

James Dyson pledges £6million to build a new STEAM education centre at Malmesbury C of E Primary School

- The [James Dyson Foundation](#) has supported engineering education at [Malmesbury C of E Primary School](#) for more than 20 years.
- Today, Dyson's charity pledges £6million to the school to fund a STEAM centre to encourage the joint provision of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths – one quarter of the school's pupils have parents/guardians working at Dyson.
- The donation is conditional on Malmesbury C of E Primary School receiving approval for expansion in pupil numbers from the South West's Regional Department for Education.
- "The level of support we would receive from the James Dyson Foundation is unprecedented in the state primary sector," says the school's Headteacher, Steve Heal.



Headteacher Steve Heal, Malmesbury Primary School and Sir James Dyson.

Today, Thursday 2nd March 2023, [the James Dyson Foundation](#) announces it is pledging £6million to [Malmesbury C of E Primary School](#), to drive the school's expansion plans and fund a new STEAM centre to educate the engineers and scientists of tomorrow. The donation will be made on the condition the school receives approval for its plans for the STEAM centre and an expansion in pupil numbers from the South West's Regional Department for Education.

Generally, the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) is separated in school. A STEAM centre would encourage the arts and sciences to be taught side-by-side so pupils can see how the knowledge gained from one discipline can be used in a creative way in another – an approach Sir James Dyson strongly believes in, as he believes it will lead to more children choosing to pursue engineering and science.

The James Dyson Foundation inspires the next generation of engineers and a STEAM centre would be built as part of Malmesbury C of E Primary school's planned expansion, with close collaboration with Dyson. The school's plans also include seven new classrooms and a school hall. The development could eventually allow for a 50% increase in the school's student population size, totalling 630 pupils across all age groups.

Sir James Dyson, Founder of Dyson, says: "Dyson has grown in Malmesbury for the past 30 years and many of our engineers either studied at Malmesbury School themselves or have their own children there now. We have long supported the school and simultaneously been on a mission to inspire more engineers all around the world. The creation of a new STEAM centre, right here in Malmesbury, will enable the school to be a pioneer for this age range, encouraging problem-solving and hopefully long lives as engineers!"

The pledge comes in the James Dyson Foundation's 21st year of supporting the local community around Dyson's Malmesbury campus.

Malmesbury C of E Primary School – rated Outstanding by Ofsted – is already at full capacity and unable to provide for the growing population in Malmesbury. The expansion would enable the school to acquire neighbouring land free of charge, from one of Malmesbury's largest new housing developments. The school wants to offer a place to every child living in the town so that they do not have to travel to other schools in surrounding villages. Malmesbury C of E Primary School is located within one mile of Dyson's Malmesbury campus and one quarter of the school's pupils have parents/guardians working at the global technology company.



Steve Heal, Headteacher at the school, says: *“Malmesbury C of E Primary School is thrilled to have the James Dyson Foundation’s support to expand our school so that we can meet the growing needs of the town, and bring wonderful new learning opportunities to all our pupils. We hope we will receive approval from the Regional Department for Education allowing us to unlock this generous donation and deliver an inspiring building. It will contain specialised facilities for STEAM education as well as accommodating increased numbers of pupils, and potentially sharing the facilities with children from other schools. The level of support we would receive from the James Dyson Foundation is unprecedented in the state primary sector.”*

Wilkinson Eyre, the architects behind many of Dyson’s iconic spaces, including its Malmesbury campus and Dyson Institute Undergraduate accommodation, would be enlisted to design the new space at the primary school, bringing state of the art architectural and design expertise to shape a space that encourages collaborative learning.

The £6million donation is the latest local pledge from the James Dyson Foundation. At the beginning of each year, the Foundation launches its [annual local community fund](#), providing financial donations and Dyson machines for fundraising purposes to charitable causes within a five-mile radius of Malmesbury, and that fit within the charity’s remit – engineering education, medical research and local community support. Most recently the charity has donated 1,000 refurbished laptops to 30 nearby schools, launched an engineering education resource at Malmesbury Secondary School, and given more than one tonne of food to the Malmesbury and District Foodbank, doubling their stock.

James Dyson Foundation

Founded in 2002, the [James Dyson Foundation](#) supports design, technology and engineering educational work in the UK and internationally in America, Singapore, Philippines and Malaysia. To date, James Dyson and the James Dyson Foundation have donated over £140m to charitable causes, including £12m to Imperial College London to create the Dyson School of Design Engineering, and £8m to Cambridge University to create the Dyson Centre for Engineering Design and the James Dyson Building.

The [James Dyson Award](#) is the Foundation’s annual design competition and is open to current and recent design and engineering students. Since starting in 2005, the Award has supported 390 inventions worldwide, providing funds to support their commercialisation; 70% of James Dyson Award past global winners are following up and pursuing their inventions full time. At school level, the James Dyson Foundation offers robotics workshops, led by Dyson engineers, and provides free educational resources. These include its most recent launch, [Engineering Solutions: Air Pollution](#): introducing young people to air pollution and engineering’s role in finding solutions. The Foundation also supports medical research and the local community in Malmesbury where Dyson’s UK offices are based. This year the [Dyson Cancer Centre at Royal United Hospitals in Bath](#) will open, and the Foundation continues to support the [Race Against Dementia Dyson Fellow, Dr Claire Durrant](#) in accelerating finding answers to Alzheimer’s disease.

The Foundation has a [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).