



# NOTTINGHAM FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE AND CURIOSITY SCHOOLS OFFER 2021



## INTRODUCTION

The Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity takes place each February with the aim of celebrating and breaking down barriers to STEM engagement in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The festival programme includes public events for families in city centre and community locations as well as events for adults. Each year, we deliver a range of projects focused on schools designed to promote curiosity and encourage all pupils to see science as something 'for them'.

## 2021 FESTIVAL

The next festival will be taking place 10 - 17 February 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the festival will look slightly different; we will be using digital technologies where necessary and adapting to changes in restrictions as they come. Our schools projects have been designed so they can be adapted digitally, and we have consulted with teachers to develop an offer that provides support that's not disruptive and can be adapted to suit the changing needs of teachers and pupils. Our schools projects are open and free to all schools in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as well as home educated children.

All of the schools participating in projects with the Festival of Science and Curiosity will be invited to showcase their work at the Real Science in Schools Symposium. This event is an opportunity for pupils to come together to share their investigations, learn from their peers and meet inspiring local scientists. In 2021, there will be two Symposia: one at the Nottingham Council House on Thursday 11th February and one at Mansfield Central Library on Friday 12th February. If necessary, these will be conducted virtually.



Real Science in Schools Symposium,  
Photo Credit Emma Ford

## CURIOSITY PROJECTS

The focus for our 2021 Schools Offer is Curiosity Projects. These are pupil-led science investigations, where pupils develop their own research projects inspired by their own questions about the world.

Schools can decide how to approach this project - it is open to all age groups and could work as a class project or as a STEM club activity. The practical and problem-solving nature of this project could be a great way to engage pupils who don't think science is 'for them'. The topic under investigation should come from the pupils, but may well be linked to topics in the curriculum. Topics for investigation could be 'How do energy drinks affect mood?', 'How are tins recycled?' or 'How can we reduce electricity use?'.



Real Science in Schools Symposium,  
Photo Credit Emma Ford

The project will be managed in school by a teacher, but the festival team will link each project with a 'Scientist in Residence' - a researcher or specialist in that field, mostly from the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University - who will support the group through email and virtual conference calls. The researcher will help guide the pupils to conduct their investigation, to use appropriate scientific methodology and advise on other areas of research to develop the project. All volunteers will be DBS checked.

The festival team will also provide teachers with optional CPD sessions and resources around creative approaches to science learning, as well as being able to offer advice and support throughout the investigation. The projects will be presented by the pupils at the Real Science in Schools Symposium in February 2021.

With support from the Nottingham City Education Improvement Board and Nottinghamshire County Council, the festival will support a maximum of ten pupils from ten Nottingham City schools (100 pupils) and ten pupils from Nottinghamshire County schools (100 pupils) to receive CREST awards through their project. There are different levels of CREST award ([www.crestawards.org](http://www.crestawards.org)) depending on the number of hours involved in a project, and we will allocate places on a first come first served basis, so schools should get in touch with the festival team to express interest.

## OTHER PROJECTS

The festival team is working on a number of other projects that will target specific schools. These include:

- BioBlitz - an environmental science project where pupils investigate the biodiversity of their school grounds or local park
- Night Walks - an environmental science project where pupils undertake in a walk in nature as dusk falls and produce a creative response to their senses
- Neuroscience in Schools - a project with undergraduate students from the University of Nottingham where groups of students deliver a one-off session to primary pupils about the brain
- Our City on Mars - a pilot physics learning programme about building a new society on Mars



Real Science in Schools Symposium,  
Photo Credit Emma Ford

## GET INVOLVED

Sign up for Curiosity Projects via the online form: <https://forms.gle/xJcXRcUcDQTvRYUg6>

If you're interested in any of our other projects, or would like to develop something new with us, then please get in touch: [schools@nottsfosac.co.uk](mailto:schools@nottsfosac.co.uk)

Find out more about the Festival at [www.nottsfosac.co.uk](http://www.nottsfosac.co.uk)