

Bradford on Avon Area Board Youth Grants 2013

1. What is the Initiative?

This initiative is a Science Fair, which encourages Bradford on Avon school children between the ages of 5 and 11 to propose and complete a science project over the course of a few months. The work is completed outside of school with family support. The Science Fair showcases the work done by each child, rewards each effort with a certificate of excellence and awards prizes for top project in each year group. The Science Fair further promotes excitement and interest in science by making the day fun and engaging for the whole family complete with games, interactive demonstrations and refreshments.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

Venue to be agreed based on number of entries. Our cost estimates are based on this year's selected venue, which was the Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon.

3. When will the initiative take place?

February 2014

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/links to Community Plan/Community Issue?

There is a need for more community events to promote interest and engagement in science and engineering at an early age. Children at this age are naturally curious and an event like this encourages them to experience the joy and rewards of scientific enquiry in a way that is fun and involves the whole family. Universities see family engagement as a big factor in future draw towards science and engineering interests. And, based on experience this type of activity draws in girls and boys, of all academic abilities.

Bradford on Avon school children will benefit from taking part in this event on a personal level. The profile of Bradford on Avon as an active leader in providing our kids with educational and extra curricular opportunities will be raised. And lastly, it would be our community's contribution to the challenge of getting more young people interested in future careers in science and engineering.

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

The desired outcome is to promote interest and excitement about science and engineering in our community and raise the profile of the capabilities and resources we have within our community already. The quality of projects produced by Bradford on Avon school children and their confidence in presenting has been stunning. Equally, the number of enthusiastic educators, engineers and scientists within our community, which an event like this brings forward as volunteer judges, presenters, and supporters is inspiring. The desired outcome is to continue building pride, interest and engagement in science and engineering in our community.

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

Mrs. Anastasia Thomas, with the help of other parent volunteers.

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

Estimated costs based on current year experience:

Venue	£500.00
Printing Costs	£80.00
Prizes, Certificates	£324.00
Games Materials	£100.00
Demonstrations	£300.00
Total	£1,304.00

One of our current sponsors has promised £300 towards next year.

8. Additional information

Parent and school response in Bradford on Avon has been very enthusiastic. It seems to resonate with a need for more opportunities to encourage children's interest in Science. The fact that this event is local and accessible improves participation rates. Our most recent Science Fair, which was held in the Wiltshire Music Centre saw an estimated 300 people from the community. The Fair had 32 children putting forward projects. Participating school children were from Fitzmaurice, Winsley, Westwood with Iford, Christ Church, and Freshford primary schools. We had coverage on BBC Wiltshire Radio and the Wiltshire Times, which made the community and children very proud of their achievements.