

Public Engagement Small Awards - successful applicants at round 2015A

Mr Tim Browett

Robert Gordon's College

Award £6,870

Project to train and equip senior high school pupils as Science Engagement Leaders for local primary schools

This project aims to establish an on-going programme to train and equip S6 senior school pupils to deliver science lesson activities to P5-P7 pupils in local primary schools. The learning activities will be in themed blocks:

- Humans in Space – with a focus on Tim Peake's Principia mission
- Astronomy and our Solar System
- What is everything made of?
- Fun Physics

Dr Francisco Diego

UCL

Award £9,481

Think Universe! Fundamental Science master classes for school teachers at KS2 and KS3

Think Universe masterclasses train KS2 and KS3 teachers in a novel and simplified approach to fundamental views about the Universe. The project will train around 300 teachers over a series of 20 planned masterclasses. Training on delicate scientific instruments such as microscopes, telescopes and hand-held spectrometers is included in each masterclass.

Dr Marco Gersabek

University of Manchester

Award £2,242

Science Hands - Exploring antimatter with audible pendulums for school kids

The aim of Science Hands is to make physics research more approachable for children at KS4. In the planned visits to schools a dedicated table-top experiment, consisting of coupled double-pendulums, will spark the curiosity of the students and encourage them to explore its movements.

Professor John Grocott

Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre

Award £10,000

Investigating Natural Sciences in Wild Ennerdale: building an Education Hub at Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre

The project's aim is to recruit and train a core group of 10-12 volunteers from the centre's membership and the wider community in West Cumbria, in order to deliver a series of events that will showcase the excitement of natural science in core STFC subject areas. The approach taken will be to inform, entertain and inspire audiences by providing opportunities to do hands-on experimental and observational science during both residential and public events.

Dr Joanna Heaton-Marriott

University of Central Lancashire

Award £9,805

Exploring Light and Dark; Community Engagement in Collaboration with the Beacon Museum, Whitehaven

The project will place cutting-edge scientific research at the heart of a museum/visitor attraction, engaging with new audiences and strengthening links between university researchers and the regional community. It will be the first venture of a new collaborative partnership between the University of Central Lancashire and the Beacon Museum, based in Whitehaven.

Ms Carole Jahme

Flickering Ltd

Award £9,988

The Merry Wives of Munnar

The overarching aim of The Merry Wives of Munnar is to make a feature film with mass market appeal that will champion STFC research and contribute to the high-profile 2016 Shakespeare celebrations. One particular aim of the film is to have a positive impact on its younger audience and inspire girls, in particular, to continue to study STEM subjects and go on into STEM careers. This award will help to achieve the preproduction aims.

Dr Miho Janvier

University of Dundee

Award £4,712

Travel Through a Solar Storm: An immersive virtual reality experience

The principal aims of this project are to inspire, enthuse and educate the general public about space science. In particular, the team will inform the audiences about space storms and how space weather affects Earth and societies. An immersive 3D experience will provide the chance to find out what it would be like to travel in and with a solar storm from the SUN to the Earth.

Ms Lynne Jones

Macclesfield Barnaby Festival

Award £9,500

Barnaby Festival 2016: Space Science Strand

Barnaby Festival will create a series of free space-themed science and engineering activities and events in the run up to and as part of the 2016 Barnaby Festival. These will have a broad appeal and aim to engage children, inventors, families and the general public – including those who haven't been attracted to science previously.

Dr Sadie Jones

University of Southampton

Award £7,110

Astronomy in the Departure Lounge: Supernova Science at Southampton Airport

The team will be aiming to engage the public in the departure lounge of Southampton Airport with STFC funded supernova research from the University of Southampton. Passengers will have the opportunity to talk to scientists who are active in astronomy research and to discover supernova research and its importance.

Ms Sarah Langford

Sphere Science Ltd

Award £9,948

Twinkle Twinkle little star. Let's find out how far you are.

This project will provide primary school pupils with insight and understanding of the research into supernovae undertaken at the University of Southampton. Models will be used in a practical way to help pupils to develop a better understanding of things which are

often difficult to comprehend, such as the solar system, moon phases and the positions of stars and galaxies in the universe.

Mrs Tracy Ogden Davies

Techniquet

Award £9,995

KS3 Physics Workshop

Techniquet will develop a new KS3 Physics Workshop that will help it target STFC priority audiences. The workshops will deliver exciting experiences to schools that are unable to provide by themselves. Once the workshop has been developed it will become part of the existing portfolio of workshops offered to south east Wales; the aim being to reach 17,000 students in the area. Teachers will receive post-visit resources to enable them to extend learning following the programme.

Dr Suzie Sheehy

University of Oxford

Award £10,000

LHComedy: UK - The creation of a sustainable interactive comedy show that guides the audience through the scientific methodology

This project will create a live, interactive comedy that will engage audiences with high level science and the science methodology. The key objectives are:

- Improving the engagement of the public with science by introducing audiences to the methodology
- Providing an engaging and interactive method for teaching GCSE level students the 'How science works' parts of the exam board specifications
- Encouraging the learning of scientific skills
- Demystifying seemingly complex scientific concepts and encouraging future engagement and study
- Showcasing the LHC as a direct flagship STFC project

Dr Emma Weitkamp

UWE

Award £9,736

Chaos Cabaret Competition - Southwest Pilot

The project will produce an intervention that makes pupils at KS3 aware of Chaos Theory and its implications, principally in the area of physics but also in the many other areas where its operation is demonstrable. The project team is aiming to have 20 secondary schools from the Bristol, Bath, Gloucestershire and Somerset region directly involved in this pilot scheme.