

A gold-standard education in **STEM** subjects



STEM
@ **PRIESTLEY**
WARRINGTON

PRIESTLEY College offers some of the finest Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths education in the country.

We were the first sixth form college to be awarded STEM Assured Status – the UK’s gold standard for education in these subjects – and this status has since been renewed proving the college’s ongoing commitment to raising standards.

The opportunities for STEM students at Priestley are endless.

There are trips as varied as going to CERN to visit the Hadron Collider or

Formby Beach to conduct some biology field research.

Our students also get the chance to pit their wits against peers from around the UK and the world in various Maths challenges and science Olympiads.

Enrichment activities provide learners with opportunities to further stretch and challenge themselves across all disciplines including Engineering, Maths and Physics.

This, combined with excellent teaching by enthusiastic tutors who specialise in their subjects, mean our students progress to great universities, careers and apprenticeships.

All this seems fitting as the college is named after Joseph Priestley, the man who discovered oxygen.

We are both proud of our link to the past, but even more so the scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians of the future.



SCIENCE

TECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERING

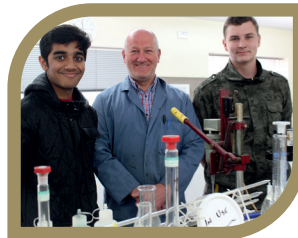
MATHS

Outstanding success

PRIESTLEY College enjoys a history rooted in science and technology. Named after Joseph Priestley – the man best remembered for discovering oxygen – the college has sought to live up to his great name with an investment of time, passion and money into STEM subjects. Here are just some of the things that set us apart.



Industry links



AT the heart of our achievements are the partnerships we have formed with business, which are helping to give young people the greatest of opportunities including lectures, work experience and expert advice.

Partners include Sellafield, United Utilities, Colas, the NHS, Environment Agency, NNL and Solvay to name just a few.

Our partners in industry appreciate that Priestley is an inclusive college that gives opportunities to many students who might otherwise struggle to further their education after high school.

Escape to the country

GEOLOGY and Geography students at Priestley are given the opportunity to conduct research in the field. Among the extras on offer for Geography students are trips to the Lake District and they are joined by Geology students on excursions to Iceland and Sicily where they can climb active volcanoes.

Pre-Medical Programme

THIS programme offers insights into leading medical professions through links with universities such as Liverpool and Manchester.

Visits and guest speakers, including practitioners and current medical students, bring the professions to life. Perfect for anyone seeking a career in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary science.

Memorable moments

NUMEROUS college STEM excursions occur throughout the year.

Most recently these have included trips to Iceland, Sicily, Iceland, Fiddler's Ferry Power Station, universities, exhibitions and galleries.

Last year students travelled to Switzerland for a two-day visit to the home of the large hadron collider at CERN.

They had the opportunity of a tour of the antimatter factory and saw the setup for the soon-to-be-completed GBAR experiment where antihydrogen will be released and the effect of gravity on it observed.



Tech-savvy students show their class

A TEAM from Priestley College won the Barclays Tech Innovation Challenge – the third time in four years Priestley has won the competition. Jared Skelton, Patryk Stec, Alex Parr and Tom Beesley believe they impressed the judges because they were the only team who had developed a working prototype of their app. All of the team study the IT Extended Diploma and used what they had learned in lessons and their own time.

Engineering Education Scheme

THE EES links students to industry engineers who coach them as they develop solutions to real-life production problems. Those who take part develop team work, problem solving and presentation skills.

Our scientists have learnt from practical demonstrations by University of Nottingham lecturers whilst computing students continue to benefit from our close links with the University of Salford.

Campus investment



MORE than £15million has been invested including in our state-of-the-art technology centre which is home to more than 200 computers.

We also have a Learning Resource Centre, which would be the envy of many universities as well as modern science laboratories and two hubs dedicated to Art and Design.

Amongst the equipment available at Priestley are 3D printers and Cubase for Music Technology students.

Academic excellence



PRIESTLEY College achieved its best ever set of A-Level results today as the Class of 2019 secured an overall pass rate of 99.4%.

There was a 100% pass rate in 34 subjects with impressive results across subjects as diverse as Chemistry, Biology, Politics, Architecture, Performing Arts, Art and Design, Music and Computing.

Evolve into a Biologist

BIOLOGISTS at Priestley get every opportunity to progress. They take part in Christmas Lectures at the University of Liverpool, Microbiology Workshops with the University of Manchester as well as take part in the Royal Society of Biology Inter-College Quiz. There's also an Essay Club that more than 20 students take part in each week.

Making headlines

WITH so much investment in STEM education at Priestley College it's no surprise there are some amazing results. Here are just some of the great news stories from the past year..



Brightest young minds put knowledge to the test

YOUNG scientists put their knowledge to the test against students from across the UK.

Some of Priestley College's representatives finished in the top 7% in the competitions which were run by the Royal Societies of Biology and Chemistry and entered by some of the UK's brightest young minds.

Former St Gregory's Catholic School pupil Amelia Rimmer struck gold in both the Chemistry and Biology Olympiads.

Amelia, who studies Maths alongside the two sciences, said: "I wanted to take the paper because it goes beyond what we do in A-Level so I thought if I could do well it would give me confidence for my exams."

The Chemistry Olympiad is one of the leading chemistry competitions for students in the UK. Organisers describe it as a way to challenge students, helping them develop creative thinking.

In Biology, the Olympiad is seen as a way of motivating students by giving them a chance to demonstrate their in-depth knowledge of the subject. The competition consists of two, 45-minute online tests taken in college.

This year a record number of Priestley students took part including 20 biologists and, in Chemistry, a record haul of two gold, six silver and 13 bronze certificates were awarded.

Ethan Baird, who also studies Psychology,



achieved a gold in Biology and silver in Chemistry.

"I thought the Olympiad would be a good thing to put on my personal statement as I am looking to go into a career in biotechnology," said the former Lymm High School pupil.

Vincent Chriscoli, who previously studied at St Gregory's, picked up a bronze in the Chemistry Olympiad. He hopes to become a doctor and plans to study Medicine after completing a degree in biochemistry.

"The Olympiad paper challenged us to apply what we have learned to real-life situations and covered everything from fizzy drinks, to biodegradable plastic and how pesticides affect bees," he said.

Isabella inspires Oxbridge to publish her words



ONE of the world's leading educational institutions published the work of a Priestley student last year. Isabella Odogu, who studied A-Levels at Priestley College, wrote an essay about the lack of women in key positions in STEM industries. Her carefully-crafted words won Oxbridge Inspires' STEM Writers' Competition and the prize was to be published on their website. Isabella has been offered a place to study Dentistry at the University of Manchester.

Scholarship offer for Priestley student



ONE of the UK's leading universities offered a scholarship to Geology and Geography student Kieran Hargreaves in 2019. Kieran, who also studies Business and Core Maths, was made the offer – worth £3,000 – by Bangor University after sitting a test at college. Bangor is one of the UK's prestigious Russell Group universities and ranked in the top 40 for research. Despite the offer Kieran, a former Lymm High School pupil, decided to study Geography at the University of Birmingham and hopes to go on to work in the Met Office.

Priestley chemists impress in science competition

THREE scientists from Priestley College impressed in a test of mettle against their peers from across the North West. Chris Cox, Zoe Fairfax and Chloe Tildsley had to work out how much iron there was in Irn-Bru as well as calcium in milk during the competition held at Liverpool University. They finished third out of more than 25 schools from the region – nearly half of which were teams from grammar or independent schools.

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partnership with...



and many more...

FOR more information about
STEM at Priestley – including
how your business could get
involved in supporting the
futures of young people in
Warrington – please email
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STEM progression at Priestley

STUDENTS go on to great things after studying STEM subjects at Priestley. Here is just a selection of those who have gone on to great jobs or who have secured university offers in the past year to study a STEM-related subject.



VINCENT CHRISCOLI
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
St Gregory's
PROGRESSION
University of Liverpool,
Biochemistry



YI CHEN HOCK
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
Bridgewater
PROGRESSION
Queen's College Cambridge,
Engineering



ZOE FAIRFAX
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
Culcheth
PROGRESSION
University of Bath,
Mathematics



WIKTOR GONDEK
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
Lymm
PROGRESSION
University of Warwick,
Physics



ALICE WILLIAMSON
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
St. Gregory's
PROGRESSION
Scientist - Malaria project,
Australia



HEIDI KRESSEL
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
St Gregory's
PROGRESSION
Hull York Medical School,
Medicine



BENJAMIN HILTON
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
St Gregory's
PROGRESSION
University of Manchester,
Chemical Engineering



Dr CLAIRE STANLEY
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
Birchwood
PROGRESSION
Conducting research at ETH,
Zurich



MOLLIE HARMER-LEICESTER
FORMER HIGH SCHOOL
Bridgewater
PROGRESSION
University of Manchester,
Medicine