The Great Science Share for Schools Initiative

The Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfS) is a fast growing national campaign designed to engage young people with science and engineering. Developed by Dr Lynne Bianchi and the SEERIH team, the campaign has three key aims: to inspire young people to communicate their science questions and investigations with new audiences, to improve the teaching and learning of science in schools through collaborative endeavour and to raise the profile and value of school science across Greater Manchester and the UK. The GSSfS launched as part of the European City of Science in 2016 is has run as an annual programme of events during the academic years of 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Working in partnership with STEM business and education organisations (such as BASF, Primary Science Teaching Trust, Primary Science Quality Mark, ASE, Wellcome Trust) as well as the BBC 2018 Terrific Scientific there was a flagship event, 31 satellite events and 263 registered school-led events. Reaching all 4 UK countries, the Channel Islands and even Korea the campaign involved 40,514 young people. Central to all activity was placing young people at the centre of the learning experience. A Teachmeet in March 2018 launched GSS with a website, resources and branding to support teachers to take part.

How the Great Science Share for Schools Team has made a difference

GSSfS reversed the roles of traditional public engagement events as children took centre stage in communicating science learning. Children embraced the opportunity to share their own scientific questions and investigations at over 250 events, with 40,514 pupils UK-wide registered to take part.

External evaluation stated that GSSfS ‘opens up new avenues to learning and development. It also gives children new and different experiences, so they can learn and engage with science.’ Teachers reported that GSSfS provided more opportunities for child-led scientific investigations. 90% of registrants at a national level had no previous involvement, including take up in Brazil, China, Korea, New Zealand and United Arab Emirates.

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