Better World Showcase 2018

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

Inspiring Language Communities

Initiative

Multilingual Manchester (MLM) is a research unit that has supported the partnering of researchers with local supplementary languages schools. There is evidence that these interactions with our researchers can give young people the linguistic tools to talk about science within their community and family groups, with possible implications for subject choices at all levels of education and also career choices. The project may also go some way to reducing the barrier to engagement for researchers whose native language is not English and might otherwise shy away from traditional outreach activities. In light of this, Dr. Nick Weise from the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology (MIB), who has been with the project from the outset, received an award from the Inclusion & Diversity Fund of the Royal Society of Chemistry to support delivery and possible expansion over the next year. It is hoped that this will allow more scientists to get involved from a wider range of research areas to engage a larger variety of language communities.

How the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology & Multilingual Manchester have Made a Difference

By engaging young people from immigrant backgrounds in languages they use at home, the team aims to give the participants the linguistic tools to discuss science and career / subject choices within their local communities, including with key influencers, such as parents and guardians. This is relevant given the lower participation of such groups in pure science subjects at university level.

Additionally the project allowed researchers who are non-native English speakers to get involved in a more personal type of outreach and use their language skills, which lowered barriers to engagement for some international staff/students.

http://www.mib.manchester.ac.uk
http://mlm.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/

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