Experienced tutor

Name: Gareth LuTheryn
PhD Research Area: Bioengineering
University: University of Southampton
Scholars Programme Course Title: The Bacterial Biofilm: From Infection to Innovation
Tutor since: 2018

What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?

Seeing the work that the Brilliant Club was doing was an incredible incentive to apply, as the programme was targeting pupils with backgrounds identical to my own. After fighting every step of the way to get from GCSE to a PhD, I knew that if there was anything I could do to support the journey of people in a similar position it was important to do so.

What has been the most rewarding moment of your journey so far?

A very nervous looking pupil came in for their draft final assignment feedback and I asked them if everything was ok, aside from the huge essay they were attempting to write. A quiet torrent of words followed in which the pupil said that they "really like my pride flag pin and never expected to see someone like [them] working in science". Growing up with zero visible LGBTQ+ representation in the media or at school, it was incredibly rewarding for me to have been the person who could be visible for this pupil.

What have you gained from being part of the Scholars Programme community of researchers?

The community of researchers on the programme have this fantastic ability to make connections with people, wider than a person's research area or interests, they connect with the person. This allows people to share ideas, facilitates excellent discussion, and combines fields of research into a format that is accessible and constructive.

Do you have any advice for someone looking to apply?

If you're thinking about applying to be a tutor, I think that the ability to engage with people regardless of ability to advocate their learning, communicate your passion for your subject, and demonstrating a willingness to learn are key things to remember.

To find out more about becoming a Scholars Programme tutor, please click here