

TEACHERS AT STROUD HIGH SCHOOL HAVE SEEN HOW REPEATED ENGAGEMENT IN CREST AWARDS CAN BE TRULY BENEFICIAL FOR THEIR STUDENTS - AND FOR THE SCHOOL.

LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

A number of teachers and departments engage with CREST at Stroud High School, including Physics teacher, Iain Green and Chemistry teacher, Damian Murphy. Iain saw the potential of CREST Awards some 7 years ago. He established contact with Ed White at STEMworks – Gloucestershire's CREST Local Coordinator: together they developed strong and mutually beneficial relationships with a range of the area's leading companies and academic institutions. Teachers at the school now work with a number of external professionals and organisations to make STEM subjects both exciting and relevant to their students.

START AT THE START

At Year 9, all students undertake a CREST Bronze Award – often in the CREST in a Day format. It leaves many students wanting more. In fact, CREST is so highly regarded that many students progress from Silver through to Gold.

"CREST PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN AWARENESS OF WHETHER ENGINEERING/SCIENCE IS FOR THEM. ONE STUDENT COMMENTED AFTERWARDS THAT SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN ENGINEERING FURTHER HAD SHE NOT TAKEN PART"

Iain Green, Physics teacher

SILVER AND GOLD

Silver and Gold level projects usually commence in September and last for about a year. Undertaken by Year 11 and 12 students, the emphasis here is often on the interplay between science and business – and how they can progress side by side. All projects focus on bringing science to life – tackling real problems of the kind that affect livelihoods.

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Recent Silver projects include the use of a remote Faulkes telescope to take images of the night sky. The images were processed via software imaging programs, before celestial objects were grouped according to accepted classification schemes.

Gold level projects included an examination of light data, also using the Faulkes telescope – plus one working alongside a chemical engineer at Milliken's, a specialist company in the woollen fabrication industry. A third project, introduced via Ed White, found students designing and testing different bee houses. The students managed the project, going through all the ups and downs that occur in real-life situations.

"THE STUDENTS LEARN A GREAT DEAL AND ACHIEVE A NATIONAL AWARD THAT IS RECOGNISED BY UNIVERSITIES AND EMPLOYERS. A CREST AWARD WILL MAKE THEIR C.V. LOOK REALLY GOOD."

Iain Green, Physics teacher

CELEBRATION

Iain advises teachers engaging in CREST for the first time 'not to worry about the solution to the problem. Allow the students to solve it.' With this in mind, he feels that 'getting a CREST Award is amazing for the kids.' Success at each CREST Level is celebrated throughout the school – often with an internal Awards Ceremony.

The benefits that CREST brings to schools as a whole are also worth recognising. Certainly, the staff at Stroud High School believe that schools should 'use their leadership team to get links with companies that have science/engineering problems' – CREST is the perfect way to help this happen.

If you'd like to know more about CREST Awards, visit: www.britishecienceassociation.org/crest or email crest@britishecienceassociation.org

