

STEAM into ACTION Schools' Challenge 2026-27

Call out for Creatives

Part of
Derbyshire Makes (Our Future)

Project Overview

In July we launched the STEAM into ACTION Schools' Challenge, after a successful pilot project with 5 Derbyshire Schools in the spring of 2026.

For more information on the pilot and the Year 2 Schools Challenge head to the Derbyshire Makes website project page for [STEAM into ACTION](#) where you will find a short promotional film based on the pilot, a blog by Project Lead Clare Limb, and an information pack for schools with details of the challenge.

Call Out for Artists / Creative - Year 2 (2026 /27)

We are looking to recruit artists and creatives based across Derbyshire who have a strong interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and who explore this through their practice, and who can facilitate a practical exploration of the principles of STEAM (with the 'A' standing for Arts) with children and young people aged 8 – 16 years who are in educational settings.

Working with schools across the county, artists and creatives will work with groups of KS2, 3 and 4 learners in education settings to develop a **Moving Energy Machine challenge** which culminates with a display of artefacts in local libraries. Makers and their Moving Energy Machines will also have the opportunity to be selected to attend a grand finale at the 1435 (formerly The Stephenson Memorial Hall) in Chesterfield as part of the Derbyshire Makes festival.

Applicants who have sustainability as a guiding principle in their practice are encouraged to apply.

Artist Role & Responsibilities

Successful artists will:

Arts Derbyshire CIO

c/o 2-3 Friary Street, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 1JF, United Kingdom
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1. Plan and deliver workshops at an assigned school in: Chesterfield, Heanor, Ripley, Cromford, Wirksworth, Matlock, or Swadlincote, working with a group of learners from classes in participating schools.
2. Support final preparations by completing or assembling work for the installation at libraries, as needed.
3. Document sessions by uploading images and notes to a project blog.
4. Collaborate with Project Lead Clare Limb to deliver the workshop/s.
5. Liaise with Clare Limb to ensure a cohesive final installation and meet project deadlines.
6. Be self-employed, able to invoice for payment, and available to work within the project's timescale.
7. Use sustainable practices by incorporating repurposed and recycled materials where possible.
8. Have Public Liability Insurance and Enhanced DBS Certificate for Child Workforce* (essential).

Budget

Fee: £250/day

Travel Budget: A small budget is available for travel, with preference for artists based locally to reduce travel needs.

Timescale

- Deadline for EOIs: 31st August 2026
- Artist induction Day: September 2026*
- Work in schools: Autumn Term 2026*
- Library displays: April and May 2027*
- Grand Finale at 1435, Chesterfield (formerly The Stephenson Memorial Hall): 7th and 8th May 2027

* Dates to be confirmed.

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Application Requirements

Please submit the following:

1. A one-page expression of interest letter outlining your suitability for this work.
2. Examples of previous work showcasing your community engagement approach, creative skills, and relevant experience.
3. A current CV with website and social media links

Deadline: 12pm Monday 31st August, 2026

For more information or questions, and to submit applications, please email Hannah Barker at: projects@artsderbyshire.org.uk