

The Cams Hill Science Consortium



The Cams Hill Science Consortium continues to actively involve over 35 teachers from different schools across three counties. Over the past 6 years we have co-ordinated a programme of classroom based research projects targeted towards improving teaching and learning in Science across all age groups from Foundation Year and Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 5.

We regularly run teacher training at the Science Learning Centre at Southampton University. These are based upon cascading and sharing our highly successful "Levels Mountain" and "Thinking Frames" approaches. In addition, we have been booked in 2008 to run similar teacher training courses via the Science Learning Centres in Bristol and London.

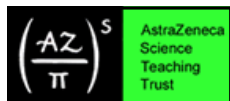


Science
LEARNING CENTRES



The findings from some of our projects within the Consortium have enabled us to contribute three chapters towards a new academic book "Science Education for Gifted Learners". This book has been compiled by Dr Keith Taber of the University of Cambridge and was recently published by Routledge.

We were delighted last June when we heard that we had won a second grant from the **AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust** to research new and innovative ways of inspiring gifted and talented Science pupils in primary and secondary schools. This work involves us in designing and delivering inter-school Science Challenge events and supporting and developing Science Clubs at different schools.



INTECH - Summer Activities



Following the success of the Art & Science activity at Northern Junior School, Jane Braisher was able to design and run a similar activity at INTECH during the Summer holidays.

INTECH is the South of England's hands-on, interactive Science and Technology Centre at Winchester and is keen to find new and innovative ways to engage the public. Jane's workshop offers a way of embellishing and enhancing INTECH's "Interactive Space Wall" exhibit. Parents and children of all ages were encouraged to create their own printed artwork based upon space and the stars.

Developing a new teacher training website



Following the success of our recent work with over 30 Primary and Secondary Schools, we are delighted that our Cams Hill Science Consortium has recently won a contract from the **AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust** to write a new national teacher training website.

This new website resource will offer Primary and Secondary teachers practical resources to help them enhance their Science lessons and promote thinking skills.



Clips from these videos will be used on the website to form short downloads to help explain to other teachers how to use our ideas and resources in their schools.

The picture shows one of the Thinking Frame activities that we have been developing and sharing with our Partner Primaries.

Thinking Frame activities challenge children to become more engaged in Science and support them to form their own explanations.

"Is the Thinking, Frame Approach making a difference? Categorically yes. These explanations are far better than I usually see". Pauline Patterson - Deputy County Inspector/Adviser for Science.

Contact Details

Should you wish to contact us for further details of our work or specific details of any of our projects, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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Cams Hill School

Specialist School Update No. 5



Harrison Primary School

Northern Junior School

Uplands Primary School

Wicor Primary School

*Working with our
Specialist School Primary Partners*



At Cams Hill School we value all children as individuals with unique talents, skills and abilities. We are committed to supporting all children to do their best through academic, artistic and sporting achievements.

Between 2005-09 our Specialist Status will enable us to develop facilities and resources to enhance teaching and learning across our whole curriculum and that of our partner schools. We are working towards becoming a centre of excellence in Science and Mathematics education. We are disseminating our best practice at a regional and national level.



Science Clubs

This year has been a very successful year for the popular Science Clubs at our Partner Primaries.

Supported by our Specialist funding, these Clubs have enabled children to engage in many additional interesting and enjoyable Science activities.

Mrs Sharpe from Harrison Primary has developed a huge package of practical resources and ideas for their Science Club. Her work is offering invaluable support to all our Partner Primary Clubs.

"It's fun, and at the same time you find out more about Science" Jack - Harrison Primary School.



The "Wow of Science" - Northern Junior School

This year, the theme for Science Week at Northern Junior School was the "Wow of Science". Children were able to participate in the many Science activities which included a visiting Planetarium and a visit from Cams Hill's Year 10 Science Ambassadors.



The winners from each Year Group's Science challenge took part in a fun packed Science and Art creative and investigative workshop led by Jane Braisher using space and the stars as a stimulus. After looking at images taken by the Hubble telescope, children used printing techniques to create their own imaginative art work.

The "Wow of Science Club" became Science Ambassadors when they visited Year 2 children at Northern Infant School. They enthralled the Year 2 pupils as they enthusiastically brought Science alive to the younger children.



Science week - Harrison Primary School



Working in partnership with Harrison Primary we planned and supported hands-on Science activities during their Science Week. These gave children from all Year Groups the opportunity to take part in activities. The "Kitchen Sink Science" was very popular. Many of the children were able to replicate the experiments at home using ingredients found in their own kitchens and so could share the experience with their parents. This is a good

way of promoting Scientific discussion at home.

The week's activities culminated in a well received and popular, professional show called "Science Magic Magic Science" performed by Ian Dunne. The show was funded by our Science Specialism and admirably achieved our aim of stimulating pupil and public interest and enthusiasm for Science.



"Excellent, really brought Science to life, the wow factor for lots of people" Mr Williams.

Forensic Science - Cams Hill School



33 Year 6 pupils from our four Partner Primary Schools visited the Science Department at Cams Hill in July. The scene was set, the evidence gathered and they were challenged to take on the role of a forensic scientist and solve the crime. We were very fortunate to have the involvement of Officer Hill and PC Higgs, adding a real life dimension to the activities. Officer

Hill's engaging and informative talk gave everyone an insight into the role of a scene of crime officer.

Working with the KS2 children provided a valuable experience for our teachers and helps all of us to improve our understanding of children's progression in Science.

Woodlice Investigation - Wicor Primary School



Specialist funding has enabled us to purchase a set of data loggers to be used as a shared resource between the four Primary Schools.

Pupils at Wicor Primary School were able to make full use of them when they took part in an activity session. They spent an enjoyable morning outside, finding and identifying different insects. Then they used

the data loggers to record the different environmental conditions within each habitat. By using the data loggers the children were able to improve the quality of their data and enhance their scientific enquiry skills.

Weaving Wall - Uplands Primary School

We were asked by the Year R team at Uplands Primary for support with their Science topic. We purchased resources which enabled Year R children to investigate the growing of seeds in different, shaded conditions. To create the shade children and staff weaved a colourful wall made of carrier bags. This hands on experience is a vital aspect of learning for children of this age.



Pond Dipping - Uplands Primary School

Working in partnership with the staff at Uplands Primary we jointly planned and then offered in - class support for their two day activity session led by Mrs Clarke. The children were able to observe and identify the variety of invertebrate animals that they collected by pond dipping in the school pond.



"I think the activity could have been better if it was longer. All week" Megan Y5 - Uplands Primary School.