

Unlocking the Power of STEM: Transforming futures in the North West with Children Challenging Industry

The Children Challenging Industry (CCI) initiative will be launching in the North West in 2024; this flagship programme of the Centre for Industry Education Collaboration will be igniting the flames of curiosity and ambition among young minds across the region. The programme stands at the intersection of education, industry, and community, offering a unique opportunity for companies to make an impact on the STEM aspirations of local children.

The vision

The CCI programme is designed to bring about meaningful and lasting change in the STEM education landscape:

(i) Enhancing understanding of STEM and sustainability:

CCI bridges the gap between the classroom and industry, demonstrating the real-world applications of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; sharing important sustainability stories from industry

(ii) Raising STEM career aspirations:

CCI ignites the spark of curiosity and aspiration in young minds. By offering engaging site visits, connecting with industry professionals, and showcasing STEM careers in a relatable manner, we cultivate the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

The role of industry

Industry partners play a pivotal role in the success of CCI. By partnering with us, you can have a direct impact on local children's understanding of the relevance of their science to your work, by:

(i) Building relationships:

CIEC employs advisory teachers who act as facilitators between schools and partner companies. As an industry sponsor, you'll have the opportunity to build relationships with local schools, fostering a sense of community and collaboration.

(ii) Empowering STEM professionals: Your sponsorship enables us to train and provide continuous support to STEM professionals within your company. These individuals become effective communicators of their science and careers, offering engaging site visits and interactions with children.

(iii) Teacher development: By sponsoring the programme, you support the professional development of teaching staff in partner schools. This includes training and in raising children's Science Capital, ensuring that links with industry are accessible and exciting across all year groups, as well as a wealth of industry-linked science resources that support the teaching of the science national curriculum.

(iv) Practical learning: Your sponsorship directly impacts the learning experience of children. We tell your company's story via a sequence of hands-on, practical, fully-resourced classroom activities for 9-11 years.



Proven impact: The CIEC legacy

CIEC has been at the forefront of such initiatives since 1996, and its legacy speaks volumes. 60,000 children have visited industry, and 15,000 teachers from over 2,000 schools have participated in the CCI programme. The rigorous evaluation conducted by our researchers, via pre- and post-programme surveys with children, teachers, and STEM professionals, provides valuable insights into the transformative impact of the programme, whilst enabling us to continuously refine the programme.

Empowering the future generation

Our data reveals that, on completing the programme, children feel science is 'for people like me' – those who look like them, sound like them, and live near them. This holistic approach not only enhances children's science knowledge but also sharpens their communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

Teachers, too, reap the benefits of the programme, gaining the confidence to teach science within an industrial context, and develop the skills to facilitate practical problem-solving activities that encourage children to think like scientists and engineers.

Join us in shaping the future

The CCI programme is an opportunity for industry sponsors to shape the future of STEM education in their locality. By partnering with us, you have the chance to make a lasting impact on your community, inspire young minds, and foster a thriving STEM ecosystem in your region.

For more information on how to become an industry partner, please contact us at ciec@york.ac.uk, or find out more at the CNW breakfast meeting on the 7th December at Daresbury.

Together, we can unlock the potential of the next generation and make a difference that lasts a lifetime.