

INDUSTRY: STEM

PROGRAMME: WORK INSPIRATION

ACTIVITY: STEP INTO STEM EVENT

ORGANISATION: WEST LoTHIAN COLLEGE,

DYW WEST LoTHIAN & SMARTSTEMS

SCHOOL: SECONDARY

STEP INTO STEM

West Lothian College hosted 169 S2 pupils and 21 teachers from 9 secondary schools to the most recent Step into STEM event in March 2020, which is an annual event run in partnership between DYW West Lothian, West Lothian College and SMARTStems.



Now in its third year, the aim of the event is to provide secondary school pupils with a wider understanding of Science and Engineering and potential career opportunities in those fields, whilst hopefully inspiring them to continue in their maths and science studies and raise awareness of the experience and qualifications required to follow a relevant career pathway.

The pupils met with local STEM employers and engaged with them through workshops and interactive STEM exhibits. Over 20 employers delivered activities including virtual reality, DNA extraction, robotics, 3D printing and chromatography.



Pupils were encouraged to ask questions to gain a better understanding of how studying STEM subjects in the senior phase can provide them with the skills required for future careers in these dynamic sectors.

After attending the event, 77% of young people believed there are equal jobs for boys and girls in STEM industry, compared with 48% prior to the event. When asked if they wanted a job in a STEM industry, the post event survey showed that less pupils were unsure and more said yes. Feedback also highlighted that pupils were able to name much more specific job roles after the event.

"The event was definitely worthwhile. Our students know the subject names but find it difficult to make connections with careers or post school opportunities. It is one thing to talk about these things in class, but quite another thing to actually meet people involved in different sectors with whom they can talk and interact."

**JONATHAN THOMPSON,
TEACHER, CEDARBANK**



"The feedback from our workshop was tremendous, and it was genuinely brilliant to see the young students so engaged and excited about a technical workshop. I saw tangible benefit from our workshop event; the students who participated were both eager to get involved and inspired by the opportunities that STEM can create."

**CAMERON LEPPER,
CLOUD IMPROVEMENT ENGINEER,
CLOUDREACH**

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