



STEM Crew Big Questions

Notes for Parents and Guardians

What are Big Questions?

A Big Question is a way of guiding pupils to make links between distinct subject areas and relate them to the world around them. Pupils are enabled to apply their knowledge across a number of subject areas in order to consider their response to the Big Question.

We have chosen 6 Big Questions and added the necessary resources your young people will need to be able to form a detailed and considered response.

The questions span a range of areas; human performance, design, environmental concerns and technology.

How can they be used at home?

Each question contains an information sheet for pupils with links to any resources they may need. Of course, they may wish to do further reading in addition to what is recommended. Pupils are supplied with a planning tool in the form of a sample mind map and a project log to keep a track of their progress.

There are suggestions for presenting finished projects including links to apps or websites they may find useful.

How do students present their work?

We love to promote creativity and innovation. Working alongside INEOS TEAM UK, we are surrounded by cutting-edge design and technology. Therefore, we have encouraged the use of a wide variety of media for students to present their work from vlogging to green screening. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the freedom provided by working outside the classroom to communicate knowledge in an innovative and creative way.

Of course, if students don't have access to computers or tablets a great deal of creativity can always be shown with simple pen and paper!

What will my child gain from completing a Big Question project?

In addition to knowledge in STEM subjects, independent learning across curriculum areas will enhance their skills in key areas. We believe **context, creativity, challenge** and **confidence** will all be borne out of independent learning by using our resources in this way.

How can I help my child with the Big Question project?

Be involved! Watch the videos with them, help them make notes and organise their thoughts and encourage them to ask more questions. The beauty of a Big Question is in the curiosity it fosters. Big Questions often lead to lots of smaller questions before any conclusions can be drawn and findings presented.

For further tips and information, have a look at our Teacher Notes.