Inspiring young minds
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The Royal Society’s Partnership Grants scheme is at the forefront of initiatives seeking to ignite enthusiasm for science among young people, develop skills and interest in genuine scientific investigation, and support teachers and scientists learning from each other. Grants of up to £3000 are now available for teachers and scientists or engineers to work together on creative investigations involving 5–16 year olds. For successful applicants, the grant is awarded directly to the school, enabling the school to pay for any specialist equipment needed for the investigation, travel expenses for the scientist/engineer and/or the school group and possibly teacher supply cover.

Over the past eight years over £1 million has been awarded to 568 projects giving pupils and their teachers the opportunity to work on stimulating and inspiring projects in partnership with a scientist or engineer. Both primary and secondary schools across the UK are benefiting from Partnership Grants scheme funding with a wide range of interesting projects including making biofuel from chip fat, testing whether brain train games really do improve memory and watching deep space for asteroids that could collide with Earth. Schools directly supported by the Royal Society so far stretch from the Shetland Islands to the Isle of Wight, and have forged links with partners from many universities across the UK, as well as with organisations such as GlaxoSmithKline, British Telecom, and Rolls Royce.

A dedicated team at The Royal Society supports all stages of the application process, including advising on investigations you may be considering and guidance in finding a suitable scientist/engineer partner. The next round of Partnership Grants applications opens in September and the closing date is 6 November 2009.

For more information and application forms visit: http://royalsociety.org/education/partnership.htm or contact The Royal Society directly at education@royalsociety.org.