

Siemens ENTHUSE Partnership focuses on virtual work experience programme for SEND students

SIEMENS

Technology giant, Siemens, has signed up with STEM Learning to ensure continued support and inclusion of Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) students in their virtual work experience programme.



The new ENTHUSE Partnership will allow Siemens to take the first steps to get the ground-breaking programme underway to ensure the support Siemens offers SEND students in the future, will prepare them for life in the workplace.

Siemens Education Development Manager Brenda Yearsley said the idea started during lockdown when the company was forced to move its work experience programme online. The courses were hugely successful with 1,200 pupils gaining a completion certificate.

"We had amazing feedback from pupils who took part," said Brenda. "We've created an interactive work experience programme – starting with a Diversity and Inclusion talk, Meet the Techies, Meet the Engineers, Meet the Apprentices and Graduates and Employability Skills and how to build a CV. It went down really well."

Brenda Yearsley Education Development Manager at Siemens

The online programme users included SEND students and staff family members and friends – some of whom have special educational needs – and certain interesting factors were flagged up.

How to get involved

If you have been inspired by how the Partnership with Siemens supports the learning and development of young people across the UK, and you'd like to know more, please contact us at employer@stem.org.uk or visit www.stem.org.uk/employers/enthuse-partnerships

Follow us:     

Making a difference in STEM education



"We had some unexpected and interesting feedback," said Brenda. "We picked up that some students with autism loved being able to log on and work at midnight. They enjoyed the fact that they didn't have to be face to face on a webinar if they chose not to – they could work in their own space in their own time and felt protected by the fact they were working in a virtual platform. Then we were asked if we might create a programme tailored specifically for SEND students."

"I got in touch with STEM Learning who have a reputation for high quality, great interaction and evaluation," said Brenda. "We wanted a partner we knew we could trust and who would help provide a quantifiable outcome."

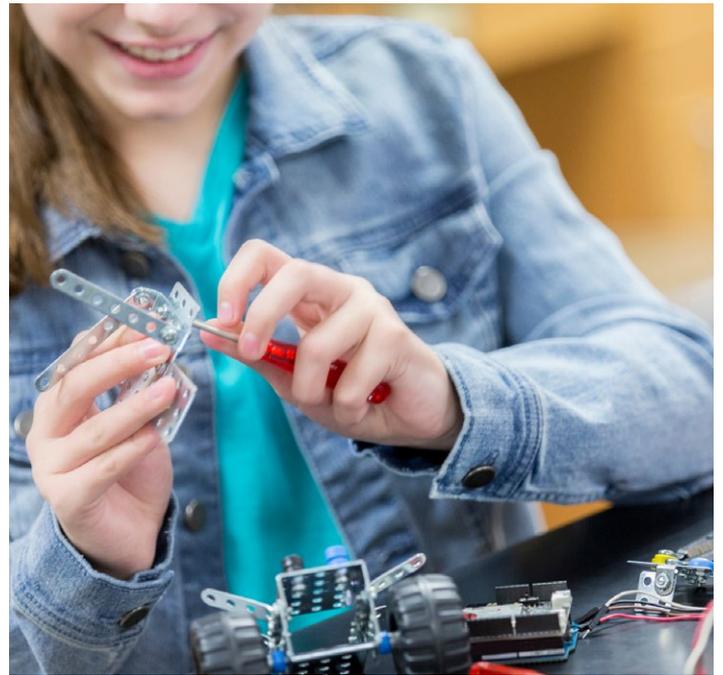
STEM Learning's Mark Wood suggested an ENTHUSE Partnership – and Siemens signed up to the £20,000 deal.

"I wish I could bottle STEM Ambassadors' enthusiasm!" said Brenda. "Mark got very excited, we got very excited, and he said no other company had done something quite like this. We now have a two-year partnership supported by their amazing staff with the chance to create something really useful."

Mark's STEM Learning colleague Victoria Rigby is now running with the project and is off to a great start as she has already signed The Lancasterian School to take the lead with Deputy Head Kira Buhler in the key role. Kira has created a cohort of six schools in the Manchester and North Cheshire area.

Victoria said "This term we will get all the schools and Siemens together and work out what everyone hopes to achieve at the end of the two years. It's so lovely to work on ENTHUSE Partnerships. We have got school settings with SEND requirements, we've

got industry with this need, and it's a fantastic opportunity to explore how we can put a project together that's supported by the resource to meet both."



This ENTHUSE partnership will also give the opportunity for the schools to develop their Computer Science skills as part of the NCCE, and engage with keen STEM Ambassadors from Siemens and other organisations who value students with a different way of learning.

Victoria added "We work in a structured way with specific goals and ways to measure outcomes. We will be there to navigate both parties through the project."

Victoria said Siemens had also made it clear they hoped the partnership would result in two-way learning and were keen to take on board students' opinions.

How to get involved

If you have been inspired by how the Partnership with Siemens supports the learning and development of young people across the UK, and you'd like to know more, please contact us at employer@stem.org.uk or visit www.stem.org.uk/employers/enthuse-partnerships

Follow us:     

Making a difference in STEM education



"Siemens wants the partnership to inform their practice as much as it informs students. They want SEND students to know that industry is actively interested in their opinion and diversity of needs," she said. "SEND schools in Greater Manchester are very keen to ensure their students feel included as part of society. By the age of 19-25, as they are progressing out of education – they might have a particular need, whether it's physical or mental health, that could be supported in the workplace. These pupils need to see industry is actively wanting to talk to them."
Brenda Yearsley Education Development Manager at Siemens



"It's absolutely vital to be inclusive in the workplace. Businesses often focus on gender and ethnicity but can sometimes overlook disability. We need to get more diversity of thought into Siemens.

"If we are engaging with more SEND students – some face to face where possible, others online – they may go on to become our employees. They may come in and put our buildings to the test and help create a better environment. It's definitely a win win.



"We aim to create a resource with STEM Learning which could be used by us and other companies in the future. Hopefully the new SEND Programme will have impact for many years to come."

For more information on Siemens please visit [siemens.co.uk/education](https://www.siemens.co.uk/education)

How to get involved

If you have been inspired by how the Partnership with Siemens supports the learning and development of young people across the UK, and you'd like to know more, please contact us at employer@stem.org.uk or visit www.stem.org.uk/employers/enthuse-partnerships

Follow us:     

Making a difference in STEM education

