

A varied programme of summer holiday science activities is announced

If you have been meaning to visit the hands-on science centre that opened at Easter but have not got around to it yet, make sure that you make time this summer.

The centre will be following the extended school holiday opening times (10am-4pm Tuesday to Saturday) from 22nd July until 2nd September. There are always a variety of permanent interactive exhibits including the Jacob's ladder, electronic microscope and Benham's discs. You can send and receive morse code messages, build (and blow down) windproof towers and shake hands with yourself. There is also a makerspace area with different challenges; such as building cars, designing wind turbines or creating constellations.

In addition, each Friday Cheltenham Science Group will be joined by visitors from local STEM organisations:

- **Friday 28th July** - Find out about eyes and ears with special activities run by **Specsavers**. You can take a model of an eye apart and then see if you can put it back together or try on various glasses glazed to different prescriptions to show see what it might be like to be long or short sighted.
- **Friday 4th August** - There will be some guest surprise demonstrations from the **Institute of Physics**. IoP members can get free entry and a small packed lunch from Create on the Square (contact miranda.addey@iop.org for more details)
- **Friday 11th August** - We will be exploring rocks with volunteers from the **Gloucestershire Geology Trust**.
- **Friday 18th August** - Ahead of the total solar eclipse in the USA on Monday 21st August, we will be joined at the science centre by volunteers from the **Cotswold Astronomical Society** for fun activities.
- **Friday 25th August** - We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers from the **Jet Age Museum** back to the science centre. Come and engineer paper aeroplanes that can carry loads and fly straight!
- **Friday 1st September** - Take part in Mission: Starlight by completing some hands-on experiments about how to keep safe from ultraviolet radiation with Dr Jenny Eyley from the **Royal Society of Chemistry** and the University of Reading.

These special events are included in normal admission: £2 per person (over 4) or £7.50 for a family (up to 5 people) or free with an annual family pass (£20 for 12 months' unlimited entry for a family of 5).

Each Thursday (27th July - 31st August) **The Creative Voice of Me** will be running art workshops for kids and parents **Create in the Square** between 9:30 and 11:30. These sessions cost £2 per person and the ticket entitles you to free entry to the science centre until 4pm on the day of the workshop.

Kirsty Watson, director of Cheltenham Science Group, says, "We are looking forward to welcoming lots of families to the science centre during the summer holidays. As parents, we know how difficult it can be to occupy the kids. A couple of hours exploring the science centre together is a fantastic way to keep everyone's brains ticking by learning something new. With our annual family pass, you start saving on your third visit and with so much going on this summer that might be really soon!"

-ENDS-

Contact information

www.cheltenhamsciencegroup.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Cheltenhamsciencegroup/>

<https://twitter.com/cheltscigrp>

or contact Kirsty or Dave Watson 01684 298 525 (mobile) 07725 003 443

Visitor Information

Address: 68 Edinburgh Place, Cheltenham, GL51 7SE

Opening times:

school holidays: Tuesday - Saturday 10-4

term time: Saturday 10-4, Tuesday & Friday 2-5

Admission:

FREE for children aged 0-4

£2 per person over 4

£7.50 for a family (up to 5 people)

£20 annual family pass