



Press Release

Schools and colleges across Wales are being actively encouraged to participate in the national CREST awards to stimulate interest in science and boost the numbers of young people taking science related subjects.

CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) is Britain's largest national award scheme for project work in the STEM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths - and brings science to life by offering young people aged 11-19 opportunities to explore real world projects in an exciting and innovative way.

The CREST award programme is run by the British Science Association, which is being funded by the Welsh Assembly Government - through the National Science Academy - to co-ordinate and increase activities in Welsh schools.

It will enable the Association to deliver tailored support for schools and provide high quality activities for pupils. The Assembly Government is also providing funding for schools to invest in CREST resources packs for pupils.

The initial target is to get at least 600 new pupils undertaking CREST awards across Wales this year, increasing year by year.

Lesley Griffiths, Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills, has urged schools to take up the challenge.

"I want to see many more schools participating in CREST and drive up the numbers of young people taking these awards in Wales.

"CREST has proven to be a great success in stimulating interest by providing young people with real hands-on experiences in science and technology while also providing students with a tangible recognition of success.

"We need to interest more young people in developing the sorts of skills we need to develop the economy now and in the future and STEM subjects are particularly important in this respect.

"The National Science Academy set up earlier this year is coordinating STEM subjects at all levels to ensure Wales has a continuous pipeline of people graduating from colleges and universities with the appropriate qualifications and skills.

"To achieve this we have to engage with children of all ages and I welcome this initiative."

This push by the Assembly Government builds on an historically strong association with CREST in Wales, including as a result of work by Careers Wales and Mid Glamorgan Education Business Partnership.

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