

# Pathways to STEM

**Partner:** The Sutton Trust / University of Nottingham/  
University of York  
**Location:** Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, UK  
**Key Beneficiaries:** 300 bright non-privileged students in state schools  
**Grant Period:** 1 December 2015 to 31 August 2020



**The Pathways to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programme supports academically able low and middle-income state school students to access the most selective STEM university courses.**

The programme aims to provide students with a foundation for a STEM career. Research by the Sutton Trust has identified a strong demand for skills in STEM areas, excellent and growing career prospects and a significant under-representation of those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds at entry and higher levels.

Pathways to STEM offers tailored education and careers advice; academic classes in STEM subjects; sessions to develop non-academic skills; a residential summer school; a work experience placement in a relevant STEM setting; assignment of a mentor; and a graduation event for students and parents.

The Kusuma Trust UK is supporting Pathways to STEM for 300 Year 10-13 students over four years. The programme is delivered in partnership with the Universities of Nottingham and York, which have highly-regarded STEM faculties and attract students from coalfield communities' schools.

Launch events took place at the Universities of Nottingham and York from January to March 2016. The universities held events to engage students with STEM, including a science trail which focussed on activities to teach young people about Science through practical workshops, including 3-D printing, testing blood types and extracting DNA from fruit.

University undergraduates held interactive Science sessions, which were delivered in the classrooms of participating schools in coalfield communities. Subject areas covered included chemistry, infectious diseases and medicine. Year 10 STEM book clubs have been established in six schools in Nottingham and delivered by the University physics department with support from academic staff and postgraduate students in each school.

The Pathways model has the potential to be developed for new sectors, particularly growing areas of employment where there is a shortage of skills.

