



## Proactive teaching and student focus key to STEM excellence at Newton Moore Senior High School

As an independent public school, Newton Moore Senior High School (NMSHS) provides students with a personalised, globally aware educational experience. The school, at the heart of South Bunbury, has a strong sense of community and celebrates the strengths of students through a variety of innovative programs. The school has strong academic rigour yet at the same time has wrap-around support where every child is catered for as an individual.

NMSHS's STEM program was recognised last year when it won the Leadership Excellence (Secondary) award in the inaugural Governor's School STEM Awards.

Having supportive leadership is a significant part of STEM implementation at NMSHS, which has been a Teacher Development School in English and Math and has continued with Science, and now STEM from 2016.

The school has two Department of Education Endorsed Academic Specialist Programs from year seven to twelve; *Science Horizons* and *Engineering Specialist*. Students enrolled in these Specialist Programs have exposure to an enriched curriculum and enjoy extra lessons in science and engineering. Curriculum delivery is supported by extensive industry and community partnerships. Students outside these programs benefit from the teacher expertise, opportunities and resources.

NMSHS has a STEM coordinator who liaises between science, math and technology on professional learning, competitions, and events. Being proactive with grant applications has given staff the independence to purchase resources directly linked to the STEM initiatives. Items such as a laser cutter, CNC router, human powered vehicles and a Blest Plastic to Oils Machine have greatly impacted on student engagement.



There is a focus on celebrating and communicating Science and Engineering at NMSHS. Students participate in CSIRO's Crest Awards. This student research is the center piece of the annual community STEM Fair. This key event is developing great ambassadors of STEM and encouraging future leaders in these fields, while bringing kudos to the whole school community.

The Governor's School STEM Awards recognise principals and school leadership for high quality outcomes and approaches in the STEM subjects as well as in the way STEM teaching is integrated across the learning areas. For more information on the awards and to learn how your school can become involved, visit <https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/science/AwardPrograms/GovernorsSchoolSTEMAwards/Pages/default.aspx>