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**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL WINS LESSON OF A LIFETIME
WITH PROFESSOR BRIAN COX**

- Springfield students prepare for a star-studded science class to remember -

Students at Springfield School in Drayton will be sent spinning into orbit this month after winning the chance to be taught by TV science star, Professor Brian Cox.

Thousands of students took part in the nationwide prize draw to see the '*Wonders of The Solar System*' presenter visit their school and teach the lesson of a lifetime on 16 November 2010.

The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 2011 teamed up with Professor Brian Cox to host **The Big Bang Lesson** – a mind blowing workshop to show just how fascinating science, technology, engineering and maths can be.

The competition certainly captured young imaginations with record numbers of school children drumming up support from friends and classmates to enter the lesson lottery.

Year 11 students at Springfield School were among those desperate to be a part of Brian's tour of the universe, so finding out they had won was a dream come true.

Mrs Lynn Evans, Headteacher at Springfield School, said: "Both staff and students are over the moon to have won this amazing opportunity. I'm sure that some amongst the audience will look back on this event as the inspiration they needed to pursue careers in science and engineering or to follow their own dream."

Professor Brian Cox says: "I was truly overwhelmed by the number of competition entries – it's wonderful that so many young people want to learn about our fascinating and beautiful universe."

“Science, technology, engineering and maths always captured my imagination. They are the subjects that deal with the grandest and most exciting questions, and I look forward to taking my students at Springfield on a far-flung journey of fun and discovery.”

Brian will be teaching Year 11 students at Springfield School on Tuesday 16 November.

Youngsters who weren't lucky enough to win this time can see Professor Brian Cox at The Big Bang - one of the UK's biggest celebrations of science and engineering Taking place at ICC London ExCeL from 10 – 12 March 2011, and absolutely free to attend, it offers the chance to take part a host of interactive shows and workshops including Sky One's Braniac Live! and BBC One's Bang Goes the Theory.

Aimed at unleashing passion and skill in young people from all walks of life, The Big Bang is also the ideal place to find out about the exciting career options available in science and engineering.

To find out more and book your place visit www.thebigbangfair.co.uk or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/TheBigBang4U.

- Ends -

For further information please call Mark Thomson or Charlotte Sprague at Consolidated PR on 020 7781 2300 or email stem@consolidatedpr.com.

Notes to Editors

About The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 2011

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair will take place from 10-12 March 2011 at ICC London ExCeL and will celebrate and raise the profile of young people's achievement in science and engineering and enable more young people to experience the excitement and opportunities available through science, technology, engineering and maths with support from their parents and teachers. School groups will be invited to visit the first two days of The Big Bang, which will also be open to the public on the Saturday. Young people will leave enlightened about how science and engineering feature in everything they wear, eat and do. A number of

apprentice, graduate and experienced engineers and scientists will be on hand to quiz and young people will have the opportunity to discover a great career.

The Big Bang hosts the finals of the prestigious National Science & Engineering Competition and also kicks off National Science & Engineering Week 2011.

For more information please visit www.thebigbangfair.co.uk