

## Case Study:

# Discover how Victrex inspires the next generation of technical talent

Science Industry Partnership member Victrex is a world leader in high-performance Polymer solutions. As a passionate advocate for skills in the science industries the company plays an active role in the SIP Ambassador Programme to support ongoing career outreach activity, enabling Victrex to make a positive impact on the lives of thousands young people.

### Empowering young people

Since starting out on their outreach journey, Victrex have engaged and supported over 6,000 students since 2015 thanks to a steadily growing volunteer network of 15 SIP Ambassadors and 38 STEM Ambassadors. Over that period, the company has developed a strong community foothold with excellent working relationships with a number of local schools across the North West of England and beyond. Whilst the global pandemic has understandably affected the delivery of outreach activity over the last 12 months, Victrex have adapted and innovated their approach, continuing to deliver STEM events for students in a virtual setting.

Jess Long, Corporate Social Responsibility Lead at Victrex says *“The SIP Ambassador programme not only helps in the long term to grow the skills base in our sector, it also equips our workforce with additional skills and confidence to engage with young people in our community”.*



Jess Long,  
Corporate Social Responsibility Lead at Victrex



## Committed to STEM outreach

SIP Ambassadors at Victrex received initial training and support via an interactive workshop session, which gives delegates the space to plan and practice delivery of engaging career events. Upon successful completion, all Ambassadors can access a full suite of career focussed and curriculum aligned resources, with the flexibility to tailor outreach sessions for a particular audience or situation.

Following the training, SIP Ambassadors can confidently deliver outreach programmes with schools and colleges to promote the wealth of opportunities a science-based career can offer. Whilst regular account management meetings with the SIP Ambassador Lead, provide the Victrex team with ongoing programme support.

As you might expect, the benefits to Victrex of a companywide, coordinated approach to outreach stretch far, supporting the growth of a positive culture that attracts talent, raises profile and engages individuals. The activity also enables employees to build and develop important skills in the process, from organisational and presentation skills to cross-departmental collaboration.

## Making a difference for the future

The SIP Ambassador programme has not only supported Victrex's own ambitious target to deliver 10,000 hours of community volunteer work by 2023, it has supported wider objectives around equality, diversity and inclusion with specific outreach activities aimed at BAME students or younger people from disadvantaged areas who may not otherwise access these experiences. In addition, Victrex continue to support initiatives aimed at encouraging female students to pursue careers within STEM, a sector where women are vastly unrepresented.

Victrex continues to grow alongside the Science Industry Partnership as a company who have the next generation of Science at the centre of their work.

*"I would recommend the Ambassador training to anyone. The training included a workshop which gave me a chance to practice presenting, planning our own workshops and ways of engaging with young people. The Ambassador scheme is a great way to reach out to young people, especially those who may think that Science is not an accessible career choice for them. Being able to provide students with a new outlook, and to break the stereotype of scientists is vital for the future generation of the industry. I am happy to be a part of this outreach and provide a fresh idea of the science industry which is so often misrepresented to students."*

**Victrex SIP Ambassador**

## A Top Down Commitment

As a SIP member, Victrex play a full and active role in leading the skills agenda for the science industry with Paul Hunt, R&D Director, sitting as Chair of the SIP Careers Working Group. The group, made up of SIP members who share a commitment for skills in our sector, work collaboratively to champion an employer led skills system as well as oversee the progress of the SIP Ambassador programme.



*"The SIP careers outreach work and Ambassador training supports the development of our workforce and champions our business in the local community"*

Paul Hunt, Research and Development Director at Victrex and chair of the SIP Careers Working Group

## The SIP Ambassador Programme

SIP Members can join a network of Industry professionals who inspire and enthuse young people into careers within the science-based industries. SIP Ambassadors engage with young people, and educators to promote STEM based careers through visits to schools and colleges, attendance at careers fairs and by supporting industry visits. SIP Ambassador training gives your workforce the skills, expertise and resources to enthuse young people and provide a unique insight into the world of work.

The SIP Ambassador Programme is available to all SIP Members

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[www.scienceindustrypartnership.com](http://www.scienceindustrypartnership.com)

 Science Industry Partnership

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for science industries