

From classroom to career

Helping schools unlock opportunities for young people

The challenge for schools: A disconnected curriculum

Too often, the experience in schools is that the national curriculum can feel **disconnected to real-world opportunities**. Subjects are taught separately, so students struggle to see how disciplines link in meaningful ways. At the same time, many pupils and families are unaware of the career pathways on their doorstep in Camden, and teachers often lack the capacity to bridge that gap.

Schools also face constraints in **securing high quality placements, especially for disadvantaged students**. Many young people feel disconnected from nearby professional hubs, and those who most need support often lack the confidence to apply to opportunities on their own.

Bridging the gap between education and industry

Primary, secondary and special schools engaging with Camden STEAM report impact on multiple levels, from **improved delivery of the curriculum, stronger staff collaboration, access to a supportive STEAM network and high-quality brokerage of student work placements**.

At Edith Neville Primary School, the partnership with Camden STEAM has led to a dedicated whole school 'STEAM term'

each summer. Shared themes such as sustainability bring learning to life across the curriculum and **show pupils how subjects connect to the world**: "The children really see the links across the curriculum... and it's them seeing in the real-world things aren't discrete, everything is interlinked. And what you learn in one subject can really help you with other subjects." Ellie, Deputy Headteacher. The STEAM term has also **inspired teachers to collaborate and**



bring greater real-world examples to their students' learning, while the networking events have been a key source of inspiration for teachers: *"It was really inspirational to hear directly from people in those careers, to understand their day-to-day jobs and to talk with them about what they could bring into school to support our teaching and the children's learning."* Ellie, Deputy Headteacher.

The impact on young people

The STEAM partnership has proven to **build confidence, teamwork and presentation skills**. The practical, project-based approach is especially effective at **"levelling the playing field"** for pupils with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) or EAL (English as an Additional Language), enabling everyone to start from a similar starting point and discover their own strengths. *"A lot of them [students] are high EAL.... We have high needs of speech and language support. And I think within STEAM, it's not just about what they're learning academically, but their confidence, their ability to work together in teams, their ability to present to each other, and their confidence just grows so much."* Ellie, Deputy Headteacher.

At the primary level, pupils gain immersive, real-world experiences. At Edith Neville, the school emphasises how meeting professionals who reflect their own cultures and backgrounds is especially powerful, **helping pupils imagine themselves in high-level roles within their local community**.

Support from Camden STEAM

Camden STEAM acts as a hub that **efficiently and effectively connects schools to employers and specialists they couldn't reach alone**. This lifts the burden from schools and turns placements into meaningful, project-based work. For schools,

At La Sainte Union, Camden STEAM is the **main source of high-quality work placements**, securing opportunities for 36 Year 12 students in a single year. Despite challenges like falling enrolment and a high proportion of disadvantaged students, the partnership makes placements possible that the school could not arrange alone. It also gives schools a voice in shaping the programme through annual feedback.

For older students, professional placements have been transformative. By working alongside experts in elite professional environments, **students build confidence and realise that they belong in those spaces**. These experiences also provide **powerful evidence for university and apprenticeship applications**. For example, at La Sainte Union, health and social care students designed a public health campaign for the HPV vaccine, which directly strengthened their nursing school interviews. Another student, who had moved schools 18 times, found a sense of belonging and a future career pathway in environmental science through a sustainability placement.

"We've got disadvantaged young people in Camden and...some kids who really need the best of the best. And these are some of the best employers in the country or the world, let alone the city. And I think there's a magic in matching up our students with those employers." Ellie, Deputy Headteacher.

Camden STEAM provides **meaningful professional development, networks and inspiration for teachers, curriculum innovation, and access to employer partnerships** that would be impossible to replicate alone.