Mad for science: Electrifying lessons at Hampshire school

Youngsters given lessons in electricity and site safety

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- National Grid sparks an interest in engineering at school
- Lessons on the dangers of construction sites
- Pupils undertake hair-raising experiments to learn about electricity

Bright sparks at Morelands Primary School got an electrifying lesson in science and safety from National Grid staff.

Members of a National Grid project team, who have been upgrading Lovedean Substation, visited the school in Waterlooville to teach pupils about construction site safety and to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects.

Pupils got to wear high-viz safety jackets and hardhats as safety mascot ‘Ivor Goodsite’ explained the dangers of entering a building site unsupervised and how construction workers stay safe.

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

National Grid Project Manager Chinedu Orji said: “The students were really enthusiastic and keen to get involved with the sessions.

“We’re delighted with the school’s response and hope some of those who took part have been inspired to pursue a career in engineering.”

Nina Poscotis, Acting Deputy Head teacher at Morelands Primary School, said: “It was a brilliant day for all the pupils.

“It was clear they absolutely loved the Mad Science sessions and, as a teacher, knowing they now have valuable knowledge about the dangers of construction sites is really comforting, especially with a big building project starting at our school this summer.

She added: “I’m extremely grateful to National Grid for organising the initiative and delivering a great day.”

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Notes for editors

The initiative was developed as part of National Grid's project to extend its electricity substation on Broadway Lane, Lovedean. The vital work has enabled us to increase the capacity of the substation to ensure the region continues to enjoy safe and reliable energy supplies.

Morelands Primary was visited on 20 June. More information about the school is available on their website:

http://morelandsprimaryschool.co.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/.

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- 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.
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