Better World Showcase 2018

Demonstrating how the Faculty of Science & Engineering is Making a Difference

The Infinity Festival

Initiative

We brought together key industry partners, schools, a charity and three universities to deliver The Infinity Festival, a collaborative, multidisciplinary science and technology extravaganza. Anne Knott at the Dalton Cumbrian Facility was instrumental in driving the project, bringing Danielle George, Brian Cox and a breadth of other speakers and workshops to disadvantaged pupils from secondary schools across Cumbria, a remote rural region with pockets of high child poverty and low progression to higher education.

• The target group was pupils in year 8 and 9 (when interest in science and technology often nose-dives) with potential to succeed in science and technology but where their background or other factors mean they struggle to aspire or reach their academic goals.

• Uniquely, the event successfully engaged parents and carers, providing tools and inspiration to help support their children’s aspirations and career progression.

• It was ground-breaking in its use of a Value Framework, ensuring delivery partners’ brand visibility took a back seat and genuine benefit to participants was the primary focus.

• Collaborative evaluation is being undertaken by the three universities involved.

• An arts element was intrinsic through embedded creative arts and media projects.

• Infinity links with the Well North programme, also based at the University

How Anne has Made a Difference

• We engaged 313 pupils and 196 parents/carers from 31 schools across the length and breadth of Cumbria

• 95% pupils surveyed said Infinity was interesting and exciting.

• 84% pupils surveyed said they would like a career in science, technology or the arts.

• Partnership approach brought together organisations that ordinarily deliver independent interventions

• We inspired whole school communities; parents, carers and technicians were given the confidence, enthusiasm and information to support pupils’ aspirations

• Pupils were involved in design and delivery

• Infinity is now embedded and could be continued ad infinitum; it is also a beacon of good practice for other regions.

Vote for the person or project you feel is doing the most to Make a Difference


www.manchester.ac.uk/betterworldshowcase