STEM in school

Interest in school science among years 7 to 9 has declined from

76% to 71%

For girls, the decline is 75% to 65%

Year
7 to 9
students are
less confident
in their abilities
compared to
2019

49% think they are good at science, down from 56%

43% think they are good at computing, down from 50%

8 in 10 STEM teachers have delivered STEM outreach in the last year

Barriers to delivering more STEM outreach:





Main motivations and discouragements for years 7 to 9 studying science:

Doing practical work

teacher 36 %

Finding science interesting

32 %

Don't find some

topics interesting

Finding it difficult

It's a lot to learn and/or remember

Having a good

7

Main motivations and discouragements for years 7 to 9 studying computing:

Find it creative 27 %

Find it interesting

24 %

Have a good teacher

18 %

But 43% of girls say nothing has encouraged them, compared to 27% of boys

Not interesting

30
%

Can be difficult

Doesn't fit with future plans

21 %

33% of boys say nothing has put them off, compared to 15% of girls

Interest and confidence in school science is declining. Hands-on practicals are declining, despite being the main motivator for young people.

GCSE students doing hands-on practical work at least once a fortnight is declining

44% 2016 2025

Top 3
barriers for teachers delivering practicals:

Watching a video of a practical fortnightly has risen from 26% to

46% since 2016



The demands of delivering the curriculum

1 44 %

Difficult to schedule due to time

37 %

Student behaviour

7 33 35 %

43% of young people report doing a STEM extracurricular activity in the last year

Careers fair	17%
Talk at school	15%
School club	12%

