



06 October 2023

Dear Families

Year 9 and Year 10 STEM Launch Field Trip to Haywards Heath - Friday 13 October 2023

The Mid Sussex STEM Challenge is returning, launching on Friday 13 October 2023 in the MSDC Council Chamber, Haywards Heath and, once again, will include all the senior schools and colleges throughout Mid Sussex taking part.

The challenge is designed to bring together the most talented of our technical students to research, develop and build an artificially intelligent vehicle, that will be remotely controlled as it manoeuvres through a large and complicated course.

Each school's student team will be charged with designing and assembling a vehicle to a required specification that meets the challenge of a predetermined obstacle course, whilst navigating the vehicle remotely. This will involve AI, camera attachment, motorised chassis and other design considerations to ensure the vehicle can endure the rigours of the course.

All types of engineering and medical companies have come together to ensure that students understand just what a diverse and successful career lies ahead by continuing with science, technology, engineering and maths subjects. These skills are paramount to the economy of our area, where research has shown that engineering accounts for 34% of turnover.

Local MP, Mims Davies, will officially open the challenge, and each of the companies involved will provide a STEM Ambassador to work with every school as well as bring them into the workplace to show the excitement of the 'real world' and to put their STEM learning in context. Not only that but, with the help of Nuffield Health, the students will prepare a marketing and business management plan.

Companies involved include Flowserve, PSM Marine Engineering, Adelphi, Nuffield Hospital, Bike Smart, Edwards Vacuum, Quantum Technologies and Balfour Beatty and all are as keen as the students themselves. As Nick Green, Flowserve's GM, says: "Technical creativity and advances are all of paramount importance to our national, regional and local economy. Engineering in the distant past conjured images of big, dirty and oily locations but nothing could be further from today's highly skilled, intelligent and, very often, delicate mechanisms. We need to inspire a generation of talented engineers and scientists, to plug the gap across a myriad of other careers; students continuing STEM studies will have a choice of amazing and highly successful careers."

MSDC Leader, Jonathan Ash Edwards, is delighted that, following the success of the pre-pandemic challenges, all the district's senior schools are involved again: "We're incredibly lucky in Mid Sussex to have such successful senior schools and companies, who are prepared to give up time and energy to work with them, to ensure the skills of our next generation will stay in the locality and build on our strong economy. With our plans for a science and technology park in Mid Sussex, it's crucial that the next generation are being inspired in STEM subjects".

The minibus will leave Sackville School at 1.20pm on Friday 13 October 2023 and we aim to return to school by 3.30pm – although traffic may affect this. Please contact me at aferguson@sackvilleschool.org.uk if travel from school will be difficult at this time.

Students should bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink as there will be limited opportunity to get refreshments while we are in MSDC. Students should wear school uniform. Please ensure students have a waterproof jacket to cover all eventualities of the weather!

The trip is free of charge for students, however, please could you fill out the consent form [HERE](#) by Monday 9 October 2023.

Insurance for all school trips is arranged through West Sussex County Council. Full details of the policy can be found on our [website](#). **Peanuts or peanut related products are not allowed to be taken on any school visit.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs Anna Ferguson
Teacher of Mathematics



Sackville School

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

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