



The XMaS Science Gala

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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

What we did and why...

To address the jobs and skills gap in STEM we hosted an outreach event at the University of Warwick for the general public. We called it the "Science Gala". A wide range of projects, departments and outreach ventures from across the University were used. In addition, outside organisations, especially those addressing the gender imbalance in STEM helped fill the science faculty with astonishing activities for all ages. There were a total of 34 exhibitors supported with 2 talks catering for different age groups and 7 laboratory tours around the departments. Registrations reached 750 members of the public with a waiting list.



What we found...

Of the 46 questionnaires returned 100% would recommend the event and would attend again. 89% were either completely or very satisfied with the overall science gala. 28% saw an increase in scientific interest as result of the science gala (most were already 'very interested' and remained 'very interested')!

Here are just a few of the comments given on the questionnaire;

An excellent evening, made even better by the enthusiasm of all involved.

Yes the kids loved the evening and wanted to stay for longer and do more of the chemistry activities amongst others..... they had a really fun time with the smelly breath measuring clown.....and scratch and 3D printing

The enthusiasm of the students was very impressive.

My son had an amazing inspiring experience. He very much enjoyed participating in the experiments. He also appreciated how science can be influential from day to day.

The enthusiasm and knowledge of the people running the stalls was excellent. They engaged really well with the children (and parents), answering questions and demonstrating interesting activities. The talks were great.

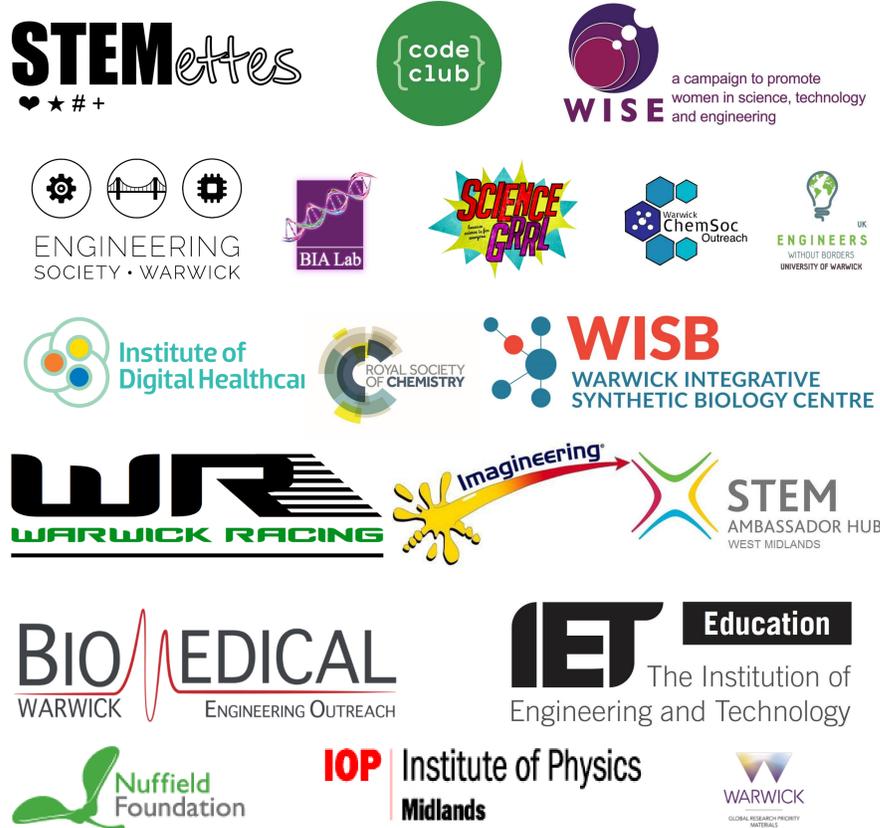
The PhD students were interesting, chatty, enthusiastic and really brought their subjects to life. Was interesting to hear what they had studied at A level and degree level. They really engaged my 15 year old son, who hadn't wanted to come.

Myself and the kids really enjoyed the event, my daughter, 8, loved taking part in the experiments and like creating an object on the 3D printer.

We love science and experiments as a family and the science gala confirmed my 7 year olds desire to "become an inventing scientist when I grow up". Our daughter who likes but not loves science the way her brother did came home so inspired she had to talk about it for over an hour past bedtime and continued her excited chatter on waking this morning!! Thank you so much !!

What next...

The Science Gala will run again next year with the hope it will be an annual event for the University. Improving and gaining support from attendees and exhibitors year on year.



How to get involved...

Please get in touch if you would like further information or would like to collaborate with us in promoting careers in STEM.

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Our collaborators:



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