



A new science education
centre for Oxfordshire
and the region
**to inspire the next
generation of scientists
and innovators**





We want to create the UK's first indoor-outdoor science education centre specifically for primary-aged children



"Introducing children to the excitement and possibilities that science brings is fundamental to their development and that of the nation."
Professor Raymond Dwek, Founder, Oxford GlycoSciences Ltd



"I am very excited by The Oxford Trust's plans to develop a science education centre for children in the Oxford region. It will help to inspire a life-long interest in science and the ways it contributes to improvements in our quality of life."
Professor Sir Rory Collins, Medicine & Epidemiology, University of Oxford



About The Oxford Trust

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust that was founded in 1985 by entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady (Audrey) Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments. Its mission is to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise.

The Trust strives to place science and entrepreneurship at the heart of culture in our region so that everyone, irrespective of age or background, can develop their scientific and technological knowledge and understanding. Over the past thirty years the Trust, in partnership with a wide range of like-minded organisations, has built a supportive bridge between academia and business, created outstanding education programmes and enthused people of all ages about science and technology. It has also helped to build the foundations of the successful science economy we see in Oxfordshire today.

Our programmes

The Oxford Trust's mission remains the same as ever and we run activities across three connected programmes to support this:

- E3** **ENTERPRISE** – supporting economic growth by encouraging innovation.
- E3** **EDUCATION** – inspiring young people about science, technology, engineering and maths.
- E3** **ENGAGEMENT** – encouraging people of all ages to engage with how science impacts their lives.

While the Trust focuses on the enterprise strategy, our education and engagement programmes are delivered through our Science Oxford team.



"I've been involved with the Trust and its work for over thirty years. It is making a real difference to science innovation and education across the region, particularly to the numbers of young people choosing science and preparing for a science-based career." Professor Sir Michael Brady, Founder, Mirada Medical

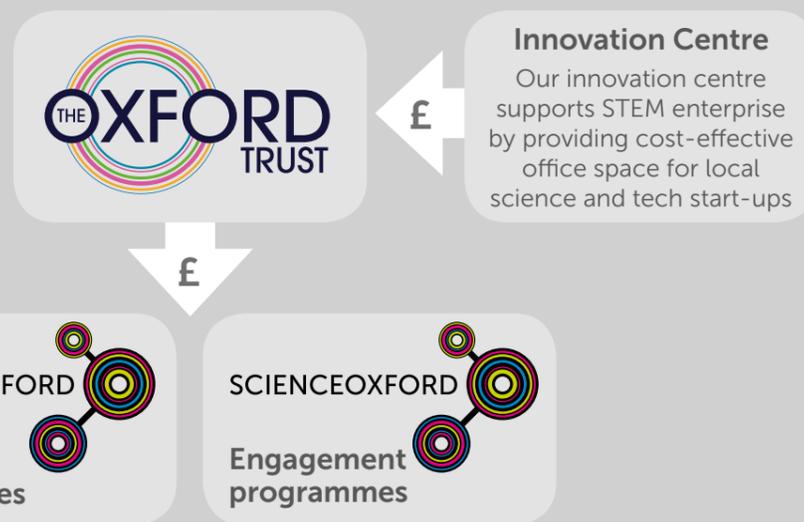


Our sustainable business model

The Oxford Trust has a simple but effective charitable business model. We own and run the Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI), which supports STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) enterprise by providing cost-effective office space for local science and tech start-ups. Income from this activity is reinvested into Science Oxford's science education and engagement programmes.

The strength of the model is that it is self-sustaining and supports both ends of the science ecosystem, from inspiring young children about the wonders of science to helping science start-ups to develop and grow.

The new science education centre will operate under this same sustainable business model, which means we will be able to increase the reach and impact of all our activities.



28,000

Primary and secondary school pupils

40

Start-up companies at OCFI

350

Teachers for CPD training

330

Schools

48,000

Total Science Oxford outreach

Our impact

Our enterprise programme: OCFI is home to 40 start-up and growing companies, employing 260 people. We also support Venturefest Oxford and deliver the annual Oxford Trust Enterprise Awards, impacting on hundreds of entrepreneurs.

Every year our education programmes reach: 28,000 primary and secondary school pupils; 330 schools; and more than 350 teachers for CPD training.

Every year our engagement programmes reach: over 20,000 adults and children and we run over 140 events for adults, families and hard-to-reach communities.



Investing in the next generation of scientists and innovators

The Trust is passionate about inspiring and investing in a new generation of science innovators. We know that primary-aged children who are encouraged to think critically and engage with the big ideas of science become more able to make informed decisions and flourish in our technological world.

Independent research shows that by the age of ten many children will have already decided whether they are 'into' science or not.

Oxfordshire is one of the UK's most significant centres for science-based research and enterprise, so investing in and supporting future generations is critical to maintaining the county's position at the forefront of research and innovation.

Through our Science Oxford education programmes, we aim to cultivate a positive attitude to science and lay the foundations for science learning. We give children the opportunity to experience the excitement of investigation, exploration, experimentation and discovery. We show them that science *can* be cool, *can* lead to an amazing career and *can* change lives.

Now we want to expand our education programmes further – increasing our reach and impact.



Creating the UK's first indoor-outdoor science education centre specifically for primary-aged children

We will develop the UK's first indoor-outdoor science education centre specifically for primary-aged children, their teachers and families; a centre that will provide quality, experiential hands-on science. It will enable us to increase our impact and the number of young people we reach across Oxfordshire and the wider region.

The science education centre will be located at Stansfeld Park in Headington, east of Oxford city centre. The site was acquired by the Trust in early 2016 and is set in 18 acres of woodland – a beautiful and ideal environment in which to explore the natural world and physical play, to learn about environmental science and biodiversity, and to bring scientific enquiry and problem solving into the natural realm.

This will make our science centre the only one in the UK with joined up indoor-outdoor STEM provision, designed with primary schools at the heart.

It will sit alongside **The Wood Centre for Innovation**, which will create much-needed office space for early-stage science and technology companies, capitalising on the proximity to the city's fastest growing health and data sciences quarter and Oxford Brookes University. Under our sustainable business model (see page 4), the income from the innovation centre will be reinvested in our new education centre and its programmes. The result is that the centre will be financially sustainable for the long term.



"I believe that all children should have an inspiring, high quality science education. The new centre at Stansfeld Park will help facilitate just that for young people across the Oxfordshire region." Professor Peter Donnelly, Director, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics



"I am passionate about science education and engaging the public with science. I welcome the creation of this new centre of excellence which will do both." Professor Dame Kay Davies, University of Oxford

Our plans for the science education centre

The plans for our science education centre are ambitious.

We will encourage science engagement through carefully-curated activities, challenges and workshops rather than more superficial 'wow' factor entertainment exhibits that have limited learning value. The unique woodland setting at Stansfeld Park means our experienced Science Oxford schools team can create STEM activities that link indoor and outdoor learning across scientific fields, increasing the breadth of our existing education programmes and the children it can reach.



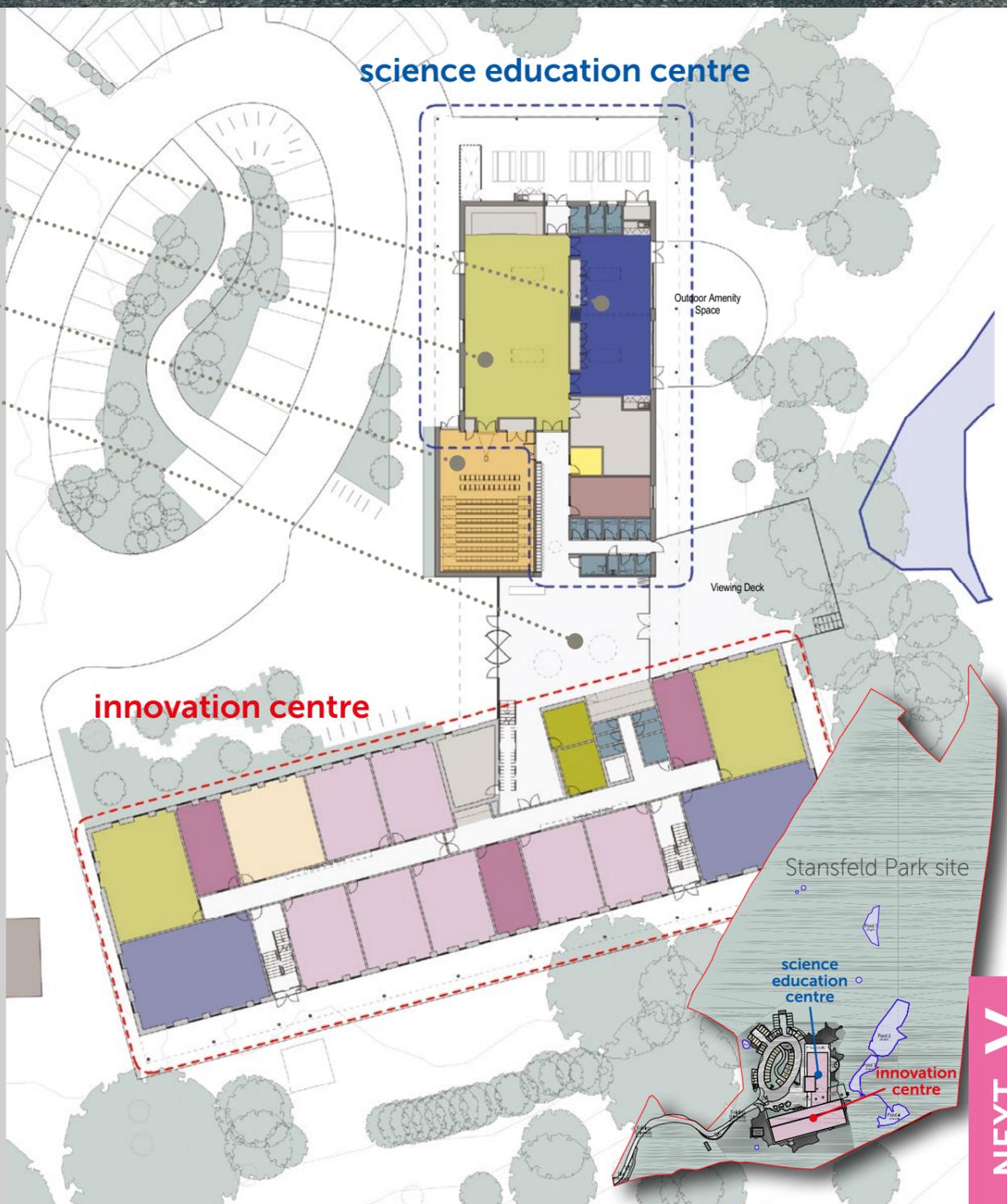
The site is set in an 18-acre woodland environment that we will use for a wide range of STEM learning sessions. The woodland and ponds will be managed in partnership with other groups to maximise the ecological benefits.

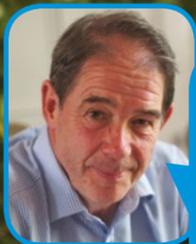
A fully-equipped **teaching space** delivering inspiring workshops for children and training for teachers.

A **science discovery zone** with interactive STEM exhibits to encourage the development of enquiry-based learning, problem solving and social skills.

A 120-seat, **flexible theatre** for shows, demonstrations and talks as well as an expanded workshop space and planetarium.

A **café** for use by everyone, including the local community.





"This is a completely unique project, bringing together the best of Oxford's scientific and education communities to create a new, purpose-built centre. An inspiration in itself, providing astonishing opportunities for young people to experience the natural world, to learn what biodiversity is all about, and to develop a lasting enthusiasm for environmental science. That kind of grounding is going to become more and more critical as we wrestle with today's increasingly profound sustainability challenges."

Sir Jonathon Porritt, writer & broadcaster, Founder of Forum for the Future.



"Science Oxford has been bringing its workshops to Windmill Primary School for many years. We are very excited about the idea of having the new science education centre so close to our school. We can see many opportunities for us to use the centre to enhance our teaching of science on a regular basis, using both the planned indoor science exploration centre as well as the surrounding woodland area."

Lynn Knapp, Headteacher, Windmill Primary, Oxfordshire



A unique centre for science education to enhance our impact

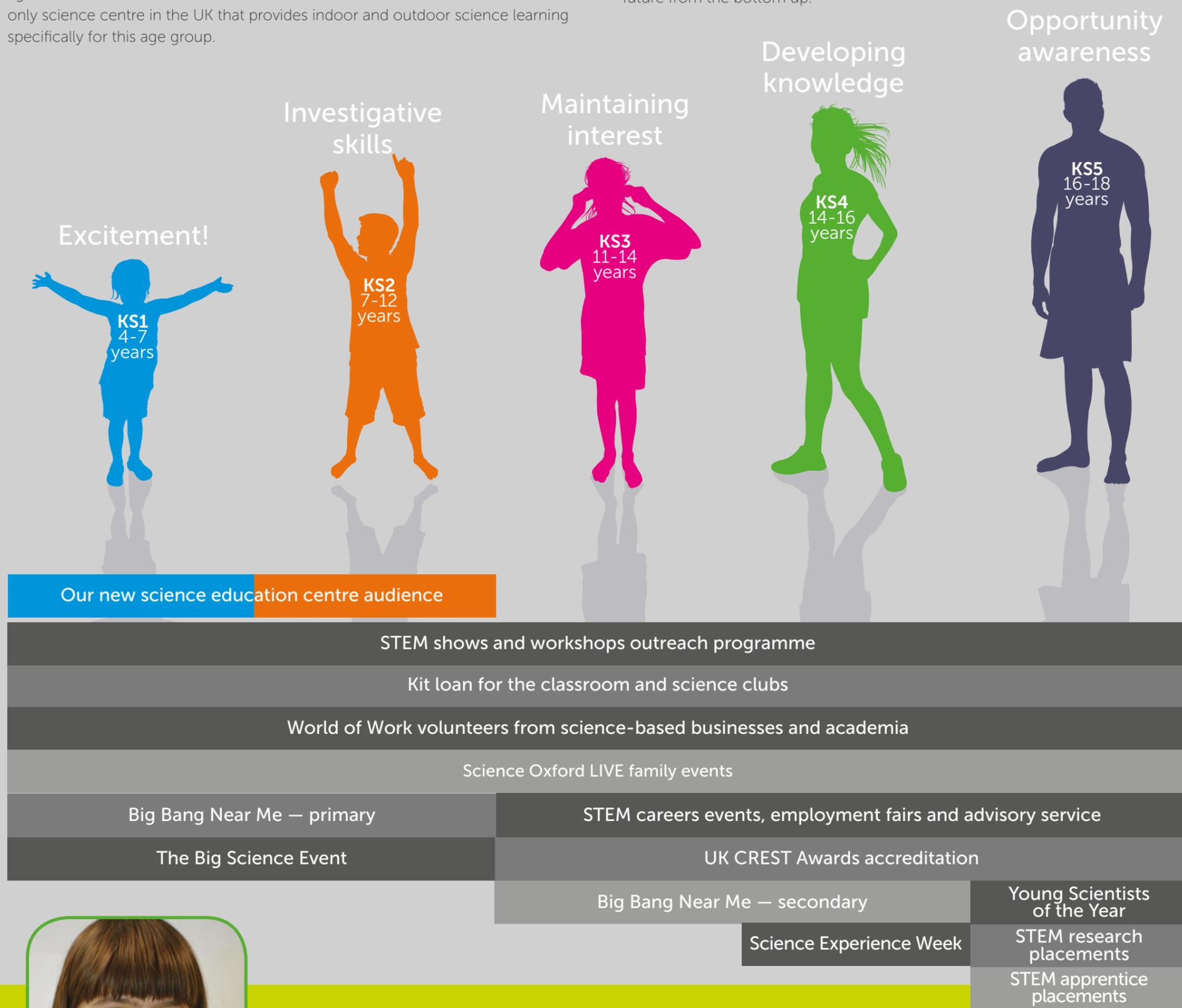
The benefits

The new science education centre will be a shining example of how indoor and outdoor learning can be holistically delivered. Our goal is that every child completing primary school in our region is going to say 'I love science'.

The new centre will double the amount of money we can invest in our education programmes, which in turn will increase our impact. It will focus on children aged 4–12, where we know we can make a real difference. And, it will be the only science centre in the UK that provides indoor and outdoor science learning specifically for this age group.

This will bring benefits to us all:

- More children will feel positive about science, will choose to study science subjects to a higher level, and move into science careers.
- Our region will have a larger pool of science talent to step into our science-based jobs: home-grown talent for home-grown jobs.
- It will be another string to Oxfordshire's bow: we can position the region as the place where our successful science economy invests in the scientists of the future from the bottom up.



Coral Dalitz: a case in point

Over the past thirty years, the Trust has reached out to close-on half a million school children across the region through its public-facing brand Science Oxford. One of those children is Coral Dalitz – who has been a part of the Science Oxford story since she was a toddler. Coral, aged 17 says:

"I used to go along to Science Oxford's shows, workshops and exhibitions with my family. I also really enjoyed the outreach workshops at my primary school. When I was old enough, I volunteered at Science Oxford's weekend science events and summer camps.

I was one of only a few of my friends who stayed interested in science once I got to my secondary school – Cheney School in Oxford. I did my Year 10 work experience with Science Oxford because I already knew the team well. I attended a Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclass in 2013 and was particularly inspired by a Science Oxford evening that celebrated early computer scientist Ada Lovelace. I organised a science engagement event for my peers called 'Why Science, Why Maths?' and we got great speakers from both universities in Oxford to come along and talk to us about the kinds of exciting careers you can get into with STEM subjects. I have already taken my first Maths A- Level and will be taking Further Maths this year.

Science Oxford has played an essential role in stimulating my interest in science and maths by recruiting some really enthusiastic and inventive people to show how fascinating and fun these subjects can be. I love the way Science Oxford shows that science is for everyone."

Help us inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators

The development cost of the combined science innovation centre and education centre at Stansfeld Park is estimated at £11.5 million, which includes the land, building, fit out and making the woodland safe, accessible and ecologically rich. We have secured over 60% of the funding already – enough to start the project as soon as we get planning approval.

The science education centre, with its theatre, interactive gallery, teaching spaces, outdoor learning zones and woodland regeneration, will cost in the region of £3.5 million. We already have £1.25 million committed to the project but we need

to raise a further £2.25 million. Once complete, the science education centre's future will be secured through on-going revenues from the innovation centre on the same site (see information on our sustainable business model, page 4).

We need your support!

Please help us raise the additional £2.25 million we need to create a first-class science education centre that Oxfordshire and the region can be proud of. Your contribution will give thousands of children the opportunity to experience stimulating, hands-on science – indoors and outdoors – and will help inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.



Total cost of the science education centre:

£3.5 million

Funds secured:

£1.25 million

What we need:

£2.25 million



We are delighted that leading scientists and business people are forming a group of prominent local supporters to kick-start our fundraising challenge. Please join them – your support will enable the Trust to engage more young people in science and innovation; to inspire more teachers; and to add much needed capacity to Oxfordshire's dynamic innovation ecosystem.

"This new centre will inspire the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs to maintain and grow Oxfordshire's position at the forefront of research and innovation. Anyone involved in science, technology or enterprise should get right behind this project."

Tim Stevenson, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire



"I personally feel my scientific career has been a great privilege and I owe an enormous debt to the support of The Oxford Trust. I would like to help other young people follow suit and will do my utmost to see this new centre of excellence established here in Oxford." Dr John Boyle, Founder, Oxford Computer Consultants & Chairman, The Oxford Trust



"Stansfeld Park will add a new dimension to Oxfordshire's thriving technology sector. Housing innovative start-up companies alongside an education centre will inspire the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs. It gives me enormous pleasure to support The Oxford Trust's bold initiative and I urge you to do the same as it will play a pivotal role in supporting Oxfordshire's science-based cluster."

Ian Laing, Founder, Milton Park

How can I get involved?

Whether you're an individual who is passionate about science and innovation or an organisation able to support education, please become a benefactor of this project. Together we can show that our successful science community invests in the scientists of the future from the bottom up.

If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with Wendy Twist to discuss this further.

Wendy Twist, Head of Development, The Oxford Trust

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The people behind the project



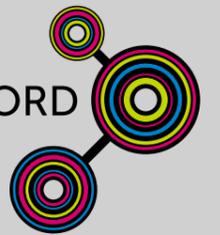
The Oxford Trust

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 Matt Francis, Director of Project Operations
 Bridget Holligan, Director of Education and Engagement
 Cathy Sturrock, Head of Education

Science Education Advisory Group

We are grateful to the following people for generously lending their time and expertise to help develop the content of our new science education centre:

Catherine Aldridge, Director, Catalyst Learning & Communication Ltd
Mike Dennis, Senior Lecture in Science Learning, Oxford Brookes University
Penny Fidler, CEO, UK Association for Science & Discovery Centres
Lynn Knapp, Headteacher, Windmill Primary School, Oxford
Toby Parkin, Lead Curator, Interactive Galleries, Science Museum Group
Lynne Pebworth, Trustee, The Oxford Trust
Dudley Shallcross, Director, Primary Science Teaching Trust
Helen Wilson, Programme Lead, Science Education, Oxford Brookes University

The Oxford Trust

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust that was founded by entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady (Audrey) Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments (OI). OI, which began life in their garden shed, designed and developed the super-conducting magnets that are used today in MRI scanners all over the world. The company was a huge commercial success. The Woods' experience of creating and growing an innovative business enabled them to appreciate the challenges that face any young entrepreneur and so, in 1985, they founded The Oxford Trust to provide business support for science and tech start-up companies and create education outreach activities to inspire children about science.
www.theoxfordtrust.co.uk

Science Oxford

Science Oxford is the public-facing brand of The Oxford Trust. It creates the very best in live science events for families and adults, designs and delivers inspiring science activities for schools and trains and support teachers. Importantly, Science Oxford also enables young people to connect to the STEM world of work. The organisation works across Oxfordshire and the region.
www.scienceoxford.com



ADP

ADP is designing The Oxford Trust's new science innovation centre and education centre at Stansfeld Park. A high quality architectural practice, ADP is currently ranked 26 in the AJ top 100. They have a wide experience of designing in sensitive locations across a number of key sectors including education, science and research, healthcare, commercial, cultural and residential. Since its formation in 1965, the practice has developed a strong reputation for innovative and award-winning architecture, interior design and landscape architecture.
www.adp-architecture.com



"I am delighted to see plans coming together for the new science learning centre in Oxford. The team at Science Oxford is first class and delivers excellence in inspirational hands-on STEM learning programmes both indoors and outdoors, for schools and communities across Oxfordshire."

Dr Penny Fidler, CEO, UK Association for Science & Discovery Centres

What the next generation of scientists and innovators say about us

"Thank you for the lovely show. I liked it a lot. I think science is fun, and I know more about forces now." Pupil, Year 6

"I did not know that science was that fun." Pupil, Year 5

"I learnt a lot that I didn't know before. You really know how to make learning fun. You have taught me new scientific words I didn't know." Pupil, Year 4

"Thank you for teaching me about science. It was really interesting." Pupil, Year 3

"I loved learning the amazing scientific facts that we had never heard of before. Now I have something to teach my parents!" Pupil, Year 4

"Thank you for the wonderful time. I wood like you to come back a *nuther* day. It was fun!" Pupil, Year 2



"The Oxford Trust's new science education centre is a wonderful development. To inspire young people to take an interest in science is both immensely rewarding for the individual and essential for the country."

Professor Dame Frances Ashcroft



"Anyone who cares about the future success of science and technology-based enterprise in our region should support this project. It is crucial to nurture home-grown, science-literate talent to feed our future innovation ecosystem, and this new science education centre will start where it matters most – at primary level."

Professor Sir John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford



"Inspiring the next generation to take an interest in science is critical to maintaining and growing our position at the forefront of research and innovation. I fully support this exciting project."

Professor Sir Paul Nurse, Chief Executive & Director, Francis Crick Institute

"This is a fantastically exciting project – an opportunity to bring scientists, teachers and children together, to generate interest and excitement about all areas of science. But I'm particularly excited by the outdoor side of it – the chance to get a flavour of what fieldwork is like in biology, ecology and earth and environmental sciences. Not all science happens inside, in a lab!"

Professor Alice Roberts, anatomist, author & broadcaster



"Oxfordshire has a world-class science innovation ecosystem that presents fantastic opportunities for our young people. The new science education centre will play an important role in enabling the next generation to be part of it. The centre is totally aligned with our Strategic Economic Plan ambitions – our local business community should put their weight right behind it." Nigel Tipple, CEO, Local Enterprise Partnership



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