



STEM - ICC and Thales / international links project

As part of our **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)** programme at Ifield Community College, we are embarking on an exciting new project in conjunction with a prestigious international science education organisation, Savauntier and with Crawley based tech-giant THALES; to provide a bespoke STEM enrichment programme targeted at our younger learners at KS3 (Years 7-8).

The project, loosely termed our **Woodland conservation programme**, will be run as part of our already established STEM club coordinated by Dr Keelan (science) and supported by other faculty members from science, maths and technology. The project will be broadly based around the dynamics of local woodlands and their conservation, but **direction of study is student-led**, so we cannot be specific at this stage.

It will be an excellent opportunity for our students to learn STEM with links to their curriculum and scope to explore their potential outside of the curriculum. We intend to regularly visit local woodlands to collect data, set-up equipment and observe the natural environment so it's a great chance to get out of the classroom too.

Thales have a role in mentoring our students and in providing support for students to develop and build their own technology and extend their ICT skills; in addition THALES will be hosting inter-school conferences for the students to share their ideas and research. With education support from Sauvantiars it offers a unique opportunity for students to experience the scientific process from start to finish.

We would also be expecting our students to participate to prepare and present their research as a group at the BIG BANG event on the 28th June at the Ardingly showground.

This is an exciting opportunity for your child, who has been selected and invited to join this project and we ask that you encourage them to attend. We start on Wednesday the 26th of April. The project will be run after school, every Wednesday from 3pm - 4pm. This may be extended from time to time, in the lighter evenings, to incorporate trips to local woodlands, but we will advise you nearer the time.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and make you aware of our STEM website www.STEMatICC.com, YouTube channel and Twitter / Facebook accounts.

Yours sincerely
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