

## YPP E-newsletter

## Issue 10

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. Celebrating Science in the UK!

Thousands of events are taking place around the UK as part of National Science and Engineering Week – in schools, universities, museums and science centres, and even in town centres. Visit our [online programme](#) to find out what events are happening near you. This year, you can also help the BA discover the 'Nation's Favourite Experiment'. We've filmed a selection of popular, eye-catching experiments featuring the Punk Scientists. Click [here](#) to view the clips and cast your vote and we'll enter you into a prize draw to win an Xbox 360.

Visit [NSEW](#) to access free resources, such as the '[Just Add Water!](#)' pack which is full of water themed activities. These activities link to our primary award scheme.



### 2. Calling all triallers!

The activities will be finished completely in the next couple of months so we really need your feedback. So please, if you have trialled any of the activities, let us know your thoughts as soon as possible.

The children at **Star** level will complete 8 activities from a choice of 12, and **Super Star** level, 12 activities from a total of 18. At **Mega Star** level, children complete 3 themes with 3 activities in each, including one theme that will allow them to become Young Science Ambassadors.

Don't forget the **50% discount** on [First & Young Investigators](#) packs during March, which will entitle you to **20% off the new packs**.

For more information about CREST ★ Investigators, click [here](#).

### 3. And the winners are...

The CREST Science Fair took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Royal Society. 120 students aged 11-19 from across the UK presented their projects in science and technology and competed for prestigious prizes. From 'Toilet Troubles' to a 'User Friendly Car Park' there was a huge amount of talent on show, demonstrating the incredible creativity and investigative work of young people who have completed the CREST Awards.

Holly Batchelor (in the picture, being presented her award by Dr Wassila Mehanna, UK Education Manager, Intel) from The Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh scooped the top prize for her project investigating 'Cosmic Rain' and won the chance to represent the UK at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in Albuquerque, America in May.

**Find out about her project and the event by visiting BA CREST Science Fair.**



### 4. CREST Evaluation Report

Over a period of eight months, the BA's CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) for 11-19 year olds has been the subject of a comprehensive evaluation study conducted by the Science Communication Unit at the University of Liverpool and financed by AstraZeneca.

The findings of the evaluation support the BA's commitment to enrichment activities by revealing that the CREST scheme has a strong positive impact on its primary target audience. Students gained knowledge, developed transferable skills and showed improving attitudes towards Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) and SET careers.

**To read the full report, click here.**

### 5. How science works with BA Science Communicators

Science Communicators is an award scheme which helps students to develop a broader understanding of the role of science and technology in today's society. It links directly with the 'How Science Works' Programme of Study at Key Stage 4 and is a valuable way of accrediting work students complete in this area.

For instance, in the Science Communicator's activity 'Thinking Machines' students discuss the risks, uses and moral implications of different scientific advances, fitting in with 4a and 4b of the Programme of Study.

## 6. "Download and go"

Science upd8 translates the latest breakthroughs and science behind the news, into inspiring activities – and publishes them lightning fast. Quality and ease of use mean that teachers simply "download and go".

Now upd8 is launching SciQ. The aim is to bring the '*How Science Works*' strand in the Science GCSE alive and kicking. SciQ goes beyond short activities, to provide complete 'teaching sequences'.

Each follows a 5 stage model: Excite, Explore, Explain, Extend, Examine - to deliver the 'ideas about science' in more engaging ways.

Click [here](#) to register, download activities and read teachers' reviews. These activities link to our [Science Communicators Award](#).

## 7. Communicating science

This year's Science Communication Conference will be taking place on 14 & 15 May 2007 at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, London.

The first day of the conference will address the main issues facing science communicators in the UK today. Sessions on the second day will focus on the particular challenges presented to science communicators by climate change.

Each day will contain sessions in three strands: engaging to inspire & educate, engaging to involve and engaging through the media & PR. A day pass costs £100. A limited number of bursaries are also available (bursary application deadline, 23 March).

Visit [here](#) to book and find out more.

## 8. Spring into action!

Spring has sprung so why don't you try out some fun science activities on the ['BUZZin – learning made fun!'](#) website. You will find quizzes, activities, revision tips and a section on teacher notes, enough resources to keep you busy over Easter!

## 9. Easter fun!

With the half-term soon approaching, why not try one of our fun new activities over Easter. The activity below will be featured as part of our new award scheme [CREST ★ Investigators](#) in September 2007. This activity is for children aged 5-8 and includes an organiser's card for parents & teachers (see below).



Click on the image for the activity (PDF 380KB)

Click [here](#) for the ORGANISER'S CARD (PDF 254KB)

## 10. What sort of future do you young people want?

*Will robots be serving us breakfast? Will our fridges be talking to our shopping trolleys?*

These questions form part of **sciencehorizons** – a widespread public engagement programme designed to get young people and adults talking about the science and technology of the future. We are asking teachers to organise group discussions with students aged 14+ from now until June 2007 using the **sciencehorizons** discussion pack.

The **sciencehorizons** discussion pack contains everything you need to run a discussion and give us your views. To request a pack, email [contact@sciencehorizons.org.uk](mailto:contact@sciencehorizons.org.uk) or call 020 8683 6602.

**By taking part, students can gain credits towards the BA Science Communicators Awards scheme.**

## 11. Win a chance to visit Australia

*Do you know a science student with potential?*

If YES, nominate them NOW for the opportunity to attend the International Science School in Sydney from 1 July - 14 July 2007. With grateful thanks to the Comino Foundation we are now able to send five students to the Professor Harry Messel International Science School.

Candidates should be outstanding students, aged at least 16 years on 1 June 2007 in the first year of an A-level course or S5 Students in Scotland.

**To make a nomination please send the name and address of your candidate to Pam Jenkins at ASE HQ: <mailto:pamjenkins@ase.org.uk>.**

## 12. Finally...

We hope you enjoyed the new format 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 and to view our [photo gallery](#) of primary schools taking part in our [First & Young Investigators](#) activities.

## Sign up to BA Communications

**Please return to: The BA FREEPOST, LON14913, LONDON, SW7 5BR**

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