



Careers Inspiration in Schools

STEM CHAMPION CONFERENCE

29 JUNE 2018

Headline:	Mayor of Luton attends the first ever STEM Champion Conference at Stopsley High School. This innovative and exciting event was attended by 91 students from 8 Luton High Schools and showcased local STEM industries and career pathways.
Who are STEM Champion:	STEM Champion is an organisation founded by university students. Its vision is to improve young people's awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects.
Background of Programme:	Futures, the National Careers Service and Develop are working collaboratively on the Careers Inspiration in Schools Programme. Develop and STEM Champion organised and delivered the first local STEM Champion conference which focused on STEM careers.
Project Overview:	<p>The primary focus of this conference was to highlight STEM careers in the local community. With this in mind, Develop working with STEM Champion, approached 4 large local employers who encompass each area of STEM. We asked them to design a workshop to highlight one curriculum area through their workshop activity.</p> <p>We were extremely fortunate that the following companies undertook the challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interserve – Construction & Maths PI – Nanotechnology & IT Roche – Pharmaceuticals & Science Vauxhall – Manufacturing & Engineering <p>Students had a chance to participate in all the workshops. They found the workshops enjoyable and informative and they learnt how their curriculum studies relate to the world of work. The students also had a brief careers presentation given by the employer, which highlighted possible careers and career pathways within their industry.</p>

Vauxhall offered 4 work experience placements to the winners of their challenge.

The employers also kindly brought along career literature and information on their companies. Students were encouraged to ask questions of the employers to learn about their career stories and how they could step onto the entry path to a career in their chosen STEM area.

Students found this incredibly helpful as a lot of the employees who were there discussed the fact that this career path was not their original choice when they left school/college. This showed the students that their future is always changing and not set in stone just because of the options you choose now.

This conference was attended by the Mayor of Luton who opened the day. It was hosted by Stopsley High School and we would like to thank them for their hospitality.

Conclusion:

This was a very successful event. We asked students, teachers and employers to give feedback on the event and the results were fantastic.

The students really loved the idea of being able to hear stories of the career pathways undertaken by the employers present. This showed real life experience with all its bumps along the way. It was also interesting to hear the different careers available within the STEM industries, and explained that just because you work in an engineering company doesn't mean you have to be an engineer, there are other positions available. It also served to breakdown gender role stereotypes.

Employers involved in the event commented on how productive and engaging the day was. It was great for them to see the students so engaged and interested in their industry area.

“Great, well organised day. Very worthwhile and great for the kids.”
“We enjoyed interacting with the students and just running the workshop.”

The teachers who came were able to ask questions regarding careers gaining first-hand knowledge and information. They were also able to see modern technology in action.

	<p><i>“A great day, which has inspired Year 9’s & 10’s into thinking more seriously about a career in STEM.”</i></p> <p><i>“My students today got careers ideas and hands on experience.”</i></p> <p><i>“The students received further understanding of STEM subjects and an idea of STEM careers.”</i></p> <p>This is the first STEM Champion conference in Luton and I know the schools are hopeful for more to come.</p>
<p>Learner Feedback:</p>	<p>“A great learning experience that provides learning path ideas.”</p> <p>“A great and engaging learning experience.”</p> <p>“I loved it and it gave me a great idea about my future.”</p> <p>“Very interesting, learnt loads and would love to further my knowledge.”</p> <p>“Today was very interesting and taught us about many careers/jobs for our future.”</p> <p>“Informative and enjoyable –I’m now far more aware of many job opportunities.”</p>



<p>Thank you to</p>	
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“Thank you all for making it work! I do think that it would be good to run again next year. Students really enjoyed the experience.”
 K Johns, Head teacher, Stopsley High School.



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