



17 November 2010

**STAR-STRUCK SCHOOL KIDS WIN
AN AUDIENCE WITH PROFESSOR BRIAN COX**

A Portsmouth school was sent spinning into orbit yesterday after winning the chance to be taught by TV science star, Professor Brian Cox.

The *'Wonders of the Solar System'* presenter visited Springfield School in Drayton to host **The Big Bang Lesson** – a mind blowing workshop showing how fascinating science, technology, engineering and maths can be.

Students flocked to the school hall to enjoy the lesson of a lifetime with the ex D-Ream keyboard player after winning the nationwide prize draw set up by The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 2011.

Professor Brian Cox says: "I was truly overwhelmed by the response I received from the students – 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 really enjoyed taking students at Springfield on a far-flung journey of discovery."

Youngsters 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, it offers the chance to take part in a host of free interactive shows and workshops including Sky One's Brainiac 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.

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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