

Lab in a Lorry, a mobile science lab for young people, visited YBA on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 June to connect young people to science.

Pupils took part in organised visits to the lab, which is designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Lab in a Lorry offers 11-14 year olds the opportunity to explore science through specially created interactive experiments.

The Lab in a Lorry programme consists of two 44ft lorries that have been visiting schools, youth organisations, major events, and communities free-of-charge across the UK and Ireland since early 2005.

Each lorry is fitted with three distinct lab areas where groups of up to six young people can take part in each of the fun and informative experiments. The programme is delivered by volunteers – all scientists and engineers – and with at least one volunteer mentor to every six students, everyone gets to try their hand at experimental science and think about the surprises and questions that arise.

Lab in a Lorry in Wales is a partnership between the Institute of Physics and the Welsh Government. The Schlumberger Foundation is a founding partner and volunteer assistance provided by STEMNET. The aim of Lab in a Lorry is to encourage positive attitudes towards science and to make science and engineering more attractive to 11-14 year olds.

Institute of Physics spokesperson James Bamford said:

“Lab in a Lorry is a fantastic experience for young people. It generates excitement and curiosity in science by letting them explore experimental science for themselves with the help of expert mentors.”

Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, said: “The Welsh Government is pleased to continue to support this very innovative project that is designed to make science exciting and fun, as well as highly relevant. Hundreds of pupils in Wales will benefit by taking part in the experiments on the Lorry and we hope it will encourage many students to pursue STEM subjects in the future.”

Dr Frances Saunders, President of IOP, said, “School students across Wales are in for a real treat. The experience has been designed to give students a real taste of just how exciting experimental science can be.”

Schools can request a visit from Lab in a Lorry through the website www.labinalorry.org.uk which also contains information on how to become a volunteer.

Lab in a Lorry is actively recruiting additional partners to ensure the programme expands and continues to be a free experience for all. For more information on partnerships, please visit the Lab in a Lorry website.