An evening with Tim Peake

We are very keen to recognise the hard work of our students and foster their curiosity for science. Six Magna Academy students were invited to see the charismatic and much talked about astronaut Tim Peake at the Lighthouse on 6th December. Students were selected from a list put forward by the science department and teachers running STEM Club and CREST Awards.

The students who received this award were:

Summer Chalk (7)	Fantastic contributions in STEM Club and science lessons
Jamie Kirby (7)	Active participation and genuine enthusiasm in STEM Club
Tianna-Jasmin Forder (8)	Quiet dedication to science and STEM Club
Ephram Matocha (9)	Sustained commitment to CREST Awards and a remarkable work ethic
Marios Salagiannis (10)	Perseverance and resolve to achieve in CREST Awards, active participation in STEM enrichment opportunities
Seb Wakenshaw (12)	Devotion and passion for STEM subjects and willingness to support where he can.

"It was a very interesting experience going to watch Tim Peake, especially when he is in the room with you! He started off by explaining his childhood and all of the incredible decisions that he made which led him to become an astronaut.
Tim also explained his career during the army, and one of the secret missions where he was posted to Afghanistan almost 20 years ago.
In the second half of the talk, Tim told us all about his experience in space. He mentioned about the ISS crew's tight schedule during the mission and also how they spend their free time and weekends to keep entertained! …
Overall, it was an incredible experience to hear from Tim Peake himself and has definitely given me a few insights of the future that anyone could hold." - Seb Wakenshaw
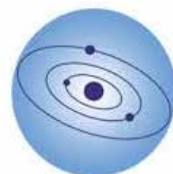
BAAO Junior Astro Challenge

November saw fourteen Year 10 and 11 students take part in the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Junior Astro Challenge. Students were required to answer two sets of challenging multiple choice questions about solar systems, planets and other celestial objects. Students were required to attend across two days and they were pitched against other students nationally.

We had many successes with the following students receiving certificates:
Silver - Owen Wordley (11) and Oliver Chapman (10)
Bronze - Sam Beakes (11), Jaimin Patel (10), Ajla Hasanovic (10), Phoebe Elliott (10), Diesel Butler (11), Marios Salagiannis (10), Jade Legge (10), Kara Butler (11), Zachary Fallis (11), Ruby Bennett (11).

STEM Club Halloween

STEM Club has been hugely successful and students have had great fun carrying out different STEM activities. For Halloween students made luminescent solutions, invisible ink, gooey pumpkins and ghosts out of tea bags. STEM Club is continuing throughout the Spring term with many more exciting experiments planned.

Student Portrait - Neo Skinner

Neo Skinner (10SMY) has been working independently on an elements and isotopes data book. His book includes information on the properties of all the known elements and their known isotopes. His work is extremely detailed and the depth of research he has done is most impressive.

Neo is now working towards a Higher Project Qualification with the help of a STEM ambassador, to gain formal recognition and an additional qualification for his work.

Rocket Challenge

Throughout the Autumn and Spring terms, students participating in CREST Awards have worked fastidiously researching and designing their model rockets for best flight times. They have now launched them with the permission of the aviation authority and students are now able to finalise their project to receive their CREST Bronze awards. Many will be moving forward to work towards their Silver award.

Upcoming Events/Challenges

- February - Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9&10)
- February - Year 10 Women in STEM Online taster day
- March - British Science Week
- March - Cool for School competition through STEM Club
- April - Junior Maths challenge
- 29th April - Junior Physics Challenge (Year 10)