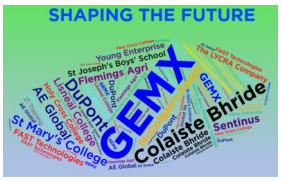
GEMX MAKE ME ACADEMY NEWS

Issue 1—January 2023

GEMX OBJECTIVES

To raise the profile of manufacturing & engineering in the NW
To develop a pipeline of talent
To encourage innovation

Welcome to our monthly newsletter. As the MakeME Academy is a pilot programme, we want to promote open communication between all interested parties. This newsletter will be produced each month to summarise activities and provide feedback.



MakeME Academy Launch—8th November

In early November, the MakeME Academy was launched, targeting year 11 students in the North West to cultivate a talent pipeline. The initiative fosters close collaboration between participating schools and companies, creating a dynamic learning environment that goes beyond traditional boundaries. This innovative approach combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on experiences to effectively prepare students for future challenges. The launch included a tour of FAST Technologies, showcasing exciting projects, including a Virtual Reality software demonstration.

Stephen Kelly from Manufacturing NI attended the launch and was delighted to meet representatives from industry and education.

Fleming — St Joseph's Boys' School
The LYCRA Company — Lisneal College
FAST — St Mary's College
global (Mechanical | Electrical | Renewables | Services) — St Brigid's College
McColgan's EST 1940 — Holy Cross College
DUPONT — Oakgrove College

Events This Month

Students across different colleges had engaging sessions with professionals from leading manufacturing and engineering companies. AE Global's Jemma and Liam highlighted promising career opportunities during their visit to St. Brigid's College and also met with some A Level students. At Oakgrove Integrated College, DuPont's Niall and Paul showcased Kevlar, offering hands-on experience and deepening understanding of a large organisation.

St. Mary's College welcomed Donna and Mark from FAST Technologies' Donna who challenged year 11 students with a quiz, while explaining the role of robots in global production and emphasizing exciting prospects in manufacturing and engineering. Lisneal College students met with The LYCRA Company's Sinead and Jack, gaining insights into potential career pathways, with valuable advice enriching their understanding of the textile industry.

Date	School	Company	Pupils
05/12/23	St Brigid's	AE Global	47
08/12/23	Oakgrove	DuPont	20
11/12/23	St Mary's	FAST Technologies	35
13/12/23	Lisneal	The LYCRA Company	20

Monthly Feedback

Positives

- Companies are keen to engage
- Additional contacts have been established—AE Global and an A Level class at St Brigid's
- Contact from other schools re future involvement

Issues

- Strike Action:
- Feedback Form completion rate is very low

Upcoming Events

16/01/2024—St Brigid's @School Visit 2
23/01/2024—St Joseph's @School Visit
05/02/2024—St Mary's @School Visit 3 - Know Yourself MASTERCLASSS
21/02/2024—Lisneal College @School Visit 3 - Know Yourself MASTERCLASS
22/02/2024—St Joseph's @School Visit 3 - Know Yourself MASTERCLASS
06/02/2024—Holy Cross @School Visit 3 - Know Yourself MASTERCLASS

The GEMX MakeME Academy targets Year11/12 students in Derry/Strabane secondary schools, addressing workforce needs in the local advanced manufacturing and engineering sector. The program aims to reduce drop-out from education by providing vital experiences and soft skills through employer engagement. It aims to empower regional youth, fostering self-belief and equipping them for success .