

Dr Darren Campbell 1968-2022

Dr Darren Campbell passed away suddenly on 6th April 2022



Darren studied on the Foundation Programme at Aston University in the late 1990s, going on to obtain a BSc in Applied Chemistry in 2003 and a PhD in the field in 2009. He moved from research into teaching in 2013 and in 2017 he became the Programme Director for the Engineering and Applied Science Foundation Programme. In 2020, the Foundation Programme team were overjoyed as Darren became the Head of the Aston Foundation Centre, guiding the same programme that he felt had transformed his own life years earlier. His powerful advocacy for the role and purpose of foundation programmes also led him to become an active member of the Foundation Year Network.

In addition to guiding the programme at Aston, Darren also guided the team he managed with kindness and integrity. He was extremely accommodating and always had time for you to talk through an idea or problem, leading by example to advocate for students and to support staff in the inclusive and safe space he helped to create. As a compassionate leader, approachable manager and inclusive educator, Darren was able to make everyone feel welcome and like they belonged from the moment they stepped into his team, classroom, programme or department. As a champion for staff and student development, his commitment to supporting others shone through all his work. He greatly shaped the lives of many and will continue to do so as we remember him.

More than a colleague, Darren was also a friend and all who had the pleasure of knowing him will join his family in mourning his passing. He will be greatly missed.

We are grateful to the Engineering and Applied Science Foundation Year Programme team for writing this obituary. Darren was the Chair of the Local Organising Committee for this year's Foundation Year Network Annual Conference at Aston University, which, typical of Darren, has as its theme, 'Communities of Learning'.