



CASE STUDY

07: CREST AWARDS THROUGH INDUSTRY-LINKED PROJECTS

FROM YEAR 7 STUDENTS GAINING THEIR CREST BRONZE THROUGH A SCIENCE CLUB, TO YEAR 12S WORKING TOWARDS A GOLD AWARD ALONGSIDE POST-GRADUATE SCIENTISTS IN INDUSTRY, CREST SUPPORTS DYNAMIC AND CREATIVE PROJECT WORK.

SUMMARY

Teacher, Richard King runs Queen Katherine School's Year 7 Science Club. He heard about CREST and developed relationship with his CREST Local Coordinator. One of the school's governors also saw the potential of CREST. A Director with a local engineering company, he realised how his company might support aspiring students by involving them in research. Since then, students at the school have been involved with a wide range of innovative STEM-based projects at CREST Bronze and Gold Award levels.

SCHOOL FACT FILE

Organisation: Queen Katherine School, Cumbria

Project Type: Mixed Comprehensive & Technology College

CREST Awards achieved:

- Bronze level: 10 Year 7s through a Science Club
- Gold level: 4 Year 12s

Skills

- Team building
- Hands-on research / Work-related learning
- Personal, learning and thinking skills
- Presentation and communication skills

Links to the curriculum

- Complements the Science, Technology and Applied science subject areas

"THE STUDENTS GAIN CONFIDENCE AND HAVE AN EXPERIENCE THAT WE (THE SCHOOL) CANNOT OFFER!"

Sharron Hutchinson, Assistant Head of Science



QUEEN KATHERINE SCHOOL HAVE SEEN CREST AWARDS AS AN INTEGRAL AND INSPIRING ENHANCEMENT TO THEIR SYLLABUS FOR FOUR YEARS. FIRM COMMITMENT FROM WITHIN THE SCHOOL AND FROM LOCAL INDUSTRY HAS GIVEN STUDENTS UNIQUE ACCESS TO REAL-LIFE SCIENCE IN ACTION.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

When teacher, Richard King found out about CREST, he contacted Cumbria's CREST Local Coordinator, Tony Gill. Tony gave him the information and support he needed to get started with CREST. This involved linking CREST with Technical Fibre Products – a local engineering company which happens to have a school governor in a Directorial role. Together, the school, the company and CREST have explored imaginative ways in which to engage students.

GOING FOR GOLD

While Queen Katherine School also engages with CREST at Bronze level, its recent work at Gold level has been particularly interesting. Here, Year 12s worked on a year-long research project with Technical Fibre Products. Starting in September 2008, the project assessed the quality of water for manufacturing services.

An open selection process was held, in which students competed for a place on the scheme. Aspirants submitted a letter of application, undertook a team-building activity and then gave a one-minute talk on an area of science in which they were personally interested. Sixteen students applied, four spots were available.

The selected students then got to work, exploring the chemical content of water and how water quality affected the fibre formation of products made by Technical Fibre Products. The students were mentored and supported by researchers at the company.

CREST Awards are supported by:



we would also like to thank
Network Rail



British Science Association
www.britishecienceassociation.org

Registered Charity No. 212479 and SCO39236

A VALUABLE OUTCOME

Throughout the year, the students learnt to work independently in a commercial and exacting environment. Their research was utilised by the company and was of real benefit. In doing so, the students gained in confidence through an experience that was engaging and enriching.

"IT'S BEEN BRILLIANT FOR THE STUDENTS, ABSOLUTELY AWESOME. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH POST-DEGREE SCIENTISTS DOING PROPER SCIENCE"

Sharron Hutchinson, Assistant Head of Science

At the end of the year, the students presented their projects to a group of scientists – and also at a meeting of school governors. Their achievements were celebrated when their CREST Gold certificates were presented during a school assembly.

"ONE OF OUR PREVIOUS STUDENTS DID A FANTASTIC JOB LAST YEAR. HER WORK WAS PATENTED AND SHE PRESENTED AT THE NORTH-WEST CREST FAIR"

Sharron Hutchinson, Assistant Head of Science

If you'd like to know more about CREST Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, or any other aspect of CREST – visit: www.britishecienceassociation.org/crest or email crest@britishecienceassociation.org

