British Science Association and URENCO launch a ‘classrooms of the future’ resource, to celebrate successes of the past

The British Science Festival and URENCO’s Richie Programme, have today launched a brand new CREST Discovery Day resource for teachers and students aged 11-to-14. Entitled Enrich my classroom, the resource pack forms a step-by-step guide to running a Discovery Day and is suitable to run with one class, a science club, or with a whole year group.

The aim of the day is for students to learn about a range of different science, engineering and technology topics through group work, interactive activities, and a challenge that asks them to consider how they can enrich their experience in the classroom in the future.

The new Discovery Day resource has been launched to coincide with the start of the 30th anniversary of the CREST Awards. The CREST Awards is the British Science Association’s flagship education programme. It is a UK award scheme for 11-to-19 year olds recognising success, building skills and demonstrating personal achievement in STEM project work. Since the programme’s inception in 1986, over 400,000 students have been rewarded for their achievements.

Katherine Mathieson, Chief Executive of the British Science Festival, said: “CREST Discovery is a really good first introduction to project work – for students and teachers. Discovery Day resources provide an off-the-shelf guide to running CREST for busy teachers, and we are delighted to be launching Enrich my classroom, with URENCO, providing a fantastic new resource to use in the classroom or other settings.

“We’re publishing this to coincide with the launch of CREST’s 30th anniversary, which will see a whole host of celebrations and events throughout this academic year. We want the anniversary to be a celebration of the past – and the hundreds of thousands of CREST Awards achieved by young people over the past three decades – but also a look to the future, and a resource such as this, which challenges students to think about new innovations, is a great way to do that.”

Jayne Hallett, Director of Corporate Communications at URENCO, said: “URENCO is delighted to partner with the British Science Association once again to produce this Discovery Day resource. The theme of enrichment, which links to URENCO’s core business, will enable students to explore a range of new and exciting
topics inside their own classroom and we are positive it will ignite a passion for STEM subjects.

The resource is a great addition to our award-winning Richie programme which has now reached over 100,000 school students worldwide. We are fully committed to nurturing the next generation of STEM leaders and fully support the CREST Awards scheme.”

In the first part of the Enrich my classroom day, students will investigate a variety of topics, including coding, nanotechnology, ergonomics, magnetism and electricity. They will be introduced to the science behind these topics, and discover more about how they are used in school today.

The second part of the day sees students working in teams to develop new ways to enrich the classroom using the ideas from the workshops. This could mean designing an app, finding a new way to use nanotechnology, or using ergonomics to design a new type of classroom.

The Enrich my classroom resource pack is available to download from the BSA website here: www.britishscienceassociation.org/enrichmyclassroom

Find out more about Richie, including the various teaching resources, quizzes and games at www.learnwithrichie.com

Ends/.

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Notes to Editors:

About the British Science Association
The British Science Association (BSA) believes that science should be part of – rather than set apart from – society and culture, and is owned by the wider community. Our programmes encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science, become ambassadors for science, and ultimately to be empowered to challenge and influence British science - whether they work in science or not.

Established in 1831, the BSA is a registered charity that organises major initiatives across the UK, including British Science Week, the annual British Science Festival, regional and local events, the CREST Awards and other programmes for young people in schools and colleges. The BSA also organises specific activities for professional science communicators, including a specialist conference and training.

For more information, please visit www.britishscienceassociation.org

About CREST
CREST Awards is a UK awards scheme that recognises success, and enables students to build their skills and demonstrate personal achievement in project work. It offers educators an easy-to-run framework for curriculum enhancement and is student-led, which means that young people take ownership of their projects and choose to
undertake them in areas they enjoy or see as relevant. For more information, please visit: www.britishscienceassociation.org/CREST

About URENCO
URENCO is a provider of uranium enrichment services to the world’s nuclear energy industry. The URENCO Group head office is located close to London, UK. With plants in Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and in the USA, it operates in a key area of the nuclear fuel supply chain which enables the sustainable generation of electricity for consumers around the world.

Utilising URENCO’s own centrifuge technology, URENCO provides safe, cost-effective and reliable uranium enrichment services for civil power generation within a framework of high environmental, social and corporate responsibility standards. For more information, please visit www.urenco.com.

About the Richie Programme
Richie is an animated character and has been the ambassador of the Richie Programme since its inception in 2007. Through instructor-led workshops; downloadable online resources; a dedicated website and APP; Richie connects with young audiences, teaching them about energy and science topics in an engaging and educational way.

For more information, visit: www.learnwithrichie.com.