



Get all the details and results from our first ever **Mission Discovery** event with Former **NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE!**

# NEWSLETTER



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## ISSUE 2

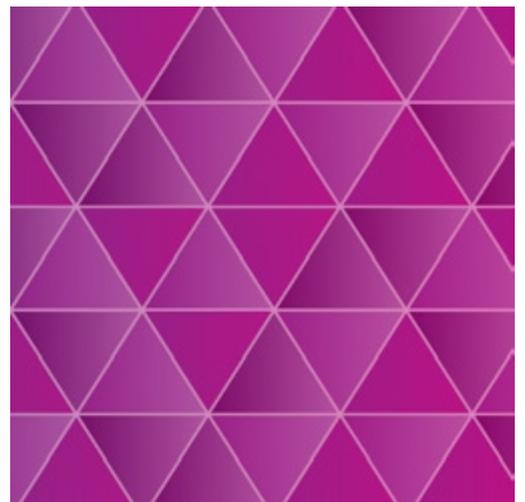
AUTUMN/WINTER 2016



200 Ayrshire secondary school pupils and College students came together for an exciting week-long space school with Mission Discovery!



Find out more in our feature about our **new social media** channels and what may be coming up next...





# MISSION DISCOVERY

**The space dust has now settled on Ayrshire's first ever Mission Discovery programme and what an event it was.**

200 Ayrshire secondary school pupils and College students came together for the week-long space school, where they worked in teams to create space experiments.

At the end of the programme the teams had to present their ideas to a panel of judges, and the prize on offer was incredible: the winning experiment would be sent to the International Space Station and tested by astronauts within the next year.

The participants challenged themselves to think creatively and work as part of a cohesive unit, under the guidance of the **International Space School Educational Trust (ISSET) Team** that included former **NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE**.

It was fantastic to be able to welcome such an experienced astronaut to Ayrshire. Michael is a recently retired veteran of six Space Shuttle missions and extended missions on both Mir and the International Space Station. He spoke to the teams about his journeys into space, the importance of communicating with every member of the team, and how to deal with crisis situations. Michael also took part in a Q&A session and showed video clips of his time in space.

**NASA's Assistant Chief of EVA, Robotics & Crew Systems**

**Sarah Murray**, another key member of the ISSET Team, spoke to the group about the importance of teamwork and making sure everyone has their voice heard.

Before Dr Julie Keeble, ISSET's Chief Scientist, explained the criteria for experiments at the Space Station.

At this point the teams were suitably inspired and full of knowledge, and got to work on their experiment ideas.

On judgement day, the 24 teams were divided into rooms where two judges would hear their initial presentations. Once each team had delivered their idea within the 8 minute time limit, judges had to deliberate over which six teams would make it into the final stage.

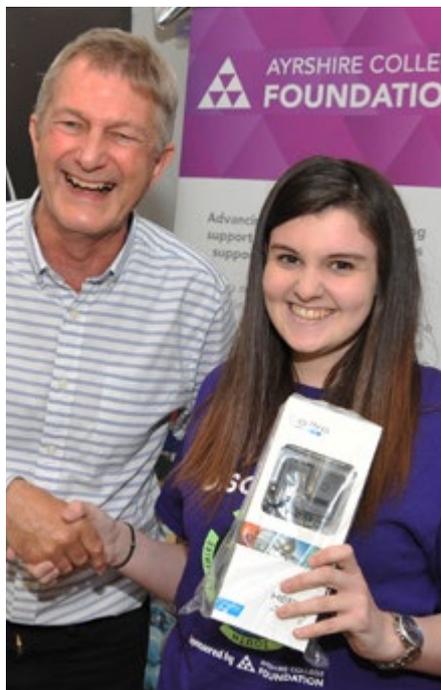
Team 2 with their experiment '*Nanoparticles*', Team 3 with '*Enzyme reaction experiment*', Team 10 '*Foam to treat internal bleeding*', Team 14 '*The speed of slime mould on different materials*', Team 19 '*Flatworm freefall*', and Team 23 '*Investigating Krill in space*' were announced as the finalists.

The final stage involved delivering their presentations in front of the judges again, but also the 23 other teams at Mission Discovery Ayrshire.

Team 14 – made up of James Abbott, Pip Abramson, Laura Borthwick, Dylan Goldie, Robyn McMahan, Jas McNee, Lynne Mitchell, Ania Myskowska – were celebrating come the end of the week as **their idea was chosen to go to space!**

However in truth, everyone was celebrating the success of the Mission Discovery Ayrshire programme, with ISSET Director Chris Barber declaring it **one of the best programmes they have ever been involved in.**

You can see all of the photographs from across the Mission Discovery week on the Ayrshire College Flickr page [here](#).

The Flickr logo is displayed in a white rounded square on a purple background.

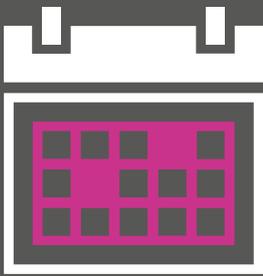
# Mission Discovery: The Facts

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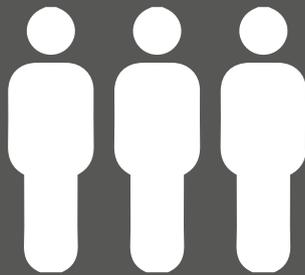
# 1<sup>st</sup>

This year was the first year Mission Discovery came to Ayrshire.

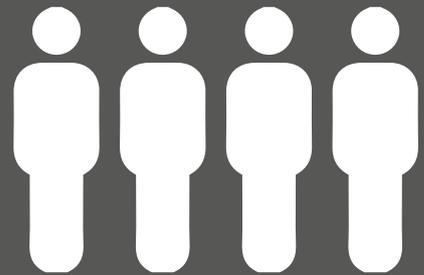
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1 week. 5 days.  
Monday - Friday.  
13 - 17 June 2016.

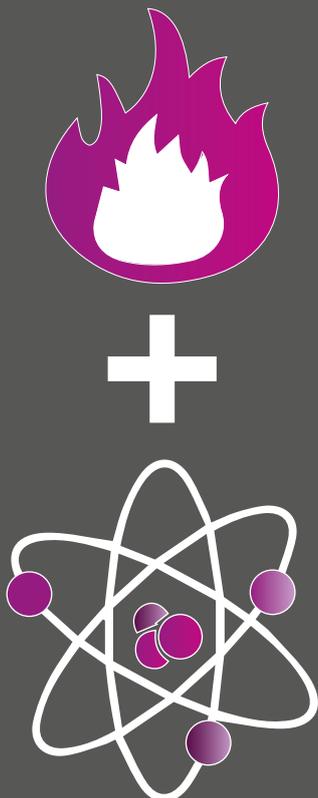


50 College students competed for the chance to have their experiment launched into space.



150 Ayrshire secondary school pupils also took part in this brand new event.

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Mission Discovery has **re-ignited** Ayrshire's appetite for Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM). These are often subjects that are avoided or stigmatised as too hard or boring. The number of young people interested in pursuing a career in these industries is lower than desired, and it is vital that young people pursue STEM subjects to build a Scottish workforce of **Engineers, Scientists, Manufacturers, Mathematicians** and so many more.

The Ayrshire College Foundation aimed to transform pupil's interest in these subjects into a career choice by demonstrating the value of **STEM** subjects through the **Mission Discovery program**.

# The Team



**Michael Foale**



**Sarah Murray**



**Dr Julie Keeble**



**Chris Barber**

Former NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE, NASA's Assistant Chief of EVA, Robotics & Crew Systems, Sarah Murray, Dr Julie Keeble of King's College London and Chris Barber, Director of ISSET, made up the brilliant team delivering the Mission Discovery program.

# The Feedback

"Being able to theorise and suggest various experiments and considering how they could be impacted by the conditions in space"

## What did you enjoy the most about Mission Discovery?

"I enjoyed meeting people from different schools in different local authorities, and becoming friends with them by the end of the week."

I learned that I am a lot more confident at speaking to a hall full of people, I had never done that before so it was a new experience for me."

## What did you learn about yourself?

"Through the experience I have also learned that I may want to pursue a job in the STEM subjects and maybe even in NASA/ISSET."

# Let's get SOCIAL



## We have just launched two new social media accounts!

@ayrshirecollfou on Twitter and Ayrshire College Foundation on LinkedIn.

We hope that we will be able to connect with more community groups and organisations who are looking for funding, so that we can get new projects set-up. We would like to grow our networks on both LinkedIn and Twitter so please connect with us and look forward to our next updates!

We will also be launching a new website over the coming months, stay tuned for more...



[Tweet us here](#)



[Connect on LinkedIn](#)



[Our website](#)



## CATRIONA COOK

22, AYRSHIRE COLLEGE FOUNDATION DIGITAL MARKETING MODERN APPRENTICE

**Swapping Ibiza summers for Instagram and social media, we talk to Catriona about what it's like to be a Modern Apprentice for ACF.**

**What are you doing for the Ayrshire College Foundation?** I am working alongside the Ayrshire College Foundation during my apprenticeship to help them set-up a new website and I'll also be helping them to run their social media accounts. This will also benefit me as I'll be learning new skills as I work.

**Have you enjoyed working with the Ayrshire College Foundation so far?** Yes, it's still early days at the moment but I am looking forward to working with ACF on various projects.

**What attracted you to this job?** When I saw the job advertised I thought it sounded really interesting and something I would enjoy learning more about. I jumped at the opportunity of an apprenticeship as I believe they can provide great opportunities, especially for someone like me who wants to gain qualifications while still working, instead of going to college or university. Digital Marketing is an area which is growing rapidly, so I feel really lucky to have got this job.

**What were you doing before you started with Ayrshire College/Foundation?** I've done a few different things since leaving school. Immediately after leaving, I worked in the family business, a busy seaside café. After a year there, I decided to pack up and move to Spain, securing a summer job in a Scottish bar in Ibiza! I worked there for two seasons, returning home during winter and working in the café.

After that, I decided to go travelling so I went to Thailand. I volunteered in a school, teaching English and I lived with a Thai family in a small village in Chiang Rai.

I then went backpacking round Southern Thailand and Australia. When I returned to the UK it was summer time, so I finished off my travels with one last summer in Ibiza. Before applying for this apprenticeship I was working as a Barista Maestro in Costa Coffee.

**Why is it important for the Ayrshire College Foundation to have its own website/social media feeds etc.?** It's important because it allows the ACF to show off the great work they are doing in the community.



# AN INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET HARPER

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

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**Can you give me a brief history of your career?** I am a Depute Head Teacher at Grange Academy. I am also a Physics teacher and have taught Physics in a number of schools in Ayrshire. I have worked with the College for many years and I believe that through partnership working we put in place the best supports possible for the young people we serve. I have been involved in a number of initiatives with the College

including Enterprise & Education events. I was also a member of the Kilmarnock College Board and the Chair of Learning and Teaching. I am now delighted to be a Trustee of the Ayrshire College Foundation. Next month on November the 11 I am going to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE for Services to Education.

**Why did you choose to get involved with the Ayrshire College Foundation?** Moving from the Kilmarnock College Board to the Ayrshire College Foundation was



almost a natural progression for me. When Ayr, Kilmarnock and Kilwinning Colleges merged to become Ayrshire College, I stepped down from the Board but was delighted to be invited to become a trustee of the Foundation and to continue my involvement with the College. I am passionate about education, industry and college working together, so this let me maintain some involvement with the college and continue to offer support.

**What did you think of the Mission Discovery Project?**

I was present, at school, every morning when Grange Academy pupils excitedly headed off to Mission Discovery returning in the afternoon enthusiastically with lots of interesting stories and experiences to tell about. I visited the evening events where astronaut Michael Foale gave a talk, which was such an inspiration. Our students found it hugely beneficial, especially within my subject, Physics, where the challenge is always to ensure that young women understand that they have a huge future within the STEM industries. Another benefit was that the students realised the massive opportunities that exist for them in Ayrshire. During the event one commented on how they couldn't believe that they could pursue their chosen

# “I AM GOING TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO COLLECT AN MBE FOR MY SERVICES TO EDUCATION.”

career in Ayrshire, when they had completed their degree. It was massively impactful, it was a great starter and hopefully we will have more events like it in the future.

**I'm interested to hear how you encourage girls into STEM subjects?** We have done so many things over the years both in school and as joint initiatives, with college, industry and other partners. As a teacher of Physics and as a Principal Teacher of Physics, I could have as many, if not more, girls than boys in my physics certificate classes, but not many of the girls were actually going on to do anything to do with STEM subjects when they went on to university or into work.

I would say that I noticed the biggest impact and most successful experience for pupils, was

getting the young people into real settings, laboratories and STEM related work places, investigating real challenges for the industry, over extended periods of time. We linked with local companies like Diageo and the Irvine Paper Mill so that young people could actually see what it was like for women, and for men, to work side by side in engineering and scientific environments.

The challenge was to dispel the myth that science isn't "girly" so to deal with that, I felt the best way was to get the girls out there experiencing a working environment. Because they were treated equally in the workplace, it made the students realise it didn't matter if they are male or female, they can do whatever they want to do.

**What did you think of the work done to the Student Services areas in Ayr and Kilwinning?**

I think that the work was all very thoughtfully undertaken and it is evident that all students are benefiting from it.

**What type of person or group can apply for funding from the Ayrshire College Foundation?**

One of our challenges is to understand and support applications appropriately. We need to make sure we get the right applications and respond appropriately to them. However, we don't have an exclusion zone, my experience is that the foundation are open to considering a wide range of applications. Our expectations are that the project has to be of educational benefit, to lead to positive destinations and impact the community.

## WHICH TRUSTEE WILL BE INTERVIEWED NEXT?



WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE  
YOU TO OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

# TRACEY STARK

Tracey is a board director with consumer electronics distributor, Maxiim Ltd, and works with some of the UK's best known brands and retailers.

She has previously held senior positions in Sales, Operations, Media and General Management, with substantial profit and loss and HR responsibilities. She was Sales Director for global corporate insurer, Willis Towers Watson and also has experience in the hospitality and events industry. Through this work Tracey has been involved with charity fundraising.

She is passionate about education and technology and has an MBA from Strathclyde University.

Having spent several years working in London, Tracey moved to Ayr with her husband fifteen years ago and has two daughters. She enjoys travelling and following Scottish Rugby.



The Ayrshire College Foundation trustees would like to thank John Rainey for his governance of the Foundation and wish him well for his retirement. John said,

"I have been very pleased and proud to be part of setting up the Foundation and seeing it becoming

established. It is poised to enter another phase of its development and I am confident that it will continue to be successful under the management of the excellent Trustees and the new Chair, Tracey Stark."

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE TRACEY ON HER NEW POSITION WITH THE AYRSHIRE COLLEGE FOUNDATION.



# ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDING FOR AN AYRSHIRE PROJECT?

We want to hear from any person or group requiring funding for an educational Ayrshire project which is in line with the objectives of the Ayrshire College Foundation. Full information is on our website.

**Applying is easy** – go to our website [www.ayrshirecollegefoundation.org.uk](http://www.ayrshirecollegefoundation.org.uk) and submit an application form.

We will follow this up with a face-to-face interview leading to a presentation to the Foundation Trustees.

We recommend that applications are submitted at least **four months prior** to the planned project start date.

The process will take between three to six months.



Need funding to support events and shows?



Do you require new equipment or facilities?

*Click here to apply*

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE LAUNCH OF  
OUR NEW WEBSITE AND MUCH MORE!





AYRSHIRE COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

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