



PLANTING VITAL SEEDS

IMechE West Cumbria Rewarded for Outstanding Educational Contribution

One of the most active areas in the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, in West Cumbria, has been presented with a major award to recognise the support given to SETPOINT Cumbria and STEMNET through the Science & Engineering Ambassadors programme and in particular, for organising and supporting many Engineering Fun Days over the past three years.

The Fun Days have provided a great engineering taster for over 1,000 year 6 students from Primary Schools across the west of the County, and the award was made at most recent event, held at the Lakes College, Lillyhall on November 9th.

Kevin Burke, Regional Director, STEMNET North and Tony Gill, Director, SETPOINT Cumbria made the presentation of a glass pyramid and a certificate, which was received by IMechE West Cumbria Chair & Vice-Chair, David Williamson & Adrian Norendal.

The event was supported by the IMechE, Aim Higher, Sellafield Ltd, WS Atkins, Jacobs and the British Nuclear Engineering Society, and provided yet again an exciting opportunity for a further 200 young students to make and test a variety of devices, ranging from airplanes to 'jitterbugs'.

Adrian's tireless efforts have raised over 10,000 in the past three years to maintain the excellence of these events, and have recently allowed a supply of wonderful Lego Mindstorms kits for every participating school.

- For further information on this release, interviews or comments, please contact
Chris George, IMechE West Cumbria Past Chairman, on **01946 811771**, email:
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- Further details of all IMechE West Cumbria activities can be found at
www.imechewestcumbria.org.uk



L to R: Kevin Burke, STEMNET North Director; Adrian Norendal, IMechE West Cumbria Vice-Chair; Tony Gill, SETPOINT Cumbria Director and David Williamson, IMechE West Cumbria Chairman with some of the Lego Mindstorms kits presented to the participating schools.



Students from Maybank Primary School, Workington, line up to test futuristic aerodynamic darts, built during the latest IMechE West Cumbria Engineering Fun Day

What are SETPOINTS?

SETPOINT Cumbria is hosted by the School Improvement section of Cumbria Childrens' Services within Cumbria County Council.

SETPOINTS can provide access to high quality meaningful activities and schemes for students and schools.

SETPOINTS have responsibility for an assigned area, which controls the number of schools and colleges they work with, ensuring the highest quality of service and a more personal and efficient channel of communication. This also enables them to respond to specific local and regional needs, whilst maintaining focus and ensuring alignment with national curriculum changes and requirements.

STEMNET supports **SETPOINTS** financially by distributing core funding raised from government. By awarding contracts and monitoring Business Plans, **STEMNET** quality assures **SETPOINTS** and promotes best practice amongst them.

What do SETPOINTS do?

The **SETPOINTS** primary function is to ensure that all young people, teachers, schools and colleges, in their area, have easy access to an extensive and balanced portfolio of high-quality STEM curriculum enhancement and enrichment opportunities. This can be directly through the SETPOINT or through appropriate partners and schemes and resources they have links to. **SETPOINTS** facilitate and support activities that address one or more educational theme:

STEM progression - Encouraging young people to pursue STEM subjects by enthusing them about the value and opportunities they offer.

Careers Awareness - Science and Engineering Ambassadors help young people find out about what STEM careers are really like. **SETPOINTS** manage the Science and Engineering Ambassadors in their area.

Work Related Learning - **SETPOINTS** have many and valuable links to STEM employers, helping to arrange industrial visits, work experience placements and student involvement in work related schemes and events.

Attainment - Activities are specifically designed around having a positive influence on pupils' attainment in STEM subjects.

Diversity - Activities aim to address the under-representation of various groups in STEM.

Aspiration - Activities are developed to encourage young people to raise their aspirations.

What does STEMNET do?

STEMNET aims to ensure that more young people in the UK make a choice to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related careers at all levels, and future generations are properly informed about the science and technology that surrounds them.

With the support of its partners, **STEMNET** achieves this in two ways:

By bringing science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities, experiences and excitement in to classrooms throughout the UK, enhancing and enriching the national STEM curriculum.

By linking those companies and other organisations that employ STEM educated people, and schools, in such a way that young people can get a clear idea of the diverse and exciting range of careers available to them.

STEMNET has received funding from the Department of Trade and Industry since 1996 and has continued to enjoy support from the DTI and DfES since then. As a national organisation, it works hard to ensure that no region of the country is disadvantaged, by comparison with any other, with respect to STEM opportunities.

STEMNET Mission Statement

Through partnership working, make an impact on the educational added-value and career choices of all young people, by demonstrating to them, their teachers and other appropriate professionals, the relevance of STEM in today's world and the superb opportunities it offers.

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