



# CASE STUDY

## 01: CREST IN A DAY

**CREST IN A DAY EVENTS ALLOW GROUPS OF ANY SIZE TO ACHIEVE CREST BRONZE AWARDS THROUGH INSPIRING AND ENGAGING ONE-DAY ACTIVITIES. THESE PROJECTS CAN BE PROVIDED EXTERNALLY, OR DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE.**

### SUMMARY

Teachers at Rickmansworth School have embraced CREST in a Day as a creative and dynamic way to engage students in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Their story shows how the tangible rewards of a CREST Award can focus the minds and imaginations of students.

### SCHOOL FACT FILE

- School:** Rickmansworth School, Herts
- Type of School:** Specialist Science and Arts College, Foundation School
- CREST Awards achieved:**
  - Bronze level: 28 Year 8s (July 2009); 154 Year 8s (October 2009)
  - Silver level: 10 Year 10s (ongoing)

### Skills

- Solving engineering problems
- Developing 'soft' skills such as: team-working, organisation, leadership, creativity, communication and working to deadlines

### Links to the curriculum

- How Science Works, Cells, Materials, Forces, Science Investigation, Work-Related Learning elements

**"IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE SUCH ENTHUSIASM AND CREATIVITY - BRILLIANT, MUST DO IT AGAIN!"**

Gordon Gentry, Head of Science

**"THE OUTCOME AND ATMOSPHERE OF THE DAY MADE THE INPUT TOTALLY WORTH IT - WAS BUSY, REWARDING AND FUN!"**

Megan Gillan, Teacher



## **RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL FIRST GOT INVOLVED IN CREST FOLLOWING TEACHER, CLARE FIELDS' ATTENDANCE AT A HALF-DAY INTRODUCTORY SESSION LED BY SETPOINT HERTS, HER AREA'S CREST LOCAL COORDINATORS. HERE, SHE WAS INTRODUCED TO THREE MODELS FOR CREST IN A DAY AND WAS INSPIRED TO PLAN AN EVENT AT HER SCHOOL.**

Working closely with her colleague, Megan Gillan, Clare liaised with SETPOINT Herts to create Rickmansworth's first CREST in a Day. Taking place in July 2009, 34 students participated in three different activities, focussing on: solving engineering problems, developing 'soft' skills such as team-working, organisation, leadership, creativity, communication and working to deadlines. A CREST assessor ensured that students worked to an appropriate level for Bronze CREST and, after teacher-led observations, 28 students achieve an Award.

### **WHOLE YEAR-GROUP ACTIVITIES**

Following this success, Clare and Megan decided to open up CREST in a Day to an entire year group. Planning began in-house in July 2009 and continued over the summer. In October, the event was ready: 154 Years 8s working simultaneously towards CREST Bronze Awards.

Seven Science teachers led the activities. The cohort was divided into seven groups – with approximately 25 students in each. Megan explained how it worked, "We did a session on brain activities: problem solving, brain gym etc., then robotic arm, then bath bombs and demolition fuse." The work linked closely to the curriculum, said Clare, "We devised activities which tie in with Sc1 (Scientific Investigation). It was a fantastic opportunity for them to make predictions based on their knowledge and understanding, plan investigations, decide on an appropriate approach, record observations and evaluate their own methods."

CREST Awards are supported by:



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### **INCREASED ENGAGEMENT**

The fact that a tangible CREST Award was at stake also served to increase engagement. The students were told that they would not automatically gain an Award, so were encouraged to participate fully. As Clare explained, "They were very committed to each project. It encouraged them to improve their ideas and work effectively as a team. They knew that they were being assessed for each activity on how they worked as a team, whether they contributed ideas, and if they were involved in presenting ideas to the rest of the class."

The successful students received their CREST Awards in a full-school assembly in December 2009.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

CREST in a Day is all in the planning. Developing and organising an in-house event for an entire year group takes time, but there were a number of experienced CREST teachers in the area who were willing to share their experience. These experienced teachers are often on hand at CREST in a Day Training Sessions, to answer questions and explain how they go about planning their own events.

### **ONTO CREST SILVER AND GOLD**

Rickmansworth School is currently building on these amazing successes. A group of Year 10 students are now working on CREST Silver projects, while they also hope to have some sixth-formers participating in the Nuffield Bursary placement scheme in Summer 2010 – which in most cases will lead to CREST Gold Awards. They anticipate maintaining a regular CREST in a Day programme year on year.

If you'd like to know more about CREST in a Day, or any other aspect of the CREST Awards – visit: [www.britishecienceassociation.org/crest](http://www.britishecienceassociation.org/crest) or email [crest@britishecienceassociation.org](mailto:crest@britishecienceassociation.org)

