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Festival of fun: Youngsters discover the lighter side of science

Models of windmills and watermills show appliance of science at fun packed festival

24 Nov 2015

- 90 primary children from two Islington schools enjoyed a science festival
- Event organised by National Grid and City Year UK
- Festival designed to spark youngsters interest in science, technology, engineering and maths

Scores of Islington pupils enjoyed lively workshops and other activities at a fun packed science festival.

On Friday 20th November, 90 seven to eleven-year-olds from two Islington primary schools enjoyed a fun festival of science and engineering organised by National Grid and youth social action charity, City Year UK. Running since 2011, the Festival is designed to spark children's interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and demonstrate their relevance to everyday life.

Pupils from Pakemon Primary School and St Marks C of E Primary School attended the festival. Attractions included 'whizz-bang workshops', run by science education provider Mad Science, as well as 'hands on' activities organised by young volunteers from City Year UK, which started in Islington and has its headquarters on White Lion Street.

Pupils had the opportunity to make working models of watermills and windmills and learn about the human body. A session on 'How Blood Works' mixed water with beads, craft foam and ping pong balls, while a human jigsaw puzzle involved children filling in an outline of a skeleton using everything from coloured paper and cotton wool to bubble wrap, to make as accurate a depiction as possible.

The National Grid Science Festival is part of 'School Power', a unique programme offering free extra-curricular science workshops to primary schools. A collaboration between National Grid and City Year UK, it enables City Year volunteers, trained by National Grid, to deliver sessions which assist teachers with the KS2 science

curriculum. City Year's volunteers also help facilitate visits to National Grid's Energy Education Centre in Willesden to see the giant energy infrastructure project that National Grid is building and to take part in fun experiments there.

Dunjhaise Singh, Special Projects Leader at City Year UK, said: "Many young people volunteer with City Year because they want to help tackle educational inequality in our schools and an important part of that is inspiring children's love of learning. Both the National Grid Science Festival and our wider School Power programme are bringing science and engineering to life for thousands of London pupils and make it a lot of fun at the same time!"

David Luetchford, National Grid's Head of Cable Tunnels said: "Supporting the communities where we work is a priority for National Grid. The London Power Tunnels project is a great example; at the same time as rewiring the Capital deep underground, our partnership with City Year UK is enabling us to connect with local pupils to inspire a new generation of engineering talent."

Links:

www.cityyear.org.uk

www.londonpowertunnels.co.uk

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

About City Year UK and its partnership with National Grid

City Year UK, a youth social action charity which believes that young people can change the world. It challenges 18-25 year olds to tackle social and educational inequality through a transformational year of voluntary service in schools. As mentors, tutors and role models, they support pupils growing up in some of the most deprived areas in the UK.

In return, City Year UK's young people gain transferable skills from their experience and benefit from a tailored training and careers programme. It's designed to give our volunteers the skills they need in school and to help them secure the job they want after City Year, offering personal and professional development, work shadowing and networking opportunities.

National Grid has trained all of City Year UK's volunteers in London to deliver its School Power programme, to help them inspire and motivate children to learn about science and technology. It has also sponsored a City Year UK team at Whitmore Primary School, Hackney, since City Year UK's first operational year in 2010 and

National Grid staff have mentored the charity's volunteers, providing advice and guidance on their future careers.

City Year was first established in Boston, Massachusetts in 1988 and operates in 25 sites across America, as well as Johannesburg in South Africa. National Grid also sponsors City Year teams in the North-Eastern region of the US.

www.cityyear.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face

at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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