

SciFest – Where Creativity Meets Innovation

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Why get involved in SciFest

“When it comes to science competitions, SciFest is the best. It begins at your school, where it’s fun to compete, moves locally, where you realise how many others are curious about science, and on to a national stage, where the diversity of projects display the sheer talent of Irish students.”

Eve McGlinchey, Student, St Leo’s College, Carlow
Best Project Award, SciFest@School, SFI Best Project Award winner, SciFest@ITC
Spirit of SciFest Award, SciFest National Final 2015
September 2016

“SciFest@School is all about inclusion with every student benefitting from the opportunity to present their investigation. The introduction of SciFest@School to our calendar has raised the status of STEM among our students. Overall SciFest@School has been a wonderful and enjoyable experience for both students and teachers!”

Karen O’Callaghan, Science Teacher
SciFest@School Coordinator, St Wolstan’s CS, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
September 2016

SciFest Inspiring and Promoting Science in Second-level Schools

How SciFest Benefits Students

SciFest:

- is open to all second-level students; it is locally based and there is no entry fee, making it highly accessible and inclusive
- encourages students to develop an interest in science through an inquiry-based approach and hands-on activities
- helps students to grow in confidence and develop their communication skills by exhibiting their work in a small, local, student-friendly environment
- encourages students of all abilities and backgrounds to participate, lowering barriers and bringing the talents of diverse populations into the innovation pipeline
- encourages and supports the greater participation of girls in STEM education
- provides students with an opportunity to engage in activities that link science, maths, engineering and technology to their everyday lives and to society

- provides students with an opportunity to visit their local third-level college, view the facilities and learn about the courses available, encouraging them to continue their STEM education into third-level
- supports the inquiry-based, problem-solving approach promoted by the science and maths curriculum in second-level schools, thus improving students' opportunities to achieve academic success

How SciFest Benefits Teachers

SciFest:

- facilitates a community of educators with similar goals and ideals
- provides online support for teachers at www.scifest.ie
- supports the teaching of the STEM subjects in the second-level curriculum
- provides opportunities for professional development for teachers

SciFest@School Evaluation 2015_16

Teachers who registered for SciFest@School were asked to complete an online evaluation questionnaire.

Comments included:

- *SciFest raises the profile of the school in the community and makes for a fantastic cross curricular theme e.g. Statistics in Maths & Business, Communication and Presentation in English, Report Book English & Computer and Technology, Visual Display, Art, DCG*
- *Put science at the heart of our school*
- *Allows the younger students to get an insight into science project work*
- *Increasing student confidence, research skills, team work. Links with individuals outside the school for help with projects*
- *Increased interest and awareness of science among the students*
- *It gives students a fun way to engage with science. It fact other subject teachers a chance to see the students work and the students were delighted to get to explain their projects to other teachers*
- *Helps promote the school*
- *We also have 5th years demonstrating LC subjects. This showcases these subjects to whole school community -also develops the communication skills of the 5th year students*
- *Gives the science department a chance to show case it's good work to management and staff*
- *It gives a chance for teachers to work together on an event. It allows us teachers to see aspects of our students we don't normally get to see*
- *A brilliant event with great support from the SciFest team. Thanks again*
- *We are a SciFest School and very proud of it. It is embedded into our school calendar*
- *SciFest allows all students to get involved in science at their own level*
- *It was a really great day, the pop ups and background really helped with the atmosphere It might be nice to have a national prize for the best school who participated in SciFest at the end of the year*

