

These reports were originally written for the Aimhigher LIFE Newsletter

Engineering and Technology Challenge Days at Yeovilton Airbase

Pupils from seven LIFE Area Schools attended four Engineering and Technology Challenge days designed and hosted by the Fleet Air Arm Education Department at Yeovilton Airbase in Somerset.

Students attending these activity days were given the opportunity to achieve their 'Bronze CREST Awards' in Science and Technology. These prestigious awards (on a par with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards) should encourage students to go on to achieve their Silver and Gold Awards. The Gold Award is likely to attract UCAS Points for University entry in the future. Over 90% of the participating students achieved their CREST Bronze awards on the day.



Technology Challenge Activity Days

The Technology Challenge days, which ran at both Avonbourne and Holyrood Schools, introduced students to the field of Design and Technology whilst offering the opportunity to earn CREST accreditation too. The focus of the challenge days is for students to come up with workable solutions to 'Real World' design problems, typical of the work they would do at Higher Education Level. This includes looking at the feasibility of a design project concept solution – fundamentally the initial starting point of their HE Level Project in this area. The challenges themselves require the students to work closely together and communicate effectively with one another, firstly identifying the different skill sets they possess, then by allocating tasks and responsibilities that matched those needed; to come up with workable and efficient solutions to the design problems set.