October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

At Bishop’s we are very keen to identify opportunities that will enable students to gain additional experience and knowledge about the potential career pathways in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Opportunities in addition to the traditional classroom curriculum often help students to stand out from the crowd when making applications to apprenticeships and universities, and participating in a wide range of activities can help students with difficult decision making in the future.

With this in mind I would like to invite you to have a look at the STEM courses run by The Engineering Development Trust (EDT). This organisation is very keen to enable students to explore a wide range of pathways that link to their talent in STEM subjects, and we feel that these courses offer great benefits to students. Headstart and Inspire courses are run by the Engineering Development Trust for students who are interested in STEM subjects, and aim to empower them to carry on studying these subjects at the next stage of their education, be that A-Levels or university.

Inspire courses are aimed at Year 10 and Year 11: <https://www.etrust.org.uk/inspire>

Headstart courses are aimed at 6th form students: <https://www.etrust.org.uk/headstart>

Most of the courses are residential and are based at one of the UK’s top universities, although there are some non-residential courses too. The students will get to meet like-minded people whilst being introduced to engineering and / or science through a hands-on STEM project, lectures and workshops to give them an idea of what to expect during either A-level courses or at university undergraduate level. Within this they will learn how to manage a project, develop research techniques, undertake problem solving and write reports. They will also get the chance to hear about university life from lecturers, admissions tutors, post-grad students, meet engineers, scientists, researchers and professionals who will explain their own achievements.

The application form requires a named school contact person, but applications must be made directly rather than through the school. Please use my name and the school email and phone number in the appropriate section on the application form. The application form also asks you to explain why you would like to participate in a course. There are costs involved so please read this carefully, and financial support may be available for those in receipt of free school meals. Please contact Mrs Jackson if you wish to apply and qualify for this.

I feel sure that these courses will be beneficial and enjoyable but places are limited, so it would be wise to apply quickly if you are interested. Applications for Inspire courses are open now and Headstart applications open on 1st November 2019. If you apply and are successful, I would be grateful if you would let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Langston

Careers Leader