

Welcoming to all and inspiring achievement in STEM

Ursuline Academy STEM club



KEY FACTS ABOUT OUR STEM CLUB

- Our STEM club is open to anyone who would like to have a go with STEM
- The club runs twice a week, and is led by our STEM co-ordinator, supported by the Head of Design & Technology and students in years 10 to 12
- Our STEM club has won a number of awards and competitions, including STEM Learning's Outstanding STEM club of the Year 2022!



"Our STEM club welcomes any students who would like to work on a STEM-based project. We make sure that it is a space that supports their STEM endeavours, whatever they may be!

The club is jointly run by me and my Head of D&T, and we have extra help from the older students as well. **We're currently encouraging our year 10 and 11s to come and mentor the younger students.**

We enter a lot of competitions, and we've had a lot of success. **We encourage the girls to find competitions that they would like to try, and we will support them with their entries. We also use the STEM club to prepare our students for the workplace, working with a variety of local employers, to inspire them and raise their aspirations and to shatter stereotypes.** We want to show the girls how much a career in engineering can offer them. **I'm very proud that 70% of my first cohort have gone on to pursue a career in STEM.**

We encourage a lot of teamworking and skills development through the activities our students do in STEM club. **They gain independence, build resilience, develop their confidence and self-esteem and improve the way that they can communicate and present their ideas.**

We believe that our young people are better for having a STEM club. Seeing their development and the impact that it's had on them – beyond just their career choices – but how they have grown as young people is so powerful. **The club is a friendly, supportive space. I often say that it is "somewhere they can come and become!"**

Rose Russell – STEM co-ordinator, Art/Design & Technology technician 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

We asked students at Ursuline Academy STEM club what they think:

"I like that **I am able to be creative and think innovatively** as well as **apply mathematical and physics concepts** to real life scenarios."

"I would encourage them a lot to join our STEM club as **it has really helped me decide on my career path and A-levels**. It has also provided me with **valuable experience and improved skills when working as a team, presenting and communicating ideas** clearly!"

"In the classroom we learn many skills, such as **problem solving and strategical thinking**, but we don't get a chance to **apply these to real life projects**, however at STEM club we can."

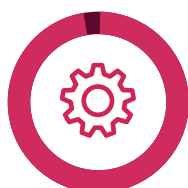
What do students say?



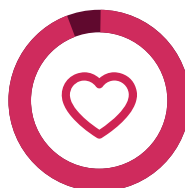
88% say that learning STEM subjects is fun



81% say that there are lots of ways to get involved in STEM activities at their school



97% say that being part of their STEM club is helping them to develop new skills



94% say that their teachers are passionate about STEM subjects

We interviewed the students who help to run STEM Club:

"It's a really **inspiring responsibility as not only you're helping people, you're also gaining important knowledge** which will strengthen your academic and mental intelligence."

"**I've gained leadership and problem-solving skills** that has enabled me to gain strong grades in each of my subjects. This also has helped me to get awards. In addition, **I have been able to interact more with people and share my thoughts with them.**"

Senior Leader perspective on the value of their STEM club:

"**Having such a successful STEM club has highlighted the importance of STEM with the school.** We've seen that engagement and enthusiasm has improved – and **it has helped increase student uptake in STEM-related subjects.**"

It has also **resulted in positive experiences for our teachers** such as exploring other subject areas and making links to the wider curriculum, collaborating and engaging with industry and employers, and benefiting from experimenting with new materials from various companies. Thanks to the STEM club, the school won The Mayor of London: Design Future London Competition and was awarded Outstanding STEM Club of England for 2022."

Linh Nguyen – Deputy Headteacher

