

"A once in a lifetime opportunity."

Severn Vale School STEM club



KEY FACTS ABOUT OUR STEM CLUB

- The STEM club gives students the chance to expand and explore their interest in STEM without being restricted to the curriculum
- It runs every week for an hour on Tuesdays after school
- It is open to students in years 7 and 8 and will open up to year 9 next year



"I started our STEM club **to get students interested in science without the restrictions of having to stick to the curriculum.** The club allows us to do whatever we want, and we make sure that all the different STEM topics are covered.

We do longer projects in the club like the Flying Start Challenge – an aerospace engineering project where the students had to design and build a glider. We had visitors from a local employer (Safran) that designs and builds rockets and aerospace equipment, and they ran sessions on the science of aeroplanes for us and helped our students with their projects. It was so good!

Last year we ran a sustainable transport challenge where the students had to design a vehicle and a journey that had to be done sustainably. They had to figure out how their vehicle would be powered, and how they would eat, sleep, use the toilet – all within the vehicle – without causing any harm to the planet.

I just want the students to enjoy being in the STEM club. **Everything we do is about enjoyment and exposure to things that they wouldn't otherwise see in lessons.** The same students come every week. They tell me that **it's somewhere they can go and feel comfortable and do something really well.** The students have found their niche - something they enjoy - and it's enabled them to open up a bit more. I have seen their confidence grow hugely.

I think **our STEM club improves how science is perceived within our school.** It's a subject we take seriously, and we don't just teach it to get the students through their exams.

We love what we do, that's why we spend extra time running the club. We share our enthusiasm with the students and that's how they feel too!"

Holly Butcher – Severn Vale Science teacher and STEM Club Lead



Inspired to set up your own STEM Club?

Discover more about STEM Clubs and get free resources and ideas at:
www.stem.org.uk/secondary/enrichment/stem-clubs

What do students say?

"It is a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

"Try it because you never know, you might find your future career out of it."

"It is an amazing opportunity, and it is so much fun and interesting."

What do students enjoy the most?

"I like learning and doing things by working together, and working with my friends."

"I can't explain why I like science, it's just really cool. I feel safe fitting into a community at our STEM club."

94%
of students
say others
should join!

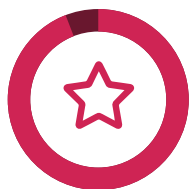
We asked students at Severn Vale's STEM Club what they think:



88% say that
learning STEM subjects is fun



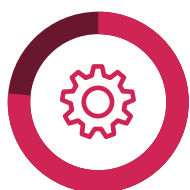
94% are either
considering or want a job in STEM



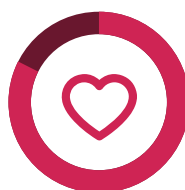
94% say that
they think that they can do well
in STEM subjects



76% say that there are
lots of ways to get involved in STEM
activities at their school



76% say that being
part of their STEM club is helping
them to develop new skills



82% say that that their
teachers are passionate
about STEM subjects

We interviewed the students who help to run STEM Club:

"I have been helping to run our STEM club for the volunteering section of my Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. **I help the younger students in years 7 and 8 with the projects that we do**, and I talk with them about science, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and about Triple Science as a GCSE option. **It is also the sort of club I would have liked to have had when I was in year 7 or 8** but it couldn't run due to Covid-19.

Helping to run the club has helped me to develop teamwork skills and I am better at engaging other people with science now. **It is very rewarding, and I would recommend that other people take on a similar responsibility** in their school because it's very fun!"

Year 10 Student – Severn Vale STEM Club Student Leader

