STEM Outreach: Sample letter/email for engaging with schools

Please feel free to adapt to suit your organisational needs and approach.

Dear [Recipient's Name],

Inspiring Girls and Women in STEM Careers at [Your Company Name]

I am writing to enquire whether your school **[insert school name]** would be interested in engaging with our organisation with the purpose of encouraging your students, particularly girls at your school, to explore the exciting and rewarding career opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) industries.

[Add information as to you are, what you do, and your local connection]

At **[Your Company Name]**, we are committed to fostering interest and enthusiasm in STEM among young people, with a particular focus on increasing women and girls' participation in these fields, introducing them to exciting career opportunities available in STEM **[or specific industry]** and our own apprenticeship programmes.

We hope by doing so, we can help to bridge the gap between education and industry, offering practical, hands-on experiences that compliment students' academic learning.

Why STEM Matters for Girls

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) related jobs are growing at a rate of 14% compared to just 3% in other sectors, yet STEM industries are grappling with a widening skills gap. It is estimated that an additional 1.8m workers with engineering/STEM skills will be needed in the UK over the next decade alone.

Recent statistics show that women and girls make up nearly half (49.4%) of apprenticeships, however only 14% complete STEM-related programmes, highlighting a significant gender imbalance. Predictions indicate it could take until 2044 for women's participation in STEM apprenticeships to reach parity with men.¹

¹ <u>FE News | Number of women starting science, technology and engineering apprenticeships won't catch</u> up with men till 2044, says Labour

Simply put we must encourage more individuals to pursue careers in STEM, and increasing the participation of women and girls in STEM apprenticeships is key overcoming this challenge.

Engaging with Your School

We would welcome the chance to meet with you, or other relevant staff members, to discuss how we can work together. We have inspiring role models who would be delighted to visit your school and share their own experiences, as well as the many opportunities available to your students. Our team can also support curriculum-related activities and careers guidance sessions. Additionally, we would be happy to arrange student and staff visits to our premises, where they can meet our current apprentices and gain firsthand insights into STEM careers, and skills required in industry today.

Our aim is to help your students, teaching, and support staff to understand the vast opportunities available through STEM apprenticeships. For students interested in our apprenticeship pathways, we also offer guidance and support to help them successfully apply.

We would be pleased to discuss how we can work together to increase engagement in STEM and support more girls to pursue rewarding careers through apprenticeships.

Thank you for considering this opportunity, and we look forward to the potential of collaborating with you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Position] [Your Contact Information]