

# Inspiring the Future

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*Date: Thursday 14 March 2019*

On the 22nd of January this year, students from Whitecross, Bishops and Aylestone schools, embarked on a six week STEM course, to learn about future careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at Hereford and Ludlow college.

In order to inspire the next generation of young people, students were split into three different subjects: Music technology, Programming and Engineering Tasked with separate challenges. The engineering students set about building a Velleman bat detector with College teacher Vince Heeley. It was described as really successful and he went on to say, "I knew roughly what I wanted from it and was pleased with how well it went."

The project was designed to spark an interest in engineering, in order to inspire school students because there is currently an ageing profile of engineers. Head of Engineering and IT at the college, Dr. Gill said, "Pretty much everything you read about engineering is that we need more engineers. It's an ageing profile." It was hoped the course would help bridge this gap and get more young people into engineering. "The reason we tried to do it is STEM is the past and it's the future as well as everything we have, from the phone you're holding to the car that you're driving."

To be an engineer you need five GCSE's with - preferably - maths and physics. There are then two main routes you can take. The most popular route is still through a degree, which follows the traditional A level route. Alternatively, you can take a degree apprenticeship. Dr. Gill, the assistant principal, also stated that, "Quite often, in engineering, you need a qualification because that's going to trigger your next promotion."

In recent years, industry has moved from hardware work to more programmable devices. It's also developed to become a much more creatively geared career. "It's ingenuity, it's creativity. It's not a messy job." Dr Gill added. His advice for young people, choosing what they want to do in the future is to, "Worry less about what's going to happen in five, ten years' time. Choose something that's going to get you out of bed and if that's engineering that's great and if it's something else that's great as well."