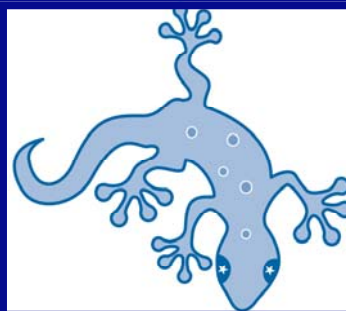


YPP E-newsletter

Issue 13

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...

1. New activities for CREST★ Investigators
2. Touch BA-ASE in 2008!
3. National Science Fair update
4. Win FREE science equipment for your school!
5. *perspectives* competition results...
6. Ready to Learn?
7. Important dates for 2008
8. Winners of the Young Engineers UK K'NEX Challenge!
9. 'Catch a Star' competition
10. Finally...



1. New activities for CREST★ Investigators

New activities for the CREST★ Investigators SuperStar and MegaStar resources packs will be released in January 2008. There will be 3 new activities for SuperStar; 'Tomato sauce', 'Under your feet' and 'Martin the magician'. This will bring the total activities in the SuperStar pack to 18. The new project for MegaStar is 'A nice cup of tea'. The new activities/project will be sent out to all existing SuperStar/MegaStar members FREE of charge.

Click [here](#) for more information about CREST★ Investigators.

2. Touch BA-ASE in 2008!

The Association for Science Education (ASE) is holding its annual conference from Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th January 2008 at the University of Liverpool.

The BA will be attending the conference and running the following sessions:

- National Science and Engineering Week: What's Happening in 2008?: Friday 4th January 2008, 1600-1700 in Alistair Pilkington, 114
- CREST★ Investigators: The BA's New Primary Award Scheme: Saturday 5th January 2008, 0930-1030 in Alistair Pilkington, 114.

The BA will have an exhibition stand (no. ES8) at the conference. Please visit our stand to try out the new activities from the CREST★ Investigators award scheme and find out more about the CREST Awards (for 11-19 year olds).



Young Scientists and Engineers
Fair 2008

3. National Science Fair update

The process for Self-Nomination closes at midnight on the 21st December this year for entry into the national fair. The self-nomination process is open to all students who have received a Gold CREST award or completed a project that is accredited by CREST at the Gold level (Nuffield, EES...etc).

To take part in the fair, students must fill in the self-nomination form online and submit a 4-page report before the deadline. The final projects that are chosen by the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) will be confirmed in the New Year.

4. Win FREE science equipment for your school!

Schools that organise an event for National Science and Engineering Week 2008 who register their event by February 1st 2008 on the BA website will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win free science equipment kindly provided by Philip Harris! Fifty lucky schools will receive a motorised orrery which features illuminated planets orbiting the sun in a clear, fun explanation of the solar system. So go online to register your event now!



Also sign up to the National Science and Engineering Week newsletter. Don't let your school miss out on information about the UK-wide celebration of science, engineering and technology (SET) which sees people of all ages taking part in, and organising, a vast array of SET events.

To sign up for the e-newsletter, visit the website and complete the registration form.

5. perspectives competition results...

Students of key stage 3 and 4 enjoyed a schools' session as part of the perspectives poster competition at the BA Festival of Science in York this year. perspectives is a competition for early-career researchers to explore the relationship between science and society. Pupils from across the region chatted to 35 PhD students who study different branches of science about the ethical and social impacts of their research. Visiting the scheme supports the '*how science works*' element of GCSE science courses.

Many students also took part in a quiz about the posters. Daniel Harding, from Woodkirk High Specialist Science School near Leeds, got all the answers right and won an iPod shuffle for himself and another for his school.

If you would like to bring your 11 - 18 year old students to perspectives in Liverpool next year, please email hilary.jackson@the-ba.net.

6. Ready to Learn?

Every teacher knows that however good the preparation, material and delivery, effective learning can only occur if the students are in the right frame of mind.

A major scientific investigation for schools from Teachers TV and the BA, 'Ready to Learn? – The Experiment' is designed to find out how 'ready to learn' school children are, and what can be done to improve this. It will investigate (via an on-line test and survey) how diet and exercise can influence their memory and concentration. Run by teachers in schools, the experiment will be quick and easy for them to complete.

Pupils will get their test scores, as well as tips on how to increase their readiness to learn. Teachers and their schools will receive a full set of their own data and the national results. They will also be able to continue using the software after National Science and Engineering Week to run their own experiments and test different variables against pupils' readiness to learn.

'Ready to Learn? – The Experiment' can be integrated into the curriculum at every Key Stage. A set of lesson plans providing examples of how to do this will be available in January from Teachers TV, followed in February by television programmes demonstrating these in action.

To register your interest and find out more about this initiative, please email experiment@teachers.tv

7. Important dates for 2008

ASE Annual Meeting – University of Liverpool, 3 – 5 January 2008

Young Scientists and Engineers Fair - Centre of the Cell, London, 7th March 2008

National Science and Engineering Week – Across the UK, 7 -16 March 2008

BA Festival of Science – University of Liverpool, 7 – 13 September 2008

8. Winners of the Young Engineers UK K'NEX Challenge!

SETPOINT Scotland West is delighted that, yet again, a team from the West of Scotland has been crowned winners of the Young Engineers UK K'NEX Challenge! John Heuchan and David McMath from Castle Douglas Primary in Dumfries & Galloway travelled to London to take part in the UK Final at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich on 17th September. This is the third year in a row that a team from Scotland has won the title. The boys competed against teams all over the UK and scored the most points for presentation, design and operational function with their K'NEX model. SETPOINT Scotland organised the Challenge North of the Border and over 750 primary schools took part in the first level of the competition. The pupils had to win through 3 levels to compete with the top 50 teams at the Scottish Final which was held at University of Glasgow in June.

To find out more about the competition, please contact Aileen Hamilton (SETPOINT Scotland) at a.hamilton@physics.gla.ac.uk.

9. 'Catch a Star' competition

School students can 'Catch a Star' and win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to ESO's Very Large Telescope on Cerro Paranal in Chile, or other fantastic prizes! This international astronomical competition, run by ESO and the European Association for Astronomy Education, is open now, with categories for written projects or for art-work with an astronomical theme. The deadline for entries is 29th February 2008. All entrants will receive a 'Catch a Star' certificate of participation.

If you have questions about the competition, please contact eduinfo@eso.org.

10. Finally...

That's all we have for 2007, we hope you enjoyed our e-newsletter and we look forward to providing you with more news and updates in 2008. And just a quick reminder; 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 our award activities, we can include them on the website and future e-newsletters.

For more information about the website, contact: sangeeta.dhapp@the-ba.net.

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