing DIY, travelling, watching TV, playing with my grandchildren, and collecting stamps.

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What do I do as a science communicator?



I inform people about how chemistry is used in real life through writing articles, presenting school assemblies and demonstrations to audiences of all ages across the world, teaching school students in university laboratories, and making videos about chemistry.

How does what I do make the world a better place?

I think I help make the world a better place by informing people how useful chemistry is and showing them that chemistry is not as difficult a subject that a lot of people think it is.

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What I like about my job

I show thousands of people the subject that I love by doing experiments that excite them and make them think. I travel around the UK and to many other countries. I especially like doing big experiments and teaching others how to do them!



Challenges I have faced

When I was younger, being good at science and maths was considered 'geeky' and to be good at sport, music or drama was considered desirable. Coming from a state comprehensive school, at the time, I was very unusual. Being slightly dyslexic used to be a challenge, but smart software that auto corrects and highlights errors helps me.

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If you want to be a Science Communicator , you need:

- ✱ to be **observant**
- ✱ to be able to **think logically**
- ✱ to be good at **problem solving**
- ✱ to be good at **practical work** but that depends on which form of chemistry you like, some of my colleagues never handle chemicals but use super computers instead
- ✱ to be able to **communicate** your science to the public



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a science communicator like Tim Harrison?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a science communicator ?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Tim Harrison is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

Free supporting resources for chemistry

Starters for science – See 'Paper flowers', 'Bubbles' and 'Colourful ink'

Air Pollution Research - resources to support teachers who are interested in climate change and want to explore the topic of air pollution with children.

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describe related activities. See:

- The science of hand-washing
- Slug slime might be the answer for medical adhesives
- The disastrous effects of historical ink
- How to clean water using a molecular sieve

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