

Fostering a real love for STEM

Springwood School STEM club



KEY FACTS ABOUT OUR STEM CLUB

- Our STEM club provides opportunities to inspire our students and to do things that aren't on the curriculum
- We run multiple STEM clubs for different year groups, and we are always oversubscribed
- Students carry out projects and enter competitions and awards of their choice



"Our STEM club provides us with **a real opportunity to inspire our young people and to do something at a different pace. It brings together like-minded students who won't be together in day-to-day lessons across different year groups.**

We want to show our students that **STEM is not just science**. Each half term we focus on a different subject, such as maths or technology and our students complete a project that takes them away from the classroom and the curriculum.

When you compare the STEM club students to their non-attending peers, their range of experiences is much greater. They become more eager to attend their STEM subject lessons and their science capital increases. The relationships they build with the staff that run STEM club are important, because we see that this leads to **better engagement in lessons which creates a greater chance of academic success.**

STEM club is one of the highlights of our week. The students who come have chosen to be there because they enjoy it too. **It's a gentler environment than the classroom, and it's very reaffirming** – if you've had a tough day, it reminds you why you came to work!"

Victoria Mann – Head of year 9, second in science department and STEM club leader

We asked students at Springwood High STEM club why they like going:

"It makes me happy, and I always feel like I know a little bit more after going."

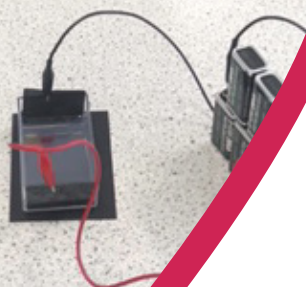
"I like working together in a group to accomplish one big achievement."

"I get to be creative with my friends."

"It is fun and I feel included."

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



We talked to one of Springwood's alumni who helps to run STEM club:

"My employer – Palm, a paper factory, acted as a judge for Springwood's CREST project and we enjoyed that so much that we agreed to get more involved. Since then, I have been going into Springwood's STEM club at least once a month to help the students with their CREST award projects.

I help the students with all aspects of their projects, whether that's the planning and research or the way they design experiments. I have a supportive role: **the students lead their projects and I offer guidance and help them to evaluate their decisions.**

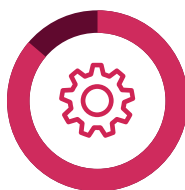
When I did my STEM degree, the course was very male dominated. Having gone to Springwood myself, **I want to try and influence more girls there to go into STEM roles** too. I like to **change students' perceptions of engineering and technology** – to show them the hidden aspects - and I tell them about the opportunities they have to study these subjects at university or as a future career. **I really enjoy engineering myself and it's nice to be a role model to the girls!"**

Iveta Ruskyte –Palm Paper Ltd

What do Springwood STEM Club students say?



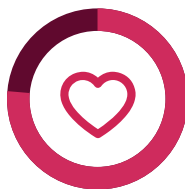
84% say that learning STEM subjects is fun



87% say that being part of their STEM club is **helping them to develop new skills**



76% say that they think that they can do well in STEM subjects



76% say that that their teachers are **passionate about STEM subjects**

Senior Leader perspective on the value of their STEM club:

"Our STEM club is very important to us. **It gives the students the opportunity to develop their skills and love of those subjects further. And for our staff, it enables them to build better relationships with the students**, which then impacts their enjoyment of teaching as a whole.

If you are thinking about setting up your own STEM club – just do it.

It can be hard work and time- consuming to start, but once you have students on board, they will help develop it and run it!"

Member of Springwood's senior leadership team



www.stem.org.uk

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