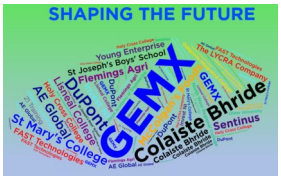
GEMX MAKE ME ACADEMY NEWS

Issue 2— February 2024

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 betweenall interested parties. This newsletter will be produced regularly to summarise activities and provide feedback.



@School 2

Lots of variety has been introduced by companies as part of the @School2 events. Site visits have been hosted by The LYCRA Company and also by DuPont, enabling the pupils to see first-hand what manufacturing environments look like. The pupils were given the chance to hear from employees about their current role and educational background, while playing Human Bingo and eating cream buns! Flemings and AE Global facilitated speed dating sessions for their school groups and FAST Technologies engaged in a series of challenging, fun activities designed to emphasise the importance of soft skills for employment. Pupils were actively engaged throughout all of these events and it is great to see how companies are striving to deliver the important message about the employment opportunities available within this sector.

Royal Academy of Engineering MASTERCLASS Sessions

The Know Yourself Masterclass, as delivered by the Royal Academy of Engineering, has enabled pupils to look at their own personality traits and so understand how they can contribute to group performance. The facilitator also encouraged the students to ask about her educational route and career choices. Group activities challenged the participants to solve problems, develop prototypes and ultimately produce a working solution.. Active discussion promoted group involvement with everyone engaging well.

Next Steps: Schools need to identify the FOUR pupils who will progress to the next stage of the MakeME Academy. These pupils will then attend two @Company Events where they will engage in practical activities and have the opportunity to further engage with staff in their working environment.

Events: January—February

Date	School	Activity	Pupils
23/01/24	St Joseph's	Fleming @School1	90
01/02/24	St Mary's	FAST Technologies @School2	35
05/02/24	St Mary's	Royal Academy of Engineering	35
07/02/24	Lisneal	Visit to The LYCRA Company	20
09/02/24	Oakgrove	Visit to DuPont	20
20/02/24	Oakgrove	Royal Academy of Engineering	20
21/02/24	St Joseph's	Fleming @School2	50
21/02/24	Lisneal	Royal Academy of Engineering	20
29/02/24	St Brigid's	AE Global @School2	47

Monthly Feedback

Positives

- Great engagement from companies; demonstrating willingness to engage/ adapt to meet school requirements.
- Degree of competition developing between pupils. Many are now expressing an interest in being selected for the second part of the programme.
- Completion rate of on-line feedback form has improved.

Issues

- Introductory talk for pupils needed from GEMX.
- Delivery needs to be focussed on individual group requirements.
- Could MakeME be run as an extra curricular program?
- Holy Cross College has withdrawn due to staffing issues

Upcoming Events

07/03/24	St. Brigid's	Royal Academy of Engineering	15/04/24	Selection of 4 pupils from each school to progress on MakeME Academy
13/03/24	St Joseph's	Royal Academy of Engineering	April	@Company1—dates to be agreed
10/04/24	GEMX Roadshow—hosted at St Brigid's College		May	@Company2—dates to be agreed

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 providing a range of opportunities to develop skills and improve employability.