



## STEM Projects

31<sup>st</sup> of January 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For the last few years the College has run two separate after school clubs for students with a passion for science and technology – these being *Science Club* and *Robotics and Technology Club*. Both of these clubs have been growing in popularity. At the same time, students are really starting to shine in terms of their interest and in the quality of the projects that are being undertaken. This has been so encouraging, that we see it's time to go the next step.

This year we are combining both clubs together to form a single club that we are calling *STEM<sup>1</sup> Projects*. This Club will be for students of all year levels in the secondary College from Years 7 to 12. We have excellent science and technology resources at the College and what we're striving for is to encourage students to grow in their skills, abilities and interests so they will be devising, innovating, collaborating and building their own technology and science projects.

What would this look like?

For year 7/8 students we offer the *SPECTRA* science awards. These awards allow students to follow their passions - studying everything from chemicals to bugs to flight to astronomy – about 20 different study areas in total. No previous experience is required other than a joy for science. Meanwhile, students from Years 9 – 12 will work on their own science projects as part of the *CREST<sup>2</sup>* science award scheme run by the CSIRO. As part of this scheme students can complete bronze, then silver, then gold awards. Students in Year 12 could complete a gold award at the same time as they complete their Year 12 Research Investigation. At each step of the process we will help coach and resource students involved in STEM projects. Those students interested in science projects would be working mostly with Mr Banham.

Students interested in technology, robotics and electrical engineering are encourage to use the technology space with Mr McFly. Students seen in this space may be working on small electronic projects, improving soldering skills, working with printed circuit boards, building functional PCs, working on coding modules, rendering and 3D printing their own design projects, implementing the design process for any number of projects and of course working in teams throughout the year in annual 3D rendering and robotics competitions.

Our senior students (SACE) may also see either space as an optional time to continue work on their major/minor science/technology projects or teach new skills to younger students.

If you have any queries about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Ryan McFly*

Ryan McFly  
STEM Projects Coordinator

Christine Clark  
Principal

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

My son/daughter has permission to participate in *STEM Projects* every Thursday (starting week 4) between the hours of 3:30pm and 4:30pm. I verify that I am able to collect my child from the *Prescott Southern* parking area at 4:30pm or from the library by 5.00pm.

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

<sup>2</sup> CREST stands for Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology