

WHEN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS LINK TOGETHER, THEY CAN OFFER ACTIVITIES THAT ARE PRODUCTIVE AND ENLIGHTENING ON MANY LEVELS. CREST'S FLEXIBILITY HELPS THIS PROCESS.

The last week of 2009's Autumn term was one of intense activity for Year 9 students at Graham School. Split into small groups of 3 or 4, with each group focusing on specific goals, the students were offered a choice of several creative projects, including: jewellery design, pizza design, tattoo design, surf board design and design of a fitness regime. Though differing considerably, each followed CREST's approach to project structure. Throughout the week, the Design & Technology department linked with the ICT & Business, Art, Technology and Food Technology departments to give students access to a range of resources and support.

"THERE WAS A REAL SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE STUDENTS."

Emma Millican, Head of D&T

DESIGN FOR TODAY

Work for each group began with 'setting up the business' and discussing marketing ideas. Next up were research, design and modelling, to help understand how both the product and business would develop. Throughout the week, Emma Millican and her fellow teacher, Rebecca Brown coordinated both the students' efforts and inter-departmental communication. Each student worked with reference to their CREST Profile Form – given to all CREST students to help monitor their progress. The form encourages students to work through their project sequentially, so recording the process itself is a learning tool.

"THE TEAMS OF MIXED ABILITY WORKED EXTREMELY WELL AS THE MORE ABLE PUPILS SUPPORTED THE LESS ABLE."

Emma Millican, Head of D&T

Friday saw the students hold an Expo attended by Head Teacher, Garry Hancock, school staff and school governors. The students created stalls displaying their work and handed out business cards – at the same

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time competing for internal awards like 'Best Stall' and 'Best Product'. These awards were presented at school the same afternoon. 45 students received a CREST Bronze Award at a later School Assembly.

"I LIKED THAT WE WERE WORKING TOWARDS A SPECIFIC GOAL AND FELT I HAD ACHIEVED SOMETHING."

Year 9 Student, Graham School

PLANNING AHEAD

Engagement in CREST has enthused both students and teachers at Graham School. The initiative was supported by Catherine Brophy, North Yorkshire's CREST Local Coordinator, and with only three weeks to prepare, time was of the essence. Next time, Emma would like to work more closely with Catherine, feeling that her experience and expertise could prove highly beneficial. She also feels the school could benefit from business involvement and support – something also encouraged by CREST. Additional plans might also include involving the Science department more fully – bringing a more scientific approach to the projects.

IN CONCLUSION

Graham School will definitely be involved in future CREST Awards. However, as CREST Bronze Awards usually involve around 10 hours' project work, students may also move on to CREST Silver in future. With more time to plan and more input from her CREST Local Coordinator, Emma feels the reward for students could be even greater. Setting up such innovative events always takes effort and commitment, but Emma's advice to others is simple: 'Don't be scared of the amount of planning required. It is worth it in the end.'

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