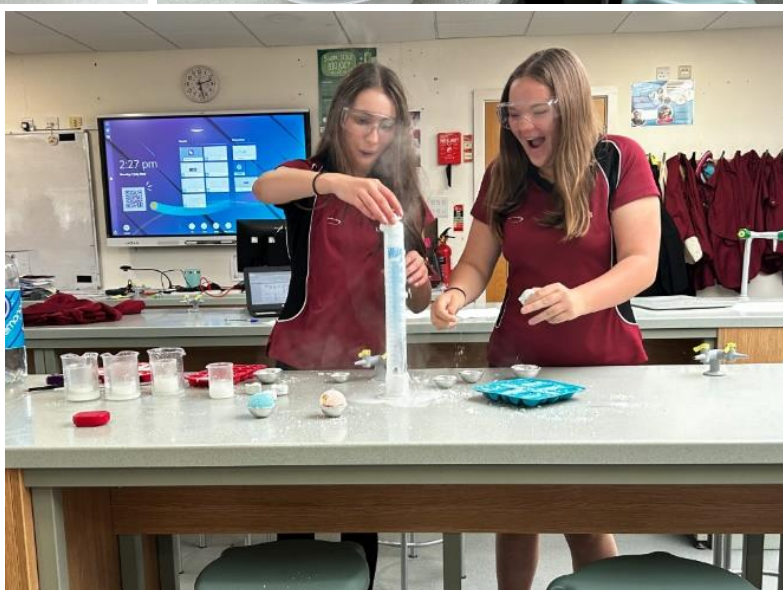


High School pupils complete bronze CREST Award



This week, as part of the High School enrichment offer, many pupils have commenced work towards a bronze CREST award. CREST is a nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects. Over the course of the week, individuals and small teams were able to research and design their own investigation, giving them a taste of what it is like to be a scientist or engineer in the real-world.

Having undertaken some preliminary research in the ICT suite, and having sourced suggested methods and materials, each pupil was tasked with producing a detailed plan of their chosen experiment. They had to identify the independent and dependent variables and list the factors that would need to be controlled to ensure that their results were valid.

Upon returning to the labs, the pupils were full of excitement as they commenced their work. Most groups were highly independent in their approach and demonstrated excellent creative

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thinking. Inevitably, they encountered some difficulties along the way; we were especially impressed with their ability to problem solve, adapting their methods accordingly to ensure that they overcame any such obstacles. Indeed, one group successfully constructed their own roller coaster and it took a considerable amount of perseverance with a glue gun to ensure a smooth join between the tracks ahead of their loop! Once running smoothly, they were able to use a light gate to accurately record the speed of their little car after passing over a range of different obstacles and materials.

Once pupils had obtained their results, they had to decide upon the most suitable way to present their findings in the form of graphs and tables. They were encouraged to evaluate their work and reflect upon how their actions and decisions affected the project's outcome. Each group will be given the opportunity to produce a poster presentation of their key findings.

Here is an example of the fantastic range of projects that were undertaken:



What effect does shampoo have on the appearance of hair under a microscope?



How much baking soda is needed to give the best bath bomb fizz?



How does the surface material on a roller coaster affect the speed of travel?

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What factors influence the perfect cup of tea?

We very much look forward to them sharing their project outcomes with their peers!

Mrs Jennifer Yeomans