

Stemettes supporters to march across London's Waterloo Bridge as new survey shows 1 in 3 young people say they haven't or don't remember being taught about a woman scientist in the past 2 years

- Women in STEM supporters will gather to mark Stemettes' 10th birthday
- New survey finds UK STEM curriculum urgently requires better gender representation
- Stemettes, the British Science Association and the Institution of Engineering and Technology highlight more work to be done

London, UK, 30 January: Stemettes and its supporters will gather and walk across London's iconic Waterloo Bridge - the 'Ladies' bridge' - on Monday 13 February 2023 to raise awareness about women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) who are excluded from the UK curriculum after a Stemettes commissioned survey*, supported by the British Science Association, shows that **1 in 3 young people say they haven't or don't remember being taught about a woman scientist in the past 2 years.**

70% of young people between the ages of 14-to-19 who were surveyed also said they thought it was important for schools to include information about women STEM role models in their lessons. Boys (71%) are just as likely to agree with this statement as girls (65%).

Waterloo Bridge is often referred to as the Ladies Bridge due to the undocumented contribution of female construction workers at the time the bridge was rebuilt in the 1930s. Scores of young girls, women and non-binary people will come together on the bridge at 12:00 BST to walk over the iconic structure and take part in a reception at the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). Participants will hear from a keynote speaker and CEO of Stemettes, **Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE** and **Dr Laura Norton**, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the IET, about the systematic exclusion of women role models who continue to be erased and excluded from text books and lesson plans.

Hannah Russell, Chief Executive of the British Science Association, said:

"It's cause for concern that a third of students haven't or don't remember being taught about a woman scientist in the past two years. Representation matters. All young people, especially those who are traditionally

underrepresented in science such as girls, should be given the opportunity to learn about the diverse people and careers in STEM. This will help to challenge unhelpful stereotypes, raise young people's STEM aspirations and show them that science is for everyone – regardless of your background.

Stemettes was founded and is led by former Channel 4 Countdown arithmetician and highly sought after public speaker Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE. Following a decade of ground-breaking free events, mentoring, programmes and upskilling opportunities the pioneering social initiative is excited about its next chapter in preparing young people (ages 5–25) in preparing for careers of the future in STEM/STEAM**. Stemettes will be celebrating its 10th birthday on Sunday 12 February.

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE, Co-founder and CEO of Stemettes said: *“Ten years of work has helped so many to make informed decisions about their futures - across our events, programmes and platforms we're shifting the social norm on women and the STEM & STEAM fields. I'm proud of the future we're creating and what we've been able to achieve so far in partnership with industry, academia and entrepreneurs. Here's to a maximum of 10 more years of work needed from Stemettes and a plethora of systemic changes to ensure this is a problem of the past.”*

Dr Laura Norton, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the IET, said: *“It's hard to be what you can't see which is why it's so important to shine a spotlight on the incredible women who have changed our world for the better. We have a responsibility and opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women in STEM to eliminate damaging and misconceived stereotypes and show young people just how exciting, creative and life-changing working in this industry can be.”*

From Thursday 9 February through to October 2023, Stemettes will be celebrating its 10th birthday with a series of free public events and roundtable discussions in the North East, London and West Midlands.

- On Thursday 9 February, Stemettes will host a **hybrid event in Birmingham** reflecting on learnings from 10 years of impact, inspirational panels, and ways to help. The panels will celebrate the contributions of women to STEM and seek action to build a better STEM industry for the future aimed at existing and prospective partners across Industry, Academia and Entrepreneurship in STEM.

- On 14 March, a **roundtable discussion at the US Embassy** will enable high profile guests to discuss: “**Diversity & Inclusion in the GCSE/A Level Curriculums: Ensuring Women in STEM Are Rightfully Represented**”.
- On Tuesday 4 April, there will be a **STEM festival at Newcastle Civic Centre** and will include STEM activities for all ages, a chance to meet and hear from role models, challenges and chances to win exclusive prizes.
- On Friday 23 June, there will be a **hybrid showcase in Newcastle** for stakeholders to share learning and best practice with our partners in the region. Furthermore, there will be a special **roundtable discussion for Parents/Guardians** to discuss their concerns and needs.
- In July, there will be a **spectacular outdoor festival in London**, with STEM activities for all ages, a chance to meet and hear from role models, challenges and chances to win prizes.
- In September, a **roundtable event for teachers and career leaders in Birmingham** will engage educationalists and professionals on the topic of “Diversity & Inclusion in the GCSE/A Level Curriculums: Ensuring Women in STEM Are Rightfully Represented”.
- A hybrid showcase in **London** on Tuesday 10 October will look back on 4 months of impact, inspirational panels, and ways to help. We’ll be celebrating the latest contributions of women to STEM and seeking action to build a better STEM industry for the future. Finally on Monday 30 October, the immersive STEM festival taking place in July will travel to **Birmingham** for beneficiaries, stakeholders and partners based in the region wishing to take part in celebrations.

Stemettes has changed the lives of over 60,000 young women and non-binary people across the UK, Ireland, and parts of Europe over the past decade, and continues to provide free support to those who are curious in exploring and pursuing STEM pathways in sectors at the forefront of innovation. High profile partners providing mentorship, networking opportunities, behind the scenes access as well as financial backing are wide ranging and include **GCHQ, MI5 & MI6; Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team, Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank, ASOS, H&M, Prime Video and DeepMind** to name a few.

Paul Mills, Chief People Officer, Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team said: *“Congratulations to the Stemettes on 10 years of making a real difference to the involvement of young girls in the world of STEM. We are delighted to have been working alongside the Stemettes over the last two years as part of our Accelerate 25 programme to increase the diversity of talent at our own team. Both our employees and the young Stemettes we have worked with so far have shown real passion and enthusiasm for our joint initiatives, and I hope our work together has encouraged more young people to go on to consider STEM for their future education and careers.”*

The social enterprise is committed to getting the next generation of underrepresented youth in the UK involved, informing them, and putting them in touch with each other so they can get jobs at the cutting edge of technology innovation. Free, fun, food is a key part of the Stemette event ethos and Mercedes supports its mission to reach the most underrepresented groups within STEM fields.

Parent, Liz Kent said: *“I discovered Stemettes at the start of the Covid pandemic whilst trying to find useful and educational things for my 14 year old daughter to do in lockdown. She has had amazing free learning opportunities including Agile and Cyber certifications as well as regular engagement with female role models. As part of the Stemettes society she is building her own network of like-minded peers providing mutual support and encouragement on their respective STEM journeys. My daughter is now well on her way to a career in STEM, something that may well have not happened without Stemettes.”*

Even though the UK is in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and families are struggling to find free ways to prepare their children for an uncertain future, Stemettes is proud to empower the next generation, no matter what their household income, educational background, or educational achievements are.

To help young Stemettes prepare for jobs of the future, it has successfully partnered with leading artificial intelligence company DeepMind to increase AI literacy for girls and non-binary people, introducing 40 young women and non-binary people to a mentor with AI expertise. In another underrepresented area, women make up just 16% of the UK’s cyber security workforce, so Stemettes now regularly provides free professional cyber security certifications worth thousands of pounds throughout the academic year. Additionally, free Python coding certifications programmes are held during free holiday STEM programmes and HTML workshops at STEM

challenge events. 60% of Stemettes alumni are now working in a STEM field at age 26 or above.

STEM Coordinator, Rose Russell from Ursuline Academy School in Ilford said: *"Stemettes has repeatedly been able to connect even some of our most disengaged students, who never felt aligned to some of those subjects and yet have considered and pursued such STEM related careers. Stemettes have given our students access to events /activities that they would not have known about and enabled those who may not have believed – to begin believing in themselves."*

To find out more about Stemettes and the celebration events taking place, please visit <https://stemettes.org/birthday/>.

Ends

Notes to Editors

*Stemettes and the BSA commissioned a survey in January 2023 via OnePoll for Future Forum - a programme that gives young people a chance to have their views heard on science, new technologies and other issues. One thousand 14-to-19-year-olds took part in the survey from across the UK.

STEAM**: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths. The arts include the humanities, language arts, design and so on demonstrating the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to future STEM careers.

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About Stemettes

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE created the Stemettes in 2013 to ensure girls, young women, and non-binary young people know that technical fields are for them. The Stemettes' mission is to inspire, encourage and support young people into STEM fields with their 'Free, Fun, Food' ethos. As of 2021,



Stemettes has encouraged the addition of the arts to the STEM agenda and now works with STEAM principles. We have changed the lives of more than 60,000 young people across the UK, Ireland and parts of Europe.

Stemettes run more than 50 interventions each year - a mixture of intersectional cohort programmes, impactful events and inspirational content platforms. These interventions improve perceptions of STEM, raise awareness of options within STEM, grow the network these young people have across STEM and improve their self and STEM confidence.

The next steps for Stemettes lie in developing the reach and programmes they have across the country in regional areas lacking STEM careers support, extending the Stemettes provision to Parents, Guardians and Teachers and transitioning alumnae into STEM fields.

Anyone wanting to help can donate to Stemettes Futures, spread the word about Stemettes as far and wide as possible, and volunteer on a Stemettes programme. For anyone already in the industry, the best way to help would be to ensure that Stemettes doesn't need to exist. Use your sphere of influence to be a good ally, ensure that equitable practice is employed in your work-place across hiring practices, promotion and the allocation of positions of responsibility.

Website: [Stemettes.org](https://www.stemettes.org)

Twitter: [/Stemettes](https://twitter.com/Stemettes)

Instagram: [/Stemettes](https://www.instagram.com/Stemettes)

Facebook: [/Stemettes](https://www.facebook.com/Stemettes)

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