**3 Fantastic Opportunities to ‘STEM Connect’**

2015 and 2016 were two very exciting STEM years at High Tunstall College of Science. In October 2015 we held our first HTCS STEM Lecture where the keynote speaker was Britain’s first astronaut, Helen Sharman, and this was quickly followed by our successful application for STEM Assured status . Things have only got better since then with numerous opportunities for our students from bridge building with the ICE to an international visit to CERN, not forgetting successful delivery of our second Annual Lecture with Lord Professor Robert Winston. 2017 promises to be more exciting still.

We are proud to be the first 11-16 school in the country to achieve STEM Assured Status. The award recognises our current STEM provision, but more importantly it is the starting point for a 3 year programme that will result in HTCS being a STEM Centre of Excellence in the region. The attached STEM Manifesto highlights the pledges that we have made, which are all centred on the simple concept of making connections:

* Connect our provision to the future need of the regional economy
* Connect to industry
* Connect curriculum content with desirable skills
* Connect our students to opportunities beyond the mainstream curriculum
* Connect to our local community
* Connect industry to our planned new build.

The second point on the list is critical in our aim to create students who are ready for employment within STEM industries. An initial phase of this aspect of our work has been the creation of an Industry Advisory Board whose purpose it is to support us in developing programmes and opportunities for our students that are relevant to the needs of industry. The Board also provides advice on the types of activity that industry can offer to help students develop the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in the STEM sector; the attached Industry Connect form is a result of these discussions.

We want to engage with a wide range of STEM industries in order to achieve our aims and the next page provides details of 3 opportunities for you to connect with us. I hope that you find the enclosed manifesto informative and that it helps you to understand what we are trying to achieve for our students and for industry. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further information or to set up a meeting to explore how we can work together.

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**Opportunity 1 – Creating a Workforce for the Future**

The purpose behind Industry Connect is for us to be able to map opportunities for our students from years 7 to 11 so that every individual will have access at least 10 Industry Connect activities during their time with us at HTCS. If you would like your organisation to be involved in this programme then please complete the attached **Industry Connect Form** highlighting the numbers of hours or days that you could commit to any activity across a year. We can then collate this information and build a comprehensive programme for students from across the STEM sector. We will work with you to integrate your offer into our curriculum so that our students genuinely develop a set of skills that help prepare them to be your employees in the future.

**Opportunity 2 – Annual STEM Lecture Sponsorship**

Over the last 2 years nearly 2000 young people have been inspired by internationally renowned speakers at our Annual STEM Lecture. Most recently Lord Professor Robert Winston spent the day with us in school and then delivered a lecture followed by Q & A to students from schools that joined us from across the region. The event received very good media coverage across the North East including a segment on ITV regional news.

In order to sustain the delivery of these fantastic events we are now seeking STEM Industry sponsorship. Our 2017 Lecture will be delivered by Professor Marcus du Sautoy from the University of Oxford and details about the benefits of sponsoring the lecture can be found on the attached **STEM Lecture Sponsorship** flyer. We estimate that the entire cost of the lecture will be in the region of £13500 and we are hoping to attract up to £5000 from either a single or multiple sponsors. This is the biggest event of its kind in the region.

**Opportunity 3 – Creating a State of the Art STEM Centre**

In September 2019 High Tunstall will move into its brand new building and we see this as a fantastic opportunity to develop a state of the art STEM Centre in partnership with industry. Our vision is to develop a suite of 5 high spec laboratories that are designed and equipped to help prepare our students for careers in the areas of need that are forecast in the region over next 5 to 10 years. The resource is one that would be shared with the community and industry so that we can collectively support the development of the future workforce for our region. Our **STEM Manifesto** provides a little more detail, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to explore this exciting opportunity further.