

# open

LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIP



# IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



# INTRODUCTION AND FOREWORD

# 01

## WHAT IS THE OPEN LEARNING PARTNERSHIP?



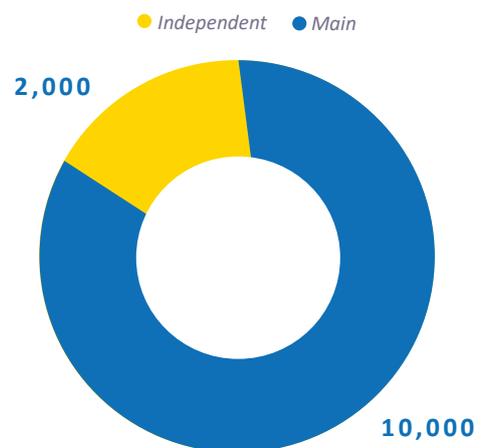
The OPEN LP is a committed Hub of schools from across the local area working collaboratively to organise a wide range of online and in-person events across the academic year to enhance the knowledge, opportunities and aspirations of both pupils and staff in the region.

## WHO IS IN THE OPEN LEARNING PARTNERSHIP?

We currently have 8 Hub schools comprising of Kettering Buccleuch Academy (Primary and Secondary), Laxton Junior School, Oundle Primary School, Oundle School, Prince William School, Thomas Deacon Academy (Junior and Secondary). These Schools are supported by our university partners and work together to organise a wide range of activities and experiences which reach far beyond the Hub schools.

Over 50 schools have benefitted from activities provided by the OPEN LP this year ranging from parents and primary school children attending Family Science, Year 10-13 pupils joining our university access programme to STEM Roadshows visiting schools as far apart as Edinburgh and Sussex.

*Number of pupils reached by the Partnership by Sector*



“The OPEN Learning Partnership is a great example of how local schools from a variety of contexts have come together to provide opportunities for students that an individual school would not be able to provide for them on its own. It is very much an idea of “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”.

In addition to the opportunities that the Partnership provides to a wide range of students, a key strength of this organisation is the fact that all school are equal within the Partnership, all contribute expertise and resources according to their strengths and so schools do not lose their own identity whilst collaborating effectively.”

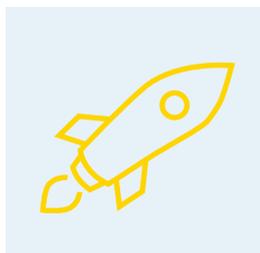
**MR. KIM HOMARD-ROY, DEPUTY HEAD,  
PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL**

## HOW MIGHT A CHILD IN THE LOCAL AREA EXPERIENCE THE OPEN LP'S WORK?

Most activities will happen directly through a pupil's own school with some events being offered more generally to the wider community. Some examples of activities offered over this last year include:



Saturday Science events for families and talks



The OPEN STEM Festival



STEM Potential - for capable pupils aged 15-18



ExpertEdLive



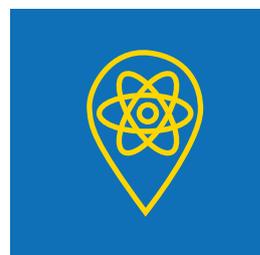
(OMEC) Mathematical Enrichment Conferences



Debating development opportunities



Greenpower Engineering Project - electric vehicles



Science Residential Programme

“Our partnership work is driven by the genuine desire to share, collaborate and learn from and with the people in our partner schools. For Oundelians, the opportunity to mix with, and be challenged by, capable young people from different schools and backgrounds, is hugely beneficial to their understanding of the world around them and their place within it.”

**GORDON MONTGOMERY, DEPUTY HEAD  
PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH, OUNDLE SCHOOL**



“During my recent visit to Prince William, Oundle CE Primary and Oundle School I saw firsthand the Oundle, Peterborough and East Northants (OPEN) Learning Partnership. It is an excellent example of how collaboration in this constituency can provide opportunity for young people. Working together, the strong relationships between maintained sector and independent schools involved in the OPEN LP mean that all play an important role in supporting the young people of our area. Their model of sharing expertise, school facilities and academic opportunity in STEM, drama, public speaking and personal development is testament to the value in cross-sector collaboration where all schools add value to the local community and where each benefits from the other.”

**LEE BARRON, LABOUR MP FOR CORBY AND  
EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

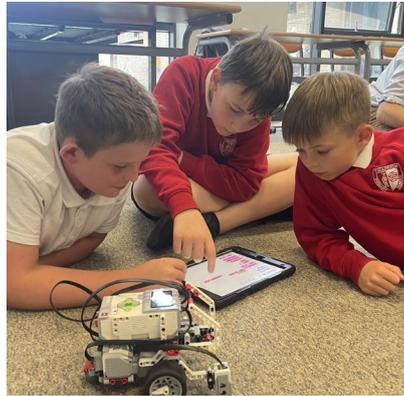
# STEM FESTIVAL

02

## BACKGROUND

The OPEN STEM Festival in July aims to inspire and raise aspirations for 3,000 local pupils, with expertise offered from our partner universities (Imperial College London and Swansea University), partner schools and visiting guests from industry. The range of activities included exploring the solar system with VR headsets, building rocket cars, an immersive Planetarium experience, animal experiences, cloud chambers, robotics and a series of top quality Science Shows.

**Delivered by Teachers from: Prince William School, Kettering Buccleuch Academy, Laxton Junior School, Thomas Deacon Academy, Imperial College London and Oundle School**



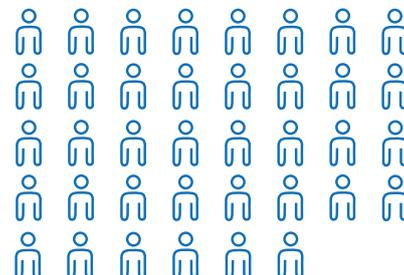
**85**  
PUPILS FROM 4 SCHOOLS ENJOYED A 3-DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME.

**471**  
PUPILS ACROSS 18 SCHOOLS HAD A FULL DAY OF STEM WORKSHOPS

**38**  
PUPILS FROM 7 SCHOOLS HAD A FULL WEEK PROGRAMME INCLUDING A UNIVERSITY TRIP, INDUSTRY VISITS AND SPECIALIST SEMINARS



**2400+**  
PUPILS SAW A STEM STAGE SHOW PERFORMANCE AT THEIR SCHOOL OR AT THE THEATRE



*I signed my son up for three of the STEM Festival evening shows at the Stahl Theatre but I do not know who had more fun – him or me. The variety and quality of the shows was simply brilliant. We both learnt so much and had so much fun too. And such good value as well. We are so lucky to have this opportunity on our doorstep and now my son can't stop talking about being a scientist – or maybe a 'funny mathematician'! Thank you so much!"*

# FAMILY SCIENCE EVENTS 03

## BACKGROUND

An afternoon of hands-on science in the laboratories at Oundle School and Kettering Buccleugh Academy. Parents and children work together on different scientific activities. The aim is to promote an interest in science with pupils and their parents and provide opportunities to discuss science at home. The OPEN Learning Partnership host this science event that brings together children and families across our local region.

Delivered by Teachers from: Oundle School, Kettering Buccleugh Academy.



2/6 EVENTS  
AIMED TO  
INSPIRE PUPILS  
WITH MORE  
LIMITED PRIOR  
ACCESS TO  
THIS TYPE OF  
OPPORTUNITY



## FEEDBACK

“The kids (and I) loved the event; “best one yet”, they quoted!”

“I then saw this family this morning and they were all so animated about the event, including Mum. She said how well organised it was, the activities were excellent, the food was amazing, how much they all enjoyed the event as a family and enjoyed meeting other families.”

“I thought the practical elements were brilliant, they were well explained, informative and easy for both children and parents to engage and participate.”

“Opportunities like this are priceless. My child absolutely loves this school event, thank you so much for this opportunity to come again. We had a really fun time together!”

“A really fun and interesting afternoon together. My grandson was captivated and excited all afternoon.”

# BIOART KNOWLEDGE

04



## ANNA DUMITRIU

Anna Dumitriu is an award-winning British artist who works with BioArt, sculpture, installation, and digital media to explore our relationship to infectious diseases, synthetic biology, and robotics. Her work is based on research and collaboration with UK and European scientific societies and university departments, and has been exhibited internationally.



1867

PUPILS INTERACTED WITH ANNA'S  
EXHIBITION DURING HER MONTH LONG  
RESIDENCE IN OUNDLE





## CLICK THE MOUSE FOR THE FULL BIOART IMPACT REPORT

To read the full report about Anna Dumitriu and the Open Learning Partnership work that was centred around the exhibition in Oundle's Yarrow Gallery, click the mouse.

### CREATIVE ROOTS

Pupils in the region took advantage of the opportunity to meet award-winning British artist, Anna Dumitriu and were able to learn first-hand, discuss and respond to her local exhibition. Anna was in residence at Oundle School for a month and during this time led a range of activities for local pupils. In particular a series of GCSE and A Level workshops with pupils from Prince William School, King's School Peterborough and Kettering Buccleuch Academy.

Imperial College London invited pupils to a half-day Creative Roots workshop to foster their creative and scientific thinking. From crayon rubbings to speedy sketches, how can art help us to better understand the science around us? Pupils from the area worked alongside artist Steph Von Reisz and Research Postgraduate at Imperial's Department of Life Sciences Hollie Folkard-Tapp, to bring art to life while exploring the research methods used in art and science. The workshops were all centred around Anna Dumitriu's work.



# OMEC

(OPEN MATHEMATICS  
ENRICHMENT CONFERENCES)

05



## BACKGROUND

The OPEN Mathematics Enrichment Conference (OMEC) event is hosted at Oundle School but delivered by teachers from across the Partnership. This event takes place three times across the academic year and is aimed at the most capable mathematicians in Years 5&6, 7&8 and 9&10. It is open to all schools in the Oundle, Peterborough & East Northants area and it seeks to extend the mathematical experience of all participants.

Alongside the pupil seminars, the visiting teachers meet for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training sessions presented by contributors from the OPEN schools.

Pupils participate in three seminars in mixed teams made up of pupils from different schools. They cover topics built on the knowledge that pupils have gained from their school experience but also extend their use into more challenging contexts. The afternoon session is a Mathematical Treasure Hunt contested between the teams and enjoyed by many teachers too.

**Delivered by Teachers from: Prince William School, Kettering Buccleuch Academy, Oundle School, Thomas Deacon Academy, Laxton Junior School.**





*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the regular presenter and guest speakers each week. He was genuinely enthusiastic each week to log on and take part in the sessions."*  
**PARENT, Family Science**

## BACKGROUND

ExpertEd is an established, free outreach program delivering webinars that offer schools and pupils the chance to learn through live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas, providing enrichment and curriculum coverage. The programme's main audience is 9-13 year olds (and year 11 for Aim High Maths Online), open to all schools and pupils, but primarily for the maintained sector. We have four strands: Family, Highlight Speaker, Curriculum Enrichment and Aim High Maths Online.

Our cross-sector steering committee includes both maintained and independent sector partners and is a wide ranging partnership of partnerships. Over the academic year ExpertEd reached over 15,000 pupils, with maintained sector schools accounting for over 94% of our engagement. ExpertEd reached children in over 180 schools, in 15 counties, from Yorkshire to Kent and Wiltshire.

TIM REAM



HELEN SHARMAN



**15,200+**  
PUPIL  
ENGAGEMENT

**94%**  
OF PUPILS FROM  
MAINTAINED  
SECTOR

## HIGHLIGHT SPEAKERS

This year we have had 6 Highlight Speakers including Fulham FC player, Tim Ream and Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman. ExpertEd brings notable guests, who might otherwise not be available for schools' visits, live into the classroom. The sessions inspire and increase pupils' cultural capital as well as creating interactions, through a live Q&A, between pupils and very special individuals that pupils might not otherwise meet.

## EXPERTED FAMILY

Midweek Maths and Family Science, of which we have had 5 series since September, occur in the evening and are designed for pupils to attend with their parents. The aims of this strand include promoting joint learning opportunities and conversations between parents and children in the subject in an enjoyable, interactive format and providing an inspiring, challenging, curriculum extension activity for all.

## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

This strand uses expert guests to enrich and enhance areas of the curriculum. Our 10-session engineering afterschool club explored topics such as aerodynamics and solar power with our partners at Swansea University. Across 5 Careers in the Classroom sessions ExpertEd introduced pupils to how a range of subjects lead into careers. For example, how studying languages can lead to a career in international development and aid.

## AIM HIGH MATHS ONLINE

New for 2023-2024, this was designed and led by maths specialists and an examiner from Thomas Deacon Education Trust. 10 interactive sessions prepared students, aiming for a grade 8 or 9, revising for their GCSE Maths exams. Sessions explored challenging maths questions and helped students develop strategies for maximising their marks. Students also complete takeaway questions to help consolidate their learning.



## STEM SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

During secondary school at Prince William School Oundle, I actively participated in STEM activities and was fortunate to join the first Open Learning STEM Potential cohort. This experience fueled my passion for engineering, eventually guiding me toward a career in motorsport. In sixth form, I secured work experience with A Reeve Motorsport, later leading the PWS Greenpower racing team in partnership with The Oundle School for two years. These experiences solidified my decision to pursue motorsport and engineering.

Now in my final year at the University of Bolton, studying automotive performance engineering and motorsport, I have benefitted from the Fernley Foundation's Engineering scholarship. I've completed placements in Historic F1 and the British Touring Car Championship, and established my own business, EML Motorsport Engineering, working with professional race teams in British and European GT, as well as historic racing.

Additionally, I have been involved in STEM outreach, inspired by the impact STEM programs had on me. I now deliver lessons, give talks, and judge national competitions like F1 in Schools, while working with Motorsport UK and Girls on Track to promote inclusivity in motorsport. Returning to the STEM program as a teacher highlighted the profound impact it had on my personal and professional growth.

**ELISE, STEM POTENTIAL  
PROGRAMME PUPIL  
2017 - 2021**

# STEM POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

## BACKGROUND

STEM Potential is a 4-year programme aimed at supporting pupils in Years 10 – Years 13 through to applications for STEM degrees at leading UK universities. Pupils attend workshops on Saturdays 5 times per year and have a 1-week summer school in Years 10 & 12 which includes industry experience and a range of workshops. The programme also includes a university taster day at Imperial College London. The programme helps pupils discover the wide range of subjects within STEM studies and works to aid progression to university.

83 Pupils from 7 schools took part during 2023-24. Many participants received University offers for courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering and other competitive degree courses. In the summer we heard that three more of our STEM Potential pupils had places confirmed at Imperial College London after receiving their A-Level results.

**Delivered by Teachers from: Oundle School, Thomas Deacon Academy & Imperial College London.**



**3 PARTICIPANTS  
RECEIVED OFFERS  
FROM IMPERIAL  
COLLEGE LONDON**

*Following a trip to Imperial College London: "Thank you and your colleagues very much for organising the trip to Imperial College London on Wednesday. The trip was an extremely enjoyable and informative experience and it has certainly given me more knowledge about the university than I had before. As events, trips and other programmes are run, I will be sure to put my name down as soon as I can!"*

# MUSIC PARTNERSHIPS

08

## BACKGROUND

Over the course of the academic year, there were a number of fantastic music events supported by our Hub schools and our formal partnership with the Royal College of Music. These included Oundle Strings Out, a Grassroots RCM Fellow event at Oundle Primary School, a Brass Day, a Strings Masterclass and our big finale, Oundle Sings, which involved a large number of our local schools.

 **400**

PUPILS TOOK PART IN  
VARIOUS MUSIC EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT 2023 - 2024



## OUNDLE SINGS

147 children from Year 5 from 8 local schools joined together for a day of singing songs from 'Around the World' culminating in a fabulous concert for parents. All the children sang together as well as a few individual items from certain schools.

**Delivered by Teachers from: Oundle School, Laxton Junior School, Oundle CE Primary, Royal College of Music.**



## FEEDBACK:

*My daughter had greatly enjoyed the two days particularly as she previously only ever played with 4 others so playing with such a large number of musicians was an amazing experience for her. We have also noticed she has found a renewed enjoyment and confidence with her music and with practising!"*

*Thank you so much for organising Emma [Purslow, from the RCM] to come in on Tuesday. What a lovely afternoon we had! She is so talented at playing and with keeping the children on side - her enthusiasm is catching and the children had great fun as well as learning a lot."*

# OUNDLE SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE  
OUNDLE SCHOOL STRING  
ORCHESTRA INCLUDING MEMBERS  
OF THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

PAVEL FISCHER (B.1965)  
MORAVIAN FOLK DANCE

DIRECTED BY EMMA PURSLOW  
OUNDLE SCHOOL RCM FELLOW



# STEM ROADSHOWS

09

## BACKGROUND

The OPEN schools host a series of Science and Maths stage shows to inspire in children an awe and wonder about the world of STEM. These events travel as far as Edinburgh, Derbyshire and Kent supporting cross-sector partnerships in several regions and are offered free of charge to participating schools.

Delivered by Teachers from: Prince William School, Imperial College London and Oundle School



19

DAYS OF STEM  
ROADSHOWS HAVE  
BEEN OFFERED THIS  
YEAR



26

SCHOOLS HAD  
PUPILS WHO  
ATTENDED THE  
STEM ROADSHOWS



3400+

PUPILS WERE  
REACHED ACROSS  
19 DAYS, FROM  
SUSSEX TO  
EDINBURGH



2395

MORE PUPILS  
EXPERIENCED THE  
STEM ROADSHOW  
DURING THE STEM  
FESTIVAL WEEK

## FEEDBACK

“The students really enjoyed the guest speaker and were engaged throughout the session. Feedback from the students was really positive and for a lot of our students this was the first time they had experienced something like this.”

“Oliver spoke [about it] on the way home today and very much enjoyed and enthused over the talk, he was impressed with everything. Thank you as a school for giving the children exciting lessons to learn and explore.”

“The show was outstanding. Scott transfixed the audience for the duration of the event, making a range of scientific concepts fun and accessible, without undermining their complexity.”



# ROCKET CAR ENGINEERING BLOODHOUND

# 10



Bloodhound LSR is an iconic programme which not only aims to break the World Land Speed Record, reaching speeds beyond 800mph, but also to showcase world class science and engineering. By sharing every facet of this unique form of motorsport, we are able to inspire children and adults alike, demonstrating what is possible if you push physics and human endeavour to the absolute limits.

**Delivered by Teachers from: Oundle School, Kettering Buccleuch Academy.**



## 7

OF THESE DAYS HAVE  
TAKEN PLACE THIS YEAR  
ALONG WITH A FURTHER  
FULL PROGRAMME IN STEM  
FESTIVAL WEEK.

*Absolutely fantastic - staff and pupils commented it was the best workshop they've experienced in school (and we book quite a lot!)"*



## 850

PUPILS HAVE TAKEN PART  
IN THE BLOODHOUND  
ENGINEERING DAYS ACROSS  
2023-2024

*The leaders had good subject knowledge and were engaging and helpful. The workshop was great. We would love to have the chance to experience other STEM workshops / assemblies."*

# ADDITIONAL EVENTS

11

## EVEREST CLIMBER

Hari Budha Magar, a British military veteran from the world renowned Gurkhas gave an inspirational talk about his journey which led him to be the first double amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2023, entering the Guinness Book of Records in the process. His talk was an inspirational journey of human fortitude and the power of the mind to overcome seeming insurmountable challenges. From joining the Gurkhas - one of a few hundred in his year out of twenty thousand applicants - to leading his men in Afghanistan, losing his legs in a life changing attack, the path to recovery, changing Nepalese law and most recently climbing to the top of the highest mountain in the world.



*“As a Cadet Sergeant in the CCF at Thomas Deacon Academy this presentation has inspired me to work hard and keep on going no matter what life throws at you. Hari is a very confident and courageous man having done so many physical things with his metal legs, like skydiving, skiing and even the famous one, climbing Mount Everest. This has showed me that great things can be achieved even when life gets tough. What an inspirational guy.”*

## SCHOOL EXCHANGE DAY - MODEL UN/SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Kettering Buccleuch Academy Year 7s hosted Oundle School's 1st Form for a day of small group work focused on two sessions. The first session, a Model UN based activity with each group representing an individual country, outlining their position statements and debating a climate change resolution. The second, a series of scientific investigations including designing an effective parachute to be launched from a first floor balcony!

  
**134**  
PUPILS

*“In the MUN I improved my public speaking skills”*







## GIRLS IN ENGINEERING DAY - CATERPILLAR UK

As part of the events around National Women in Engineering Day, 80 girls from 8 schools took part in a full day event jointly hosted by Oundle School and Caterpillar. Girls spent half of the day undertaking engineering challenges at the Patrick Engineering Centre and half meeting engineers at Caterpillar’s site in Peterborough and learning how major UK industries deploy the skills of their engineering workforce.

## SWANSEA ENGINEERING SUMMER SCHOOL

The week provided sponsored students an opportunity to develop their engineering skills and knowledge including challenging participants to design, build, and test their own rocket cars. Combining theory with practice, students explored various aspects of engineering, from computer-aided design (CAD) and 3D printing to wind tunnel testing. They received guidance from Dr. Ben Evans, Associate Professor in Aerospace Engineering at Swansea University and had access to Oundle School’s state-of-the-art Patrick Engineering Centre.



## YEAR 3 ATHLETICS DAY

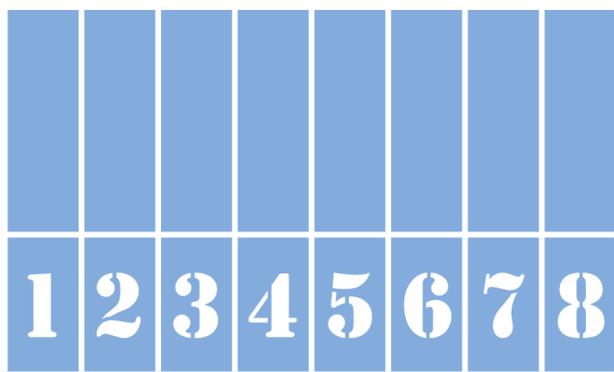
This was an afternoon of Athletics for Year 3s from Laxton Junior School, Oundle Primary School, Thomas Deacon Academy Junior School and Kettering Buccleuch Academy. It gave all the children the experience of throwing, jumping, running and working as a team. Medals were awarded to the winners in each event but the focus was on participation and team spirit, which was evident in abundance.

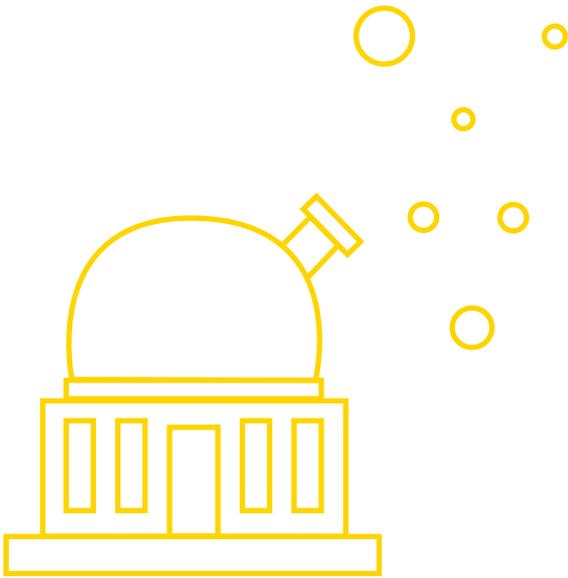


**150**  
PUPILS



**8**  
SCHOOLS





## PLANETARIUM

The OPEN LP had the privilege of a Planetarium on long term loan from Imperial College London to provide opportunities for children across our region to explore space and astronomy. During it's 6 months with us, the Planetarium was used by around 1500 pupils in 10 school visits including all OPEN schools and providing opportunities to reflect on the wonders of space for pupils from Year 1 to Year 13.

*"I loved zooming in to the planets close up and finding out all about them. I found it really interesting."*



**1500**

PUPILS VISITED  
THE PLANETARIUM  
FROM Y1 - Y13



**10**

SCHOOL VISITS  
INCLUDING ALL  
OPEN SCHOOLS



## CYBER GIRLS FIRST

This event with Pat Ryan CBE, was a big hit with pupils from all OPEN secondaries working together on sessions by JP Morgan, Colt and Cisco. Following on from this event, Oundle School is in the process of registering to be a Cisco Networking Academy which should provide opportunity for all OPEN schools to access their training courses for pupils aged 13+.

*"I have recently been very lucky to partake in a 'Cyber Girls First day' alongside schools such as Prince William and Thomas Deacon Academy and I really appreciated this opportunity because I enjoy working with other people and people who have different backgrounds and experiences to me."*



# NEW FOR 2024 - 25

# 12

## STEPS INTO STEM



This new programme was developed by the Oundle Outreach Scientist to support Year 5 children with the fundamental skills in science. A series of 5 sessions, delivered to every Year 5 pupils in our local primary schools (approximately 145 children). Dr. Mark Ebdon, our new Oundle Outreach Scientist starting in September 2024, will carry this forward.

## STEM 10,000 PROJECT



Our continuing plan to commit to providing 10,000 opportunities in STEM subjects to local children this year and every year for the next 10 years as part of a national initiative with selected cross-sector partnerships.

## GIRLS IN ENGINEERING



The OPEN LP is seeking partners to support with the delivery and financing of educational opportunities using the sector-leading facility at Oundle School to create a National Centre for Girls in Engineering, addressing our nation's need for expertise in engineering and for more women to enter this vital section of the workforce.

## FAMILY SCIENCE PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT



Expanding these programmes to provide Science Capital through providing events focused on children and their families who may not have previously had access to such opportunities, and hosting events in Kettering and Peterborough.

## GEOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS



Expanding the Partnership's portfolio of events to incorporate a GCSE focused Geography Masterclass day to enhance learning and inspiration in the Humanities.

## EXPERTED



Continuing to develop our outreach programme to deliver more webinars to even more schools and pupils maximising the opportunity for live interaction with experts in a variety of curriculum areas. Following the success of the Aim High Maths GCSE programme, an English curriculum equivalent is being developed.