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24th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child has been selected for the opportunity to work with our partner RGS on an exciting STEM project. Below is an introduction and brief outline of the project. If you have any further queries, please do get in touch.

My name is Tom Williams and I work for the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, running the Physics Partnerships programme. I work across a number of state secondary and primary schools across the region and have been working with Studio West Science Faculty for several years.

The intention of this programme is to raise the aspirations of students in North East schools within STEM fields, specifically in fields closely related to Physics, such as Engineering, Design and Technology, and to bring unique opportunities to selected pupils at those schools. The career opportunities locally in these fields are huge and set to expand rapidly as several internationally significant projects and developments take shape. All of the companies I work with want their future talent to come from local sources, but there is a gap between the high potential of our regions students and their aspirations and accomplishments in these areas of high-quality employment.

Starting soon, there is an opportunity for your child to take part in a special project, taking elements of learning from Key Stage 3 and 4 and applying them to a real-world context, solving a problem with real world application. This is a long term and open-ended project, to be conducted once a fortnight, and supported and resourced by me. There is no financial cost to taking part, but a personal commitment to the whole of the project is a must. The project will require your child to miss some lessons, but the upside is the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills which are widely transferrable and can be used to prove personal development in assessments and interviews for employment and further education.

There is also an opportunity to seek external accreditation, in the form of a British Science Association CREST Award. These are awarded to projects which meet certain criteria and are analogous with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which is more widely known. The application and

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awarding of this is by no means guaranteed, but is a wonderful “cherry on the cake” option to consider as the project progresses.

Should you have any questions, please do contact Melanie Smith, Head of Science at Studio West, who can forward any queries to me.

Yours faithfully

Mr Tom Williams
RGS

Mrs Melanie Smith
Studio West

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