

Welcome to our Young People's Programme e-newsletter from the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science). Here's what's coming up...

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## 1. Fun at the festival

The BA Festival of Science recently took place in York, from 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September. This was a return to the city of the very first Annual Meeting of the BA, which was held back in 1831. There was no escape from the explosion of science, with events both in the city centre and at the [University of York](#).



There was a wide-ranging and diverse programme for all ages and abilities, with events on everything from the science of chocolate to the truth about hypnosis! Over 30 events were available exclusively for young people aged 14-19 alongside the main programme and many schools took advantage of the activities on offer, experiencing everything from 'Extreme Science' to 'DIY DNA'.

Thousands of school age students were able to experience hands-on activities in two age designated areas (8-13 and 14-19) and hundreds attended the talks and workshops. The Festival also saw the successful launch of the [CREST★ Investigators](#) scheme.

Let's hope for even more when we visit [Liverpool](#) in 2008!

Click [here](#) to find out more about the Festival.

## 2. CREST ★ Investigators launch - more than orange squash and biscuits!

### A new science programme for after-school clubs

Thousands of after-school clubs will at last be able to offer exciting science activities to help feed young enquiring minds. CREST ★ Investigators, a new scheme to engage 5 to 12 year olds in science, was launched on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the BA Festival of Science in York.

This UK-wide programme will provide schools and other organisations with packs full of motivating activities to use in after-school clubs. The activities focus on thinking about and talking about science, encouraging children to solve scientific problems through practical investigation. They are designed to be used by organisers of after-school clubs and science clubs, or even by Brownies and Cubs, using everyday materials.

For more information please visit CREST ★ Investigators.



### 3. 'The Results from the Spanish jury are...'

Galen Brown (from Stromness Academy in Orkney) has had great success at the EU Contest for Young Scientists held in Valencia, Spain, winning one of seven EIRO Forum Prizes. Galen won his place at the EU Contest after impressing judges at the national BA CREST Science Fair held in London in February along with two other students, Anna Ressel and Mike Brownbill.

His project, 'The FLEXIBLE TV Standby Controller', involved an innovative device that switches off the electrical supply to equipment when it has been left on standby, turning it on again automatically when required. At the EU competition judges commended him for his dedication to solving an important problem and his motivation in carrying out the project on his own. His work and enthusiasm has so far earned him a BA Gold CREST Award, a trip to Valencia for the EU competition and now a one week placement at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Switzerland – the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

#### 4. The BA goes to the centre of science!

The well known annual national CREST Science Fair is evolving this year to become the Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 2008, and it has a new home! The Centre of the Cell in Whitechapel, London, will become the stage to showcase talented, bright young students who have produced projects of CREST standard across the UK. They will be visited by eminent scientists, members of UK and local science groups/institutions and the researchers working at the Queen Mary Medical School where the Centre is based. Also, for the first time we are inviting members of the public to visit the Fair, in the form of local school groups who are looking to inspire their students. The Fair should be bigger and better than ever and everyone is gearing up for a fantastic event.

For more information, please visit CREST Science Fair.

#### 5. Would you like a grant for your school?

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) are providing extra funds for a number of disadvantaged schools within the UK to help them organise their own science and engineering event(s) as part of National Science and Engineering Week 2008.

If your school would like to organise an event for National Science and Engineering Week and have a high proportion of pupils at your school who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or from ethnic minority groups – you may be eligible for a grant of up to £500! Please contact the NSEW team for more information on eligibility for grants and ideas for events.

#### 6. Planet Scicast

Planet Science, the ETB (Engineering and Technology Board) and IOP (Institute of Physics) are building the world's most entertaining resource for science demonstrations. Capturing some of that YouTube energy, they want your films of science activities, no longer than two and a half minutes, and 'not boring'. Each film is written up, and there are even awards for the best films. Deadline for the 2008 Awards: January 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. It's open to all, including schools, families, universities and science professionals, as are the Sci-Cast Seminars in five UK cities in October. They're FREE and will give you all the top tips on filming demos.

#### 7. Prizes for young talent in science and technology

Is there a young Einstein in your school? Have you met the next Marie Curie or budding Bill Gates? Acknowledge a talented youngster by nominating them for the Flipside Award. This award is presented to a young person, aged 16 or under, who has demonstrated talent in science & technology – through a school project, starting a website, inventing a product or anything else interesting. The winner receives a top of the range laptop. Two runners-up each win a 30Gb iPod.

Please pass this on to other people who might nominate a pupil.

Closing date: Monday 15 October 2007

More details are available here.



### 8. Try some activities for Halloween...

Autumn has now arrived and Halloween is fast approaching, so why not try some fun activities to keep you busy...

[Scary.com](http://Scary.com) (flashing lights)

[Zoom activities](#)

### 9. Finally...

We hope you enjoyed this issue of our e-newsletter. If there were any problems in downloading this issue please email: [Sangeeta.dhapp@the-ba.net](mailto:Sangeeta.dhapp@the-ba.net).

We really want to celebrate the work of our members so if teachers/science club leaders could send in any news, examples of work, photos of students taking part in the award activities, we can include them on the YPP website and future e-newsletters.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Young People's Programme.

**The next issue will be sent out in December.**

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