

Learn something new every time!

Queen's Park High School STEM club



KEY FACTS ABOUT OUR STEM CLUB

- Our STEM club is split by year groups: one for year 7s, one for year 8s and a third for the year 9 and 10 students
- The club runs in 6-8 week blocks for each year group
- Our science, maths and technology teachers all get involved in running activities
- Our sixth form students also help to run it, supporting the younger ones with their projects



"Our STEM Club started off as a very small group of students from across the whole school coming together to do science activities, but **it has grown so much that we have split it out by year groups to make sure as many students as possible can attend.**

Every year **I send out letters to our pupil premium and SEND learners to give them first refusal to join the club** before I open it up to everyone else. It's really important to us that we find ways to get them involved in extra-curricular activities and in STEM. **Sessions are run by me and my colleagues in the science department as well as some of our maths and technology teachers too.**

Our STEM club has entered so many competitions over the years. In 2019, a group of students were selected to represent the north-west in one event where they built a biscuit dunking machine which they used to test out which type of biscuit is best to dunk in a cup of tea (the winner was a custard cream!). They made it through the regional finals and then were runners up in the junior category at the national finals!

We work with a STEM ambassador and work on local STEM projects. **Also some of our sixth formers help us to run the club**, supporting the younger pupils with their work. **Next year they will get the chance to plan and lead some of our STEM club sessions** and I will be the one helping them!

Our STEM club is great at getting students engaged in STEM subjects, it gives them **transferable skills** that they can take into other subjects, it **builds their confidence and develops their enthusiasm** for different STEM-based careers in the future. Last year we were recognised for this work and awarded the Gold STEM Club Quality Mark.

For anyone considering starting their own STEM club, I would say – **think about who you'd like to invite, plan the activities you want to do, get a team of staff to help run it, and get your older students to get involved too.** Start small, and it will really take off!"

Finola Sutton – Head of Science, STEM Club Lead



What do students say?

"I love hanging out and **making new friends** who have the same interests."

"Being part of the STEM club **makes me feel happy** because I **learn something new every time I go!**"

"Come to STEM Club because **it is really educational and fun** - you will love it!"

"I get to learn,
have fun
and be with
friends."



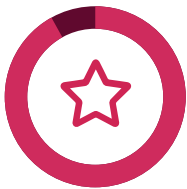
We interviewed the students who go to Queen's Park STEM Club:



92% say that
learning STEM subjects is fun



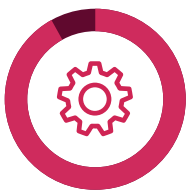
83% are either
considering or want a job in STEM



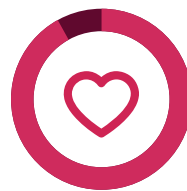
92% say that
they think that they can do well
in STEM subjects



75% say that there are
lots of ways to get involved in STEM
activities at their school



92% say that being
part of their STEM club is **helping**
them to **develop new skills**



92% say that that their **teachers**
are **passionate about STEM subjects**

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



STEM Club student leader profile:

"I used to go to STEM Club when I was younger, and now I am in year 12, I help run it. **I'm involved in planning the sessions with the teachers and I help the younger students with their activities.** I'm running a project with a small group too.

I wanted to take on the leadership role as I thought it would help with my university applications and give me an insight into teaching. **It's improved my STEM subject knowledge, helped me enjoy school more and to find out more about STEM careers.** My confidence to address younger students has improved, as has my ability to communicate with the staff who run the club.

I'd encourage anyone to take on a similar role – **it's beneficial to yourself personally as well as academically!**"

Year 12 STEM Club student leader

Senior Leader perspective on the value of their STEM Club:

"Providing extra-curricular opportunities for our students is massively important. **Our STEM Club gives students the opportunity to develop their interests in STEM** even if science and maths are not necessarily their strongest subjects.

The STEM Club is really important to develop the confidence and progress of our disadvantaged and SEND students. We encourage all our disadvantaged students to attend, and when tracking their data we notice an uplift in outcomes in science in their classroom assessments.

Parents know about the success our school has had with STEM and have told us that **one of the reasons they have chosen the school** is because of this.

We share our STEM Club successes on social media as much as we can. **Making the local community aware of our STEM provision has helped to develop the science and maths departments outcomes, boosted pupil numbers in the school and put the school on the map as being a beacon of success for STEM!**"

Ashley Jones – Assistant Headteacher

Keen to encourage your students to help run your STEM Club?

Giving students opportunities to act as ambassadors and mentors for STEM subjects outside of the classroom can be of great benefit to the individual, their school, and to the broader public. The older student learns transferable employability skills, whilst younger pupils meet enthusiastic role models closer to them in age and better able to relate to them, who engage them in STEM subjects.

We have a range of resources to help you to involve your older students in running your STEM club in our [Student-led STEM Club handbook](#).

