

18 September 2025

SKYWARD

Your adventure in Aerospace

Invest in innovation.

Be the reason a young person discovers
their potential.

Your support will help young minds take
flight.



The Skyward STEM Education Initiative
(Registered Charity 1199059)



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Skyward: Reimagining STEM for every student

STEM education in the UK is at a critical point. Too few young people, especially from underrepresented backgrounds, are choosing to study or pursue careers in science, technology, engineering or maths. Meanwhile, sectors such as aerospace face growing skills shortages, despite urgent demand for talent to drive innovation in areas such as sustainability and energy security.

Skyward is our bold response: a groundbreaking STEM learning experience set onboard real aircraft. This immersive, hands-on programme takes students on a journey of discovery - sparking curiosity, building confidence, and inspiring the next generation of engineers, pilots, designers, scientists, and technicians.



With a passionate, experienced board, our first aircraft secured, and strong research foundations, Skyward is ready for take-off. But to reach the heights we know are possible, we need forward-thinking partners who believe, like we do, that education should be bold, inclusive, and unforgettable.



A national challenge

By 2030, the UK will need an additional 1.5 million people with core STEM skills to meet growing demand across sectors like AI, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.*

But while demand for STEM skills is rising fast, supply is falling behind. There are many possible reasons for this, from teacher shortages and pandemic setbacks, to outdated perceptions, and a lack of prominent role models in a media landscape dominated by celebrity culture.

The impact is already being felt. Sectors such as aerospace and renewable energy are struggling to attract the talent they need to innovate and grow.

This matters to all of us

The UK's STEM skills gap threatens to limit productivity, slow economic growth and hinder progress on climate and energy goals. Without bold action, the UK's vision of becoming a global science and technology superpower by 2030 is in serious jeopardy.



*** Sources**

UK Government (2023): UK Science and Technology Framework – GOV.UK Science and Technology Framework

EngineeringUK (2022): Securing the future: STEM careers and skills in the UK workforce – EngineeringUK Report

The solution: Skyward

A mission to inspire

Students need a new way to see careers in STEM. Skyward offers exactly that, taking young people out of the classroom and into the extraordinary world of aerospace. Onboard a specially adapted aircraft, they'll explore the science of flight, cutting-edge technologies and the full spectrum of modern STEM careers. All in an interactive environment designed to spark curiosity and ambition.

By engaging secondary school students at a pivotal stage in their journey, Skyward will inspire the next generation of innovators - the minds that will shape the future of aviation, technology, and beyond.

A vision for national impact

Skyward is designed to scale. We envision a national network of aerospace discovery centres based in and around retired commercial aircraft, transformed into world-class, high-tech, interactive learning spaces.

These discovery centres will be linked through a dynamic digital platform that gives students ongoing access to learning, mentoring, and career guidance, allowing their curiosity to continue to grow.

The ultimate goal? To create the world's first flying classroom. A fully operational aircraft functioning as a classroom in the sky, making the project accessible to students all over the UK.

A greener future

Skyward will also help young people channel concern for the future of our planet into purposeful action. Scientists and engineers will be at the forefront of efforts to build a more sustainable future, not least in the field of aviation. From electrical aircraft to alternative fuels, we'll challenge students to investigate and explore the latest solutions, and perhaps even suggest their own.

"By placing environmental innovation at the heart of our experience, we'll not only inspire future careers, but future changemakers"



The journey so far

We've already made significant progress in laying the foundations for this exciting initiative.

Workstream 1 - Complete

- ✓ Established a board of experienced and passionate industry people
- ✓ Created and registered the charity with The Charity Commission for England & Wales
- ✓ Commissioned STEM educational consultancy to research and verify project need
- ✓ Commissioned market research to explore similar projects
- ✓ Engaged with third sector consultants to develop a comprehensive Business Plan
- ✓ Entered negotiations regarding land at Bournemouth Airport
- ✓ And most importantly of all, secured the donation of our first aircraft, a Boeing 737, currently parked at Bournemouth Airport.

But this is just the beginning...



What's next?

We have a proven need, an innovative, exciting and realistic solution, and the key part of our infrastructure – a complete airliner – is in place.

To build on this momentum, we're now inviting visionary partners to contribute funding, expertise or strategic support, and help us bring the next phase of the project to life.

Planned workstreams

- Transform our first aircraft, into a fully immersive learning space
- Establish operational facilities
- Launch the Skyward website
- Build our digital learning platform (SkyWeb)
- Develop CPD accredited teacher training programmes
- Build relationships with local educational authorities and schools
- Drive engagement and awareness with a comprehensive marketing strategy
- Develop best practice policies and procedures for strong, transparent governance

Discover more

Scan the QR code or visit **www.skyward.org.uk/whatnext** to access a detailed overview of our planned work, budget, and goals.



We invite you to review our full project plan and see how your involvement can make a genuine and measurable difference.

If you're interested in supporting Skyward, please reach out to our Founder and Chair, Capt. Richard Griffin, to discuss partnership and funding opportunities.

Email: info@skyward.org.uk

Telephone: 07779 514490

The Skyward Team

Captain Richard Griffin

Trustee, Founder, Chair



Richard is an experienced pilot, currently flying with a well-respected UK airline. His responsibilities include new pilot training and assessment. He is the founder and organiser of the Dorset Plane Pull, and was a director and trustee of Project Wingman Foundation supporting NHS staff through the COVID years and beyond.

Philip (Sam) Davies

Trustee



Sam has a wealth of project management, IT and operational safety experience, having worked for 30 years as a senior and specialist Police Officer, and nearly 20 years as a Site Facilities and Safety Manager at European Skybus Ltd at Bournemouth airport.

Dawn Stokes

Trustee, Treasurer



Dawn helps lead the Fly2help Charity at Bournemouth Airport, organising transformative days that allow beneficiaries to experience the wonder of flight. With a passion for aviation, she is a committed supporter of Navy Wings, which restores, maintains and flies historic Fleet Air Arm iconic warbirds.

Christina Astin

STEM Education Consultant



Christina is a dynamic and creative educator-communicator with a focus on science education. Having taught physics at secondary level for over 20 years she now operates as a freelance consultant, advisor, coach, writer and presenter.