

Aspiration  
Respect  
Endeavour

Alderton Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3JA  
t: 020 8508 1173 e: office@rodingvalley.net  
www.rodingvalley.net  
Head of School: Mrs S Jenner  
Executive Headteacher: Mr P Banks



Roding Valley  
HIGH SCHOOL

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

STEM club – CREST Awards

As part of a STEM initiative we are inviting all year 9 students to participate in the CREST award for Science. This award not only allows them to be creative and research into an area of Science that interests them, but also to present their findings to their peers and to achieve a bronze CREST award.

Bronze Awards are typically completed by students aged 11+. They complete a ten-hour project which is a perfect introduction to STEM project work. Over the course of the project, students design their own investigation, record their findings, and reflect on their learnings. This process gives students a taste of what it is like to be a scientist or engineer in the real-world.

The CREST awards scheme is the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project work for 5-19 year olds. Your son/daughter will be able to gain their bronze award through investigation and enquiry based learning, which in turn will allow them to solve a real life STEM challenge. CREST awards have been proven to increase grades and interest in continuing in STEM education and careers, as well as giving students real life experience of 'being' a scientist and working on STEM projects. It also helps develop student's skills in creativity, teamwork and time management.

Given the current climate there will be a drop in club for support with this on Mondays after school but if necessary this may be run as a virtual club. All project ideas that we are suggesting require little equipment and can be run outside of a lab, these will be posted in google classroom and if students have a questions or need help or guidance they will be able to contact me via google classroom or email.

If your son/daughter is interested they can join the google classroom using the code: i5qlobf and come along to speak to me if they need extra guidance on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours Faithfully,



Mrs D Harris  
STEM co-ordinator

Mr Naidoo  
Lead Practitioner