

Newsletter

Brought to you by **Dr Chris Hamlett**,
Discover Materials National Outreach Officer

Summer is here ... We had a great Spring Term and I hope you did too.

We started the term at the **ASE Conference** in Nottingham where we met hundreds of amazing teachers, technicians and other educators. During British Science Week we visited the **Tottenham Hotspur Stadium** to meet some amazing Year 9 pupils taking part in the final of the JP Morgan School Science Challenge and went to **Retford Oaks Academy** to run a stand at the **Diverse Academies STEM Fair**.

Our Ambassadors have been busy taking the fantastic **IOM3 Discovery Boxes** into schools, they have been to Clitheroe, Islington and Pudsey and have more schools lined up for the Summer Term.

If you would like to learn more about the IOM3 Boxes then please follow the link below and get in touch to arrange a visit from one of our ambassadors (it is free).

Learn more about the IOM3 Discovery Box: <https://discovermaterials.co.uk/resource/iom3-discovery-box/>



Awareness weeks in the Summer Term

Sun Awareness Week (11th – 17th May)

<https://bad.org.uk/sun-awareness-week-2026>

For sun awareness week why not check out Mission 4 of our Let's Move to the Moon box which involves blocking UV light:

Booklet: [Move-to-the-Moon-pptx-version-of-booklet.pdf](#)

Video: https://youtu.be/jDIznefwO7E?si=1eNse_uvaTcwzy72

World Environment Day (5th June)

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

World Awareness Day would provide a great opportunity to consider the circular economy and how we make use of waste materials. Here are a couple of relevant resources:

Bioplastics and the Circular Economy:

<https://discovermaterials.co.uk/resource/bioplastics-and-the-circular-economy/>

CoCoBioMater Bag:

<https://discovermaterials.co.uk/news/cocobiomater-bag/>

Great Science Share for Schools (16th June)

<https://www.greatscienceshare.org/>

Our primary school resources outline several ways for children to explore that materials around them.

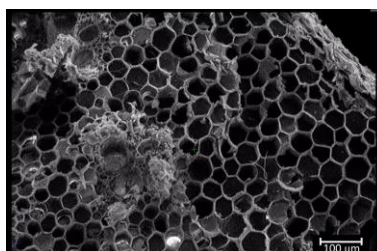
Why not check out some of our activities:

<https://discovermaterials.co.uk/resource/activities-for-primary-schools-and-families/>

What is it?

Here is an image taken using an electron microscope

But what is it of?



Materials Science in the News

Making Materials in Space insert generic moonscape base image

The vacuum of space contains few impurities so is a potential environment to make high purity semiconductors. The company Space Forge has sent a foundry into orbit that can reach ~1000°C.

The aim is to make high purity semiconductors (used in computer chips).

Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62vx0pgyrgo>

Interested in space? Why not check out our space box – see the Resources section for more information.



Discover Materials Ambassadors

Discover Materials Ambassadors are Materials Scientists keen to inspire the next generation.

This term's featured ambassador is...

Tess Knowles, PhD student at The University of Manchester

Tess investigates the use of plasma-based surface treatments using new, innovative nanomaterials to improve the wear resistance and to reduce friction in high-performance car engines.



• Check out how Tess got into materials science and what she does: <https://discovermaterials.co.uk/discover-materials-ambassadors/tess-knowles/>

• Check out the video that Tess made for the Let's Move to the Moon project: https://youtu.be/_sJuHXXQ7TI?si=G9vOQFF-5SVXyGN1

Resources for Schools

This issue's featured resource: **Let's Move to the Moon**

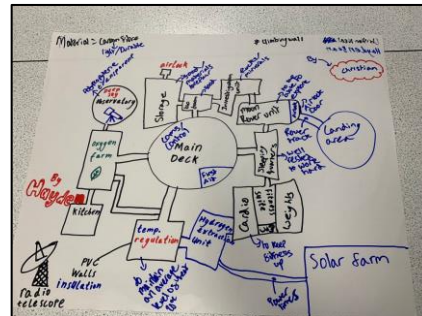
With funding from the UK Space Agency we have developed a booklet containing a range of missions looking at materials science aspects to building a moonbase.

It is aimed at 11 – 14 year olds but should still be suitable for slightly younger age groups.

You can borrow a box containing all of the equipment needed to complete these activities. Also, a Discover Materials Ambassador may also be able to hand deliver it to your school (all for free of course!).

Link to this resource:

<https://discovermaterials.co.uk/resource/lets-move-to-the-moon/>

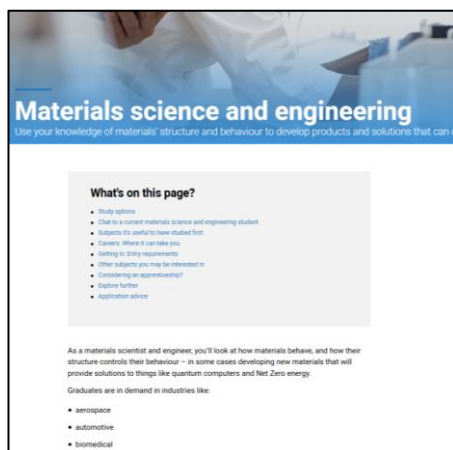


Careers resource

This month's featured careers resource:

Materials Science and Engineering UCAS page

Check out the UCAS page for Materials Science and Engineering, It has lots of information about a range of courses in the area and where to study them.



Link:

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/materials-science-and-engineering>

What is it?

It is **bamboo**!

Find out more about this, and other materials under the SEM, by checking out our recording of a session delivered by Dr Mark Coleman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aat85E4Aw2g>



Upcoming Events...

• Cheltenham Science Festival 5th – 6th June

This year we will be in the Discovery Zone showcasing the activities and videos from our Mapping Materials Science and Engineering project.

• Big Bang, NEC (Birmingham) 9th – 11th June

A huge, three day STEM festival for 9 – 13 year olds. We will be showcasing a range of activities for microscopes to 3D printing.

• Magic of Materials Summer School

Over the upcoming term applications will open for year 10 pupils to attend the free, 3-day **Magic of Materials Summer School** (6th - 8th July). Please let us know if you want any further information.

<https://discovermaterials.co.uk/news/magic-of-materials-summer-school/>

For more info on these, and other events, visit our Events page: <https://discovermaterials.co.uk/events/>

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