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GATEWAY
TO
SKILLS
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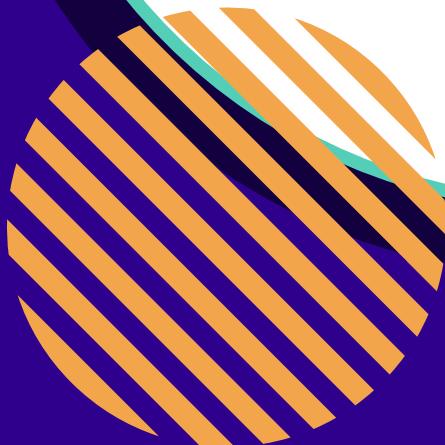


Impact Report

December 2024 – October 2025

SEGRO

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CEME'S ROLE IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

CEME was established in 2003 as a registered charity with the objective of contributing to the regeneration of the Thames Gateway region by creating prosperity and jobs.

For more than 20 years, the organisation has built strong partnerships across education, business, local authorities and sector bodies, helping to connect local people and employers with emerging industries.

Today, CEME is also recognised as a growing centre for green technology skills development. Its business campus in Rainham, East London provides premium, flexible workspace, workshops and events space for training, conferences and private hire, while its charitable mission remains focused on improving people's lives through opportunity and skills.

CEME's location places it at the heart of one of the UK's most significant growth corridors. Major developments, including the Thames Freeport, the expanding film and production corridor and new hydrogen and renewable energy infrastructure, are accelerating demand for future-facing skills. London-wide, skills policy continues to prioritise green skills, digital inclusion and stronger employer engagement, supported by the Local Skills Improvement Plan and new investment in

net-zero, retrofit and advanced manufacturing capability. These developments place renewed emphasis on high-quality STEM pathways that prepare young people for the changing labour market.

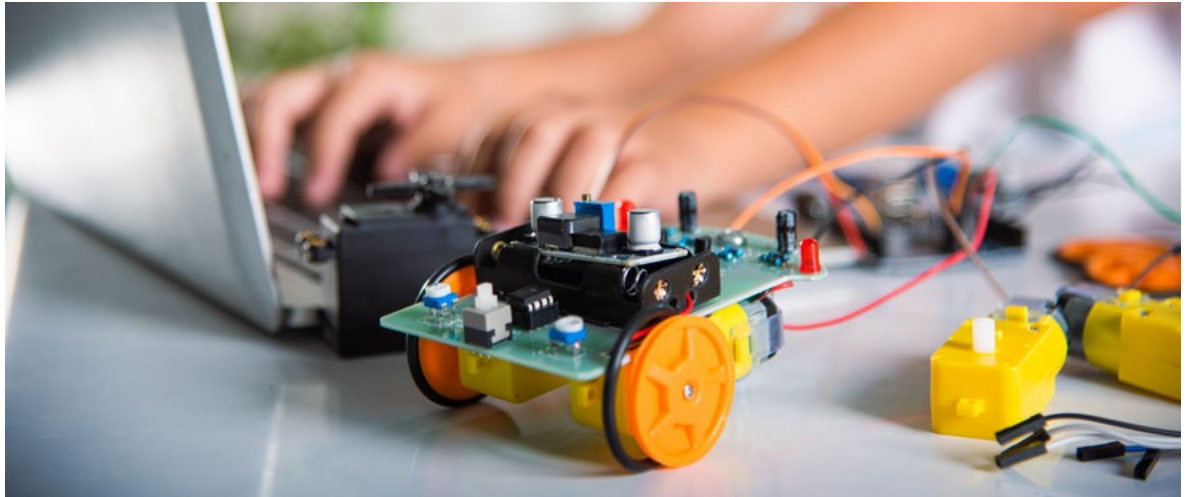
Across the Thames Estuary and surrounding boroughs, it is estimated that 1.3 million new jobs will be created by 2050. CEME's role is to ensure local communities can access these opportunities through education, upskilling and early exposure to STEM learning, while supporting employers to build the workforce they need, both now and in the future.

To help local people benefit from these jobs, CEME continues to work with partners in education, business, government and the third sector to develop and deliver programmes that strengthen green tech and STEM capability. This includes building a reputation as a trusted provider of green technology skills development and creating pathways that inspire the next generation.

We are proud to have delivered the Gateway to Skills STEM Programme, kindly sponsored by SEGRO and supported by SEGRO volunteers. This report sets out the key findings and results from the programme, delivered between December 2024 and October 2025.



IMPACTFUL STEM LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT



Many of the new jobs set to be created within our boroughs will be in engineering, construction, technology and manufacturing, which is why it is important to support impactful STEM learning and engagement in our schools, and ensure our young people understand the career opportunities and pathways open to them.

The CEME Gateway to Skills initiative was relaunched at the end of March 2022, sponsored by SEGRO, to give local secondary school students aged 12-15 access to first class training and equipment to develop their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills.

The aim of this initiative is to complement the national curriculum by bringing STEM learning to school students in a fun, interactive and engaging way, encouraging our young people to follow pathways into STEM careers.

We work with professional STEM tutors to bring an exciting and hands-on experience to students,

which includes a range of fun activities including the designing, building, and testing of crash proof and robotic vehicles, wind turbines, bridges, and a Mars landing rover. STEM days are held at our East London innovation campus during term time, providing a new and fun environment for learning outside of the school setting.

While The Smallpeice Trust delivers the day's curriculum, hosting it at CEME allows students to meet real-life STEM professionals. Imagine the excitement of seeing an actual office environment, touring the facilities and witnessing the workstations used by Ford apprentices!

This direct exposure makes STEM fields more tangible and relatable. Studies show that exposure to inspiring workplaces can significantly raise career aspirations. Seeing the exciting possibilities within STEM fields at CEME can ignite a passion for these subjects in young minds, motivating them to pursue STEM careers in their own future.



THE SMALLPEICE TRUST AND CEME



THE SMALLPEICE TRUST

The collaboration between The Smallpeice Trust and CEME creates an exceptional STEM education experience for students in Havering, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Barking and Dagenham. By hosting STEM days at CEME, the partnership offers students a unique opportunity to engage with STEM subjects in a real-world context. Students are inspired by meeting STEM professionals in their workplace, touring state-of-the-art facilities and witnessing firsthand the practical applications of their studies. This immersive experience helps to bridge the gap between the classroom and the world of work, sparking curiosity and ambition in young minds. Moreover, by showcasing local STEM careers, CEME demonstrates that exciting opportunities exist right on their doorstep, fostering a sense of belonging and potential within the community.

The Smallpeice Trust is an educational charity which encourages young people into engineering careers. The founder, Dr Cosby Smallpeice, was a pioneering engineer who designed the Smallpeice Lathe and donated £1.6 million to start the charity in 1966. The organisation reaches young people through STEM days, engineering courses, scholarships and more.

The charity helps young people from all backgrounds across the UK to explore their interest in STEM subjects and engineering, delivering in-person and virtual STEM days for primary and secondary school students, running multi-day engineering courses at outstanding universities, and awarding prestigious, two-year Arkwright Scholarships to future engineering leaders.

www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk



“ At The Smallpeice Trust, we believe anything is possible when you know how, and we’re here to give young people everything they need to fuel their passion for engineering. We couldn’t do that without the support of the charities, parents, teachers, universities and corporate partners we work with every day. ”

GATEWAY TO SKILLS STEM DAY IMPACT

Between December 2024 and October 2025, we have delivered Gateway to Skills STEM sessions to:

1,098 students*

*including 99 young people on events aligned to the iMechE evaluation framework, see page 11

Male students



94.5%

of male students enjoyed the activity

73.7%

of male students are interested in a career in STEM

Female students



92.5%

of female students enjoyed the activity

59.2%

of female students are interested in a career in STEM

Based on feedback received in the standard evaluation

What the students thought of the STEM days

93%

of students enjoyed the STEM days

63%

of students found an area of STEM they are interested in

66%

of students want to find out more about engineering as a career

67%

are interested in a career in STEM

91%

understand the different things engineers do

69%

said a career in STEM is suitable for anyone

75%

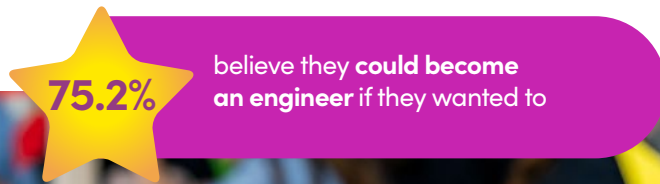
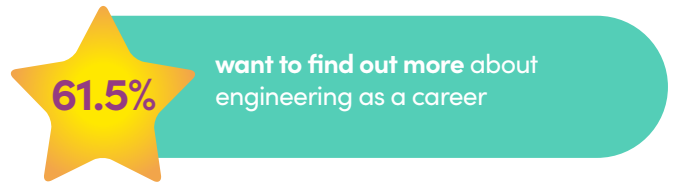
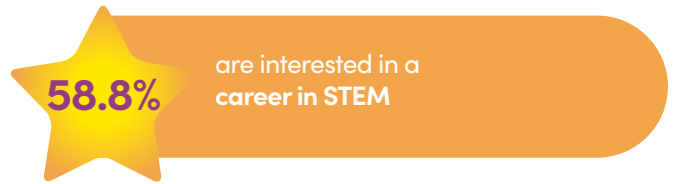
believed they could become an engineer if they wanted to

HAVERING DATA

Based on feedback received



Following the events:



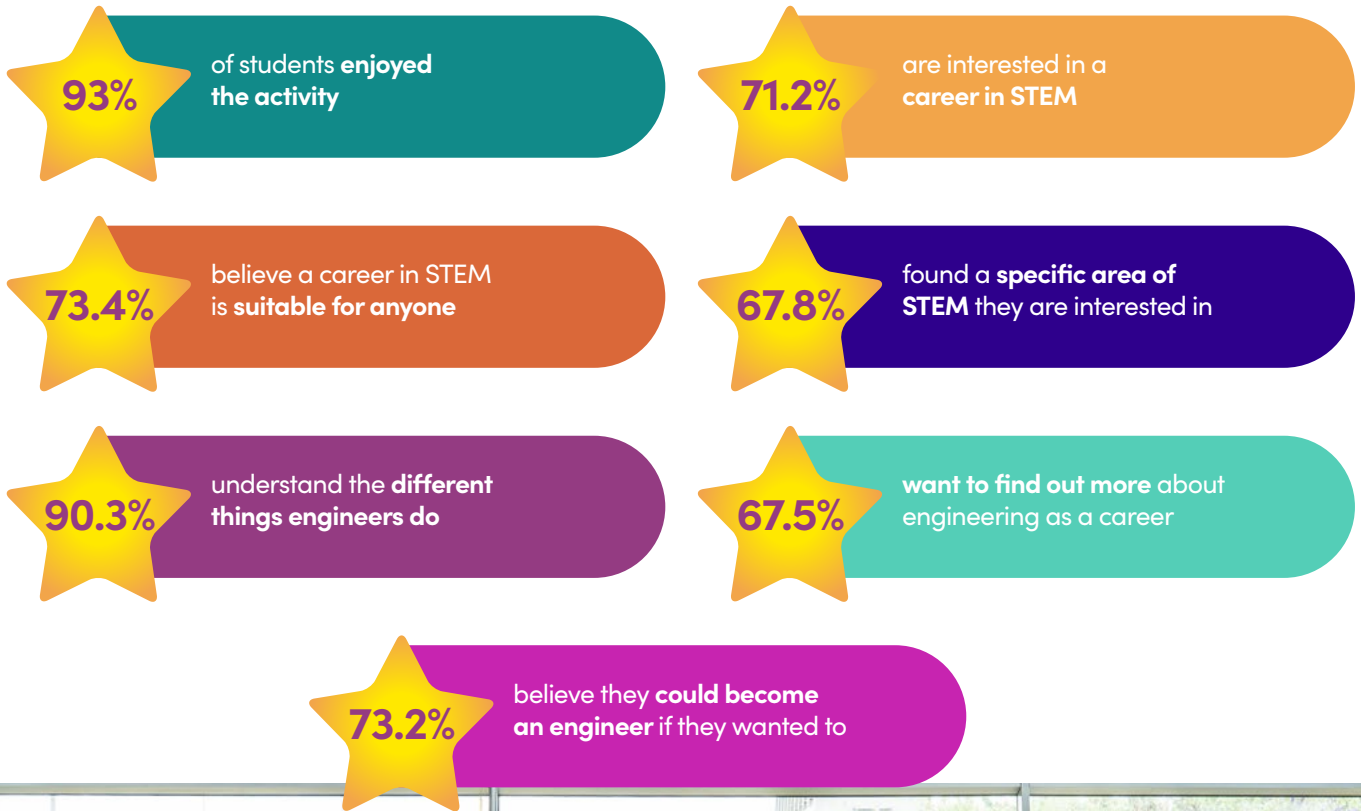
BARKING AND DAGENHAM DATA

Barking & Dagenham

Based on feedback received



Following the events:

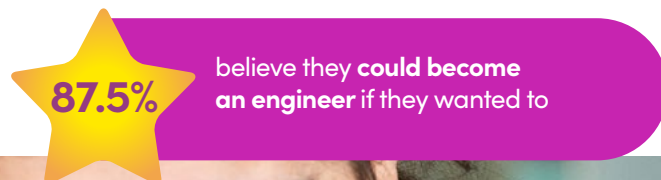


TOWER HAMLETS DATA

Based on feedback received



Following the event:



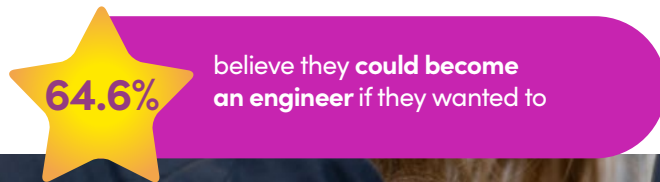
OTHER BOROUGH DATA

Based on feedback received

Haringey
LONDON



Following the event:



UNCLASSIFIED EVENTS DATA

In addition to the breakdown of events listed in previous pages, a further two events were delivered to 99 students at Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College in Havering and Sydney Russell School in Barking and Dagenham.

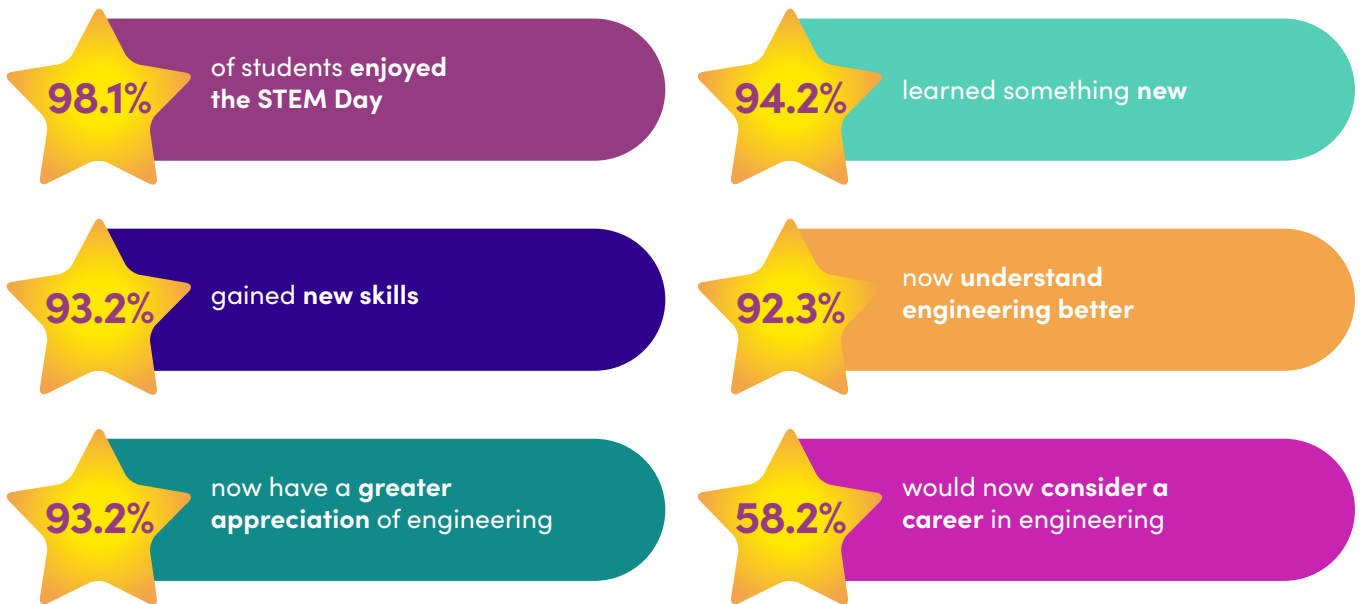
This page summarises the impact evaluation conducted with these two schools using the iMechE methodology, which does not align directly with the standard impact metrics.

Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College had two events delivered, one of which is included in the main evaluation on page 7 and the other included here, along with the evaluation from Sydney Russell School.

For these events, participants completed only a post-event survey based on a question set aligned to iMechE impact measures.



Following the events:



ENGAGEMENT FIGURES BY BOROUGH

Data for all school engagements regardless of evaluation methodology employed:

	Reach (All)	Reach (Male)	Reach (Female)	Reach (Events)
Barking and Dagenham	514	230	284	9
Tower Hamlets	56	38	18	1
Havering	468	214	254	8
Newham	0	0	0	0
Other	60	30	30	1
Overall	1,098	512	586	19

TEACHERS' TESTIMONIALS

Well-trained deliverers, high impact and engaging.

Good range of activities.

Very engaging for the pupils and opens their minds to different opportunities.

Excellent delivered – lots of skills used throughout the day.

Engaging, especially for students interested in STEM.

The students enjoyed it and were engaged.

Really good event for students.

Engaging and knowledgeable, kept students interested.

Students enjoyed the main activity.

The delivery of the day was brilliant, the students were excited to learn and build. They were really engaged and learning constantly, developing new skills and links with STEM careers were made.

Amazing! All students were engaged.

Great day, well organised and presented – really worthwhile for the students.

Interactive and collaborative.

An excellent opportunity for students to work as teams and use equipment that they wouldn't normally have.

Interesting, with group activities which helped pupils to explore.

Hands on, engaging and inspiring.



STUDENTS' TESTIMONIALS

I enjoyed making the windmill.

I really enjoyed the teamwork.

I learned a lot because of all the technical skills and teamwork.

I learned a new skill, thank you.

I really enjoyed it.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to explore our STEM skills.

I learned how windmills are made and how to work as a team.

This was a great experience.

This was very fun and improved my teamwork skills.

I found it fun and might now look to have a career in engineering.

Thank you for letting us have this opportunity.



GATEWAY TO SKILLS STEM PROGRAMME 2024-25 SCHOOLS:

- ★ Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College
- ★ Eastbrook School
- ★ The Warren School
- ★ Gaynes School
- ★ Dagenham Park School
- ★ Sydney Russell School
- ★ Barking Abbey School
- ★ Greatfields School
- ★ Marshalls Park Academy
- ★ Redden Court School
- ★ Riverside School
- ★ Mulberry Academy Woodside
- ★ Mulberry Academy Shoreditch
- ★ Harris Academy
- ★ Sanders Draper

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS

Research with students by EngineeringUK shows the power of role models. Young people who met an engineer held more positive views of engineering (81% compared with 64% who did not).

Young people who spoke to someone about a career in STEM were more likely to see a career in engineering as desirable (71% compared to 53%) and have a good knowledge of next steps (73% compared to 54%).

As part of our Gateway to Skills STEM activity day, we provide a careers session inviting people from STEM backgrounds and industries in to talk about

their career journey and running a Q&A session with the students.

With projects such as this, we have the chance to explore exciting technologies that are driving the next wave of innovation. Fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, renewable energy and even space exploration are redefining what's possible and today's students can be part of shaping that future. Through hands-on experiences, interactive demonstrations and exposure to these cutting-edge areas, Gateway to Skills can ignite curiosity and empower young people to imagine themselves as the engineers who will tackle tomorrow's biggest challenges.



THANKS!



“Bringing so many students together to tackle real engineering challenges is incredibly powerful. Watching teams collaborate, problem-solve and build working wind turbines shows exactly how initiatives like this inspire the next generation of engineers. We’re proud to work with The Smallpeice Trust to help students see how engineering can shape the world around them.”

Nicola Hollands, CEME’s Head of Partnerships, Skills and Training

The SEGRO team has provided a number of volunteers throughout 2024 and 2025, who have all given at least an hour of their time to support this programme. We would like to say a huge thank you to:

Alex Heat, Steve Pain, Chris Tarten and Rachel Quinn.





www.ceme.co.uk

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