



December '10

Young Engineers K'Nex Cluster Challenge 2009

Global Science are pleased to invite your school to take part in this year's Young Engineers K'Nex Cluster Challenge. This annual competition is a chance for pupils to compete at various levels, from within their own school, right up to the grand UK Final in London. In the last three years a school from Scotland has won the UK title, so we are going for a fourth title this year!

The Challenge

The competition has a number of levels; School, Cluster, Area, Scottish and UK National. Each level of the competition involves pupils working in teams of two to demonstrate their imagination, creativity and ingenuity by designing and making a model, using **K'Nex**, which solves a set challenge. The Challenge will usually last 1 to 2 hours. Each level has different fun challenges set by Young Engineers and the judging criteria includes categories such as communication, design, problem solving and visual appeal. The overall winning team at each level will be invited to the next level of the competition.

Who can enter?

Working within their Clusters (or learning communities), the competition is open to all Primary 6 pupils, with the support of their local secondary school. Primary schools must liaise with other schools in their cluster and submit one entry per cluster to take part.

How does the Competition work?

Each Primary school will hold a Classroom Challenge for its P6 pupils during the time between January and March '10. Winning teams from these schools then compete at the Cluster Level Challenge around the end of April, usually hosted by the secondary school. The secondary can if it wishes, provide senior pupils to act as mentors and judges for this event. The winning team from this level then competes at the Area Final in May to represent the Cluster. Winners from each of the Area Finals will compete at the Scottish Final to be held in May/June 2010.

How do teachers know what to do?

Over the last 2 years we have run teacher training sessions at various locations. This year the training material will be available on our website so teachers can download and work through it at their own pace. If they prefer teachers are welcome to organise a session for all the teachers in their cluster to work through the material together. In addition Science and Engineering Ambassadors may be available to help teachers run and judge challenges.

How does your Cluster apply?

To enter for the competition, all schools (including the secondary) within a cluster must liaise and discuss if they wish to take part. **Note that not all schools in the cluster need to participate in order for the cluster to apply**, but each school must be consulted to establish if they want to be involved or not. Closing date for applications is Friday 5th February 2010.

We will only accept ONE APPLICATION FORM PER CLUSTER

One application form must be submitted on behalf of the cluster in order to take part in the K'Nex Challenge. Each cluster must appoint a nominated person who could be, for example, the EEO officer or local EDO contact. This nominated person will complete and send the application form on the Cluster's behalf, receive communication about the Challenge as it progresses and be responsible for liaison within the Cluster. Please ensure you communicate within your cluster to find out who will send in the application form.

If you experience problems liaising with schools in your cluster please contact us and we will try and provide support in getting your cluster together.

More Information?

For more information please, call your Global Science office on 01324 403103 where we will be happy to answer any questions.

We look forward to you taking part in this year's exciting competition!

Yours sincerely

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