

# Schools go mad for science with National Grid

National Grid encourages young engineers of the future

23 Oct 2015

- **Pupils learn about the dangers of construction sites and how workers stay safe**
- **'Mad Science' presenters teach the children about electricity using fun and interactive experiments**

Bright sparks at three local primary schools got an electrifying lesson in science and safety thanks to National Grid staff from Sellindge Substation.


Members of the National Grid team visited Aldington Primary, Sellindge Primary and Mersham Primary to teach local youngsters about construction site safety and promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects.


Safety mascot 'Ivor Goodsite' explained the dangers of entering a building site unsupervised and how his team stay safe when working. He then posed for a photo with the Sellindge substation team and the school children, who were dressed for the part in hard hats and high-viz jackets.

Mad Science presenters 'Whizz-bang Will' and 'Sodium Simon' went on to carry out some exciting electricity experiments. These were followed by workshops where pupils were involved in a hair-raising experience using the Van der Graaf generator, and a thought-provoking circuit building task.

National Grid Project Engineer Steve Thorpe said: "The students were really enthusiastic and keen to get involved with all aspects of the sessions throughout the day. We are delighted with the response from local schools and hope some of the younger generation have been inspired to pursue a career in engineering."

Heloise Karpetas, science coordinator at Sellindge Primary, commented: "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. I'm extremely grateful to National Grid for organising the initiative and delivering a great day."

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Notes for editors

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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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- 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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