

Subject: ***“Professional Engineers – a resource for secondary school science and mathematics education”.***

Dear Member,

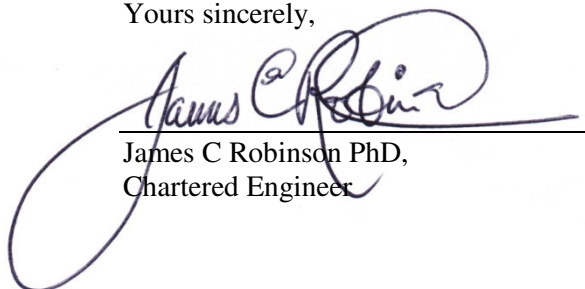
I am writing to you on behalf of the Engineers Ireland Cork Region Senior Committee in regard an evening we are organising entitled: ***“Professional Engineers – a resource for secondary school science and mathematics education”.***

We are all aware of the decline in the uptake of higher level mathematics and science subjects at senior cycle and the knock on effect at third level. This is a phenomenon that is not particular to Ireland, but it is a serious set back to our aspiration of creating a smart economy. There are many contributing factors to this situation, but it seems clear that we somehow need to inspire the younger generation back towards these important subjects. One of a multitude of strategies that could help achieve this is to put these sometimes abstract and esoteric subjects into a practical context when presenting them. This is where Engineers Ireland feels strongly that the engineering profession can help.

The meeting will be chaired by myself and will involve a presentation by Paul Sheridan, Manager Engineers Ireland STEPS programme, followed by an open forum discussion. The objective of the evening is to bring potential volunteer engineers and secondary school teachers in the Cork region together and give them a forum to discuss the challenges in the Irish education system, particularly in the teaching of science and mathematics, and to discuss how professional engineers can be a resource to improve the uptake of higher level mathematics and science subjects. It is hoped to establish a group/network of volunteer engineers and teachers who can work together on an ongoing basis to create events and programmes in the region to promote and enhance the teaching of science and mathematics.

The event takes place in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Thursday January 28th (at 20:00). We have invited teachers from a large number of secondary schools in the region to come and meet with volunteer members of Engineers Ireland. If you have any interest in getting involved please come along as we would value your participation. To help the organisation please email me at j.robinson@kepler-systems.com to register your interest in attending.

Yours sincerely,



James C Robinson PhD,
Chartered Engineer