

# Flying Start Challenge

02/11/2017

## **RE: INTRODUCTION TO THE FLYING START CHALLENGE 2017/2018**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to introduce you to the Flying Start Challenge, something that your child has signed up to take part in for the next few months.

### **What is the Flying Start Challenge?**

The Flying Start Challenge (FSC) is yearly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event that aims to inspire and promote engineering to children in years 7 – 9. The aim of the challenge itself is to design and build hand-launched gliders to fly as far as possible. The competition includes a regional fly-off competition, which all schools are invited to take part in. The regional competition consists of a series of a glider fly-off between all participating teams, as well as activities which challenges students' knowledge and understanding of engineering. Winning schools are then invited to the Grand Final, which in previous years has been held at Fleet Air Arm Museum near Yeovil.

Teams taking part in the various engineering activities at the Grand Final can win great prizes, including a cash prize towards funding STEM equipment for the winning school. As part of the competition the teams can win various individual prizes as well as prizes for their school which includes STEM vouchers for £1000, £500 and £250.

Companies currently supporting the program include: Airbus, Atkins, BAE Systems, GKN Aerospace, Leonardo Helicopters, MBDA, Rolls-Royce, Triumph and Safran. These companies provide employees to support students taking part in the challenge. This support includes the delivery of teaching material, some glider building supplies, and advice throughout.

### **What is the Industrial Cadets Bronze Award?**

The challenge has been accredited for an Industrial Cadets Bronze Award. Industrial Cadets is an industry led accreditation backed by over 70 companies from various sectors. The award which students will receive at the end of the challenge is nationally recognized and can be used as proof of having gained key employability skills.

**The award will be presented to students who reach and participate in the Grand Final**, meaning that we cannot guarantee all students who enter the competition will receive an award. However all students will receive recognition of their participation in the challenge through receiving a certificate awarded by all the sponsoring companies.

The awards will come at no cost to your school as the cost is being covered by the Flying Start Challenge's sponsoring companies. You can find out more about the Industrial Cadets scheme here: <https://www.industrialcadets.org.uk/>.

#### Sponsoring Companies & Organisations



**The Challenge Looks to be Supported by the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)**

This year the committee of the challenge is in talks with the RAeS who are keen to support the challenge. The Royal Aeronautical Society is a professional institution who is dedicated to the global aerospace community; the RAeS provide support to professionals at all stages of their career. This includes hosting and supporting STEM events that inspire the next generation of professionals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope your child enjoys competing in this year's Flying Start Challenge!

Yours faithfully,

Flying Start Challenge Committee