

SWB/CREST2018/DT  
4 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## KS3 CREST Award 2018

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity available to your son/daughter through the Science department at Longsands. This term, we will be offering students the chance to enter into the CREST Awards, a STEM-based challenge.

This is a project-based award scheme run by the British Science Association. It is aimed at encouraging students to develop a greater interest in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and allows a greater degree of creativity in Science and Technology. Not only will students be awarded a certificate of their achievement, it will also support them in their transition from KS3 to GCSE. In addition, UCAS (the organisation responsible for managing applications to Higher Education courses) endorse the inclusion of CREST awards into personal statements and they can be used to enhance applications to universities, colleges and potential employers.

The award involves developing research and investigation skills and the ability to design and complete a science project. There are three different levels of CREST Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Initially students would undertake the Bronze award (aimed at 11-14 year olds) with the possibility of upgrading to the Silver award. Bronze Awards focus on fun, teamwork and transferable skills. It involves around 10 hours of project work which will be completed during Science club, afterschool on Friday, from 3:10 to 4:00 in G13. It is important that those pupils who chose to take part in the CREST Awards are fully committed to giving up this time.

There is a fee of £5 charged by the British Science Association for the processing of completed projects and the producing of certificates for successful projects. As such, this will only be required to be paid once the projects have been completed and are ready to be sent off. You will be notified when this payment is required and it will be payable on ParentPay. If you have any difficulty accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the Finance Department on 01480 223336/37.

If your son/daughter is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, you may be able to access financial support for this purchase. Pupil Premium funding is available for students who have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years, are looked after or have parents in the armed forces. Further advice on eligibility for Pupil Premium funding is available on our website. If you are not eligible for Pupil Premium but are currently experiencing financial hardship, the Academy may be able to support you. If you wish to apply for Pupil Premium or discuss current financial hardship, please write to or email Mrs F Smith ([fsmith@longsands.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:fsmith@longsands.cambs.sch.uk)).

If your son/daughter is interested in taking part in the Award, they need to come to **G13 on Friday 12 January** at **3:10** for further information about the project. If they are unable to attend this meeting, they should let me know as soon as possible if they wish to take part.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Blake  
Teacher of Science