Sparking an interest: Kids get mad for science in Kent

Lessons in science and safety for Kent kids

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- National Grid encourages kids to get interested in science, technology, engineering and maths
- Dangers of construction sites explained
- Pupils do hair-raising experiments to learn about electricity

Bright sparks at Lydd Primary School and Brenzett CE Primary School got an electrifying lesson in science and safety from National Grid.

Staff from National Grid and its contractor, Balfour Beatty, visited the schools in Shepway to share lessons on construction site safety and to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects.

Pupils got to wear high-viz jackets and hardhats as safety mascot ‘Ivor Goodsite’ explained how construction workers stay safe and why going on a building site without proper supervision is dangerous.

Mad Science presenters ‘Cosmic Chris’ and ‘Super Sian’ did some exciting electricity experiments as pupils and teachers built circuits and had a hair-raising experience using a Van der Graaf generator.

National Grid Project Manager Graham Livings said: “The kids were very enthusiastic and keen to get involved with the sessions.

“We’re very pleased with the schools’ responses and hopefully some of those who participated may one day consider a career in engineering.”

Nicki Man, Head Teacher at Lydd Primary School, said: “All the pupils had fantastic day.

“The Mad Science sessions helped them learn about some fundamental scientific principles in a fun and engaging way. The added safety element was really appreciated by the teachers as our pupils’ welfare is crucial to us.

She added: “I’d like to thank National Grid and Balfour Beatty for coming to the school and delivering a thoroughly enjoyable day.”

The engineers involved have recently been carrying out essential replacement and upgrade work to the electricity line between National Grid’s substations at Dungeness and Sellindge

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Notes for editors

The initiative was delivered as part of National Grid's project to refurbish the 25 km overhead electricity line between its substations in Dungeness and Sellindge. The vital work will ensure the region continues to enjoy safe and reliable energy supplies.

Lydd Primary was visited on Thursday 16 June. More information about the school is available on its website:

http://www.lyddprimary.co.uk/

Brenzett CE Primary was visited on Thursday 23 June. More information about the school is available on its website: http://www.brenzett.kent.sch.uk/

Mad Science is an interactive and exciting education tool that National Grid has used on various electricity transmission projects. More information can be found here: http://www.madscience.org/.

Ivor Goodsite is an initiative delivered through the Considerate Constructors Scheme. Construction sites, companies and suppliers voluntarily register with the Scheme and agree to abide by the Code of Considerate Practice, designed to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements. More information on the Considerate Constructors Scheme can be found here: http://www.ccscheme.org.uk/ and specific information on Ivor Goodsite can be found here: http://www.ivorgoodsite.org.uk/

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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