

Flashbang educate their 10,000th student

It is fair to say that the last 3 years have been fairly demoralising for many business around the UK and indeed the world, many of whom have had to change their work practices, decrease their expenditure and therefore their staff, and generally look at ways to battle through the downturn.

This has not been the case for local business Flashbang Science, based in Rossendale, Lancashire. With a strong background in Chemistry & Chemical Engineering and a dedication to education the preliminary idea behind the business was born, to drive science education back into Primary Schools in the hope that in future years one of the areas' most prominent industries would be reborn.

With the business' mobile science laboratory initially being utilised around the very local areas to Rossendale, Claire Holt, Managing Director, and her team now work regularly around the entire North West and West Yorkshire.



Claire is hugely positive, passionate and proud of the business' achievements and explains, "Lancashire historically has been an area where scientific industry has thrived. Our idea at inception of Flashbang was to try and drive science back into the Primary Schools showing the students that science is there to be enjoyed and cherished. Our hopes ultimately will be to drive an industry that has been so important to our society in the past back into the public eye."

Flashbang are proud to note that over 10,000 students have now experienced the 100 or more experiments that the company has to offer covering a range of themes (both curriculum and non curriculum) such as elementary Chemistry & Engineering, Olympic Science, Forensic Science, Recycling and Renewable.

Claire continues, "Primary Schools in the area do not house their own laboratory facilities, which is why our mobile lab provides such an exciting prospect. Many schools since the turn of the year have committed to repeat and extended bookings, and we are now in a position to expand with the purchase of another laboratory to cover the increased demand."

Flashbang are now looking for more enthusiastic, passionate scientists to join their team on a full or part time basis and are inviting interest via the website www.flashbangscience.co.uk

Andrew Holt, Chemtura

Flashbang Science attend QEGS with their interactive Holiday Clubs

Flashbang Science has joined forces with Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School to engage 7-10 year olds in a summer school programme that shows them that science subjects are fun, exciting and extremely enjoyable.

Claire Holt, who heads up Flashbang Science, is delighted to be working alongside QEGS Blackburn this summer as they take their Holiday Club programme for primary aged school children into Blackburn.

On the weeks commencing 16th and 23rd July, Flashbang will be on site with their interactive Science Laboratory- equipped with stations for 18 pupils, the mobile laboratory provides hands on practical experimentation for primary school students and focuses on a mix of physics and chemistry.

Claire's passion as a fully qualified Chemical Engineer, with over 25 years experience in a range of markets, including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, specialist chemicals, and extensive business experience in blue chip chemical organisations such as Fujifilm and Zeneca, ideally enables her

to drive her belief that the science industry can be regenerated in the North West.

Claire explains, "Industry in the North West has been held in such high esteem since the industrial revolution and one way we can progress as a society, more so under today's conditions, is to embrace our heritage and show the youngsters of today that the North West was once at the forefront of industry and can be again. The continued education of science in schools, followed by the regeneration of our local communities by bringing back the industry is paramount in our children's future."

Flashbang have been working with many schools in the North West and West Yorkshire areas and to have the opportunity to work with one of the leading schools in the area is a huge boost for the team. Claire Holt, Managing Director of Flashbang explains, "Having had such a busy year visiting Primary Schools all over the North West, we are extremely happy to be able to hold 2 weeks of our Holiday Clubs at such a fabulous school. Science is so important, and to be able to give a

viable compliment to the Sports Holiday Clubs is ideal for children and parents."

Joanna Lavelle, Foundation Director at QEGS sees the collaboration as a huge step, "Queen Elizabeth's has always enjoyed a strong reputation for science teaching. Our former pupils include many notable scientists and inventors such as Sir Ernest Marsden whose research proved the existence of the atomic nucleus and Dr Brian Mercer who invented a revolutionary process for the manufacture of plastic nets known as Netlon which can be seen reinforcing grass sports surfaces and garden meshes. We are delighted to support Flashbang's summer school to encourage young people to find out for themselves that science can be fun and who knows maybe the bright little seven-year old playing and learning at Flashbang's summer school in 2012 may be a future Nobel prize winner in years to come."

For information and bookings, please contact Claire Holt, 07802 475303.

Andrew Holt, Chemtura