



20th March 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to invite your child to take part in an Underwater STEM challenge competition day in Bristol on 28th April 2026.

The competition heat will be held at the Underwater Composites Hub on the Bristol Science Park, and is organised by the Smallpiece Trust. Details of the event are on their website and this can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.globalunderwaterhub.com/skill-stem/stem-challenge/>

Global Underwater Hub are supporting this STEM Challenge, where teams of six students aged 13-14 will work together on an exciting underwater-themed project. Teams around the UK will design and build an underwater robot, then code it to follow a route, with a focus on exploring how plastics impact the underwater ecosystem. The winning teams from each region will then come together to compete at the National Final, with travel and accommodation expenses paid for that trip to the final, within reason.

This is an incredible opportunity to energise your students about STEM subjects with the chance of a trip to Aberdeen for successful teams!

Last year's event involved the following activities

1. Designing your very own underwater robot!
2. Solving complex problems learning about the subsea industry.
3. Developing team working skills.

Students will need to arrive in school for 7.45am, we will meet at the front of school and travel to Bristol in the school minibus. The event finishes at 3.30pm so I would envisage us returning to school for approximately 4.45pm so you will need to make arrangements to collect your child.

Students are required to wear their usual school uniform and bring a drink. Students will also need to bring packed lunch and break snacks with them for the day, if your child has Free School Meals, a packed lunch will be provided.

There will be a small charge for this trip of £5.00 to cover transport costs.

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits the cost of the trip will be met by the Academy (please contact Helen Martin):-

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



The deadline for payment is **Thursday 2nd April** and payment should be made through Arbor. You will find this in the Activities / Trips section of Arbor. By making payment through Arbor, you are giving consent for your child to take part in this trip and confirming you are happy with the activities and arrangements as outlined in this letter.

In addition, The Smallpiece Trust have an Image and Media Consent form which they asked is completed in advance. A copy of this is attached, or your child can ask me to provide a paper copy if you are unable to print this. Please complete and return the paper form to myself.

Should you have any queries regarding this trip, please do let me know otherwise I look forward to sharing this exciting experience with them.

Yours sincerely

C Hill

Mr Chris Hill
STEM Co-Ordinator