

Young Inventors Competition launched in partnership with Prince's Charity

A national competition aiming to inspire British school children to pursue careers in science and engineering has been launched in partnership with Mosaic, a charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales. The Young Inventors Competition for Schools 2010 will be an opportunity for British youngsters to offer creative solutions to everyday problems and will run during Spring/Summer 2010.

More than a hundred schools have already agreed to participate, and it is hoped that more than a thousand British schools will be involved in the inaugural year of the competition. Participants will be encouraged to submit entries in three different categories, and both primary and secondary schools will be participating.

Manchester University's Prof. Salim Al-Hassani is a mechanical engineer and Chairman of the Judging Panel. He explained: "It is vital for the future success of our country that we continue to inspire generations of scientists and inventors. It's important for young people to realise that science and engineering can be a creative outlet as much as the arts. And that, even in this age of complex computers and high-tech gadgets, it is possible to be an inventor and make a difference to other people's quality of life."

He continued: "We've created three categories, and each category is linked to a particular role model from the history of science in the Middle Ages. The idea is that we demonstrate that it is possible to be an inventor even with access to rudimentary knowledge. The only limit is your imagination. This competition might not uncover a world-changing invention, but we hope it will be the inspiration behind a world-changing inventor of the future."

The competition is being run by the 1001 Inventions initiative, which recently launched a popular exhibition at London's Science Museum. One of the competition partners is Mosaic, a charity founded in 2007 by HRH The Prince of Wales and chaired by HRH Princess Badiya bint El Hassan of Jordan.

Commenting on the competition launch, John O'Brien, Managing Director of Mosaic said: "Mosaic works to create opportunities for young people and to improve understanding between communities. We are delighted to be partnering with 1001 Inventions on this competition as a way to raise young people's understanding of the fabulous contribution of the Muslim world to modern-day science and engineering. We hope that the competition will inspire the students we support to follow in the illustrious footsteps of those celebrated by 1001 Inventions, drawing support from the many successful engineers and scientists within British Muslim communities today who support Mosaic's work."

To enter the competition, teachers can download an entry form and submit their school's best entries online to the competition's judging panel. The Young Inventors Competition for Schools will run from 29th March until 4th June 2010. The competition was created by the 1001 Inventions initiative, which is a global educational project that is currently exhibiting at the Science Museum in London. Further information about the competition is available at www.younginventors.co.uk

Notes to editors

For further information please contact: Junaid Bhatti on +44 7980 586 243 / junaid@1001inventions.com
Official images are available on request.

About 1001 Inventions

1001 Inventions is a global educational initiative that promotes awareness of a thousand years of scientific and cultural achievements from Muslim civilisation from the 7th century onwards, and how those contributions helped build the foundations of our modern world.

The 1001 Inventions global touring exhibition and the educational products that accompany the exhibition all highlight the scientific and technological achievements made by men and women, of different faiths and cultures that lived in Muslim civilisation.

Launched in the United Kingdom in March 2006, 1001 Inventions was created by the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation (FSTC), a British based non-profit, non-religious and academic organization. Working with leading academics from around the world, FSTC engages with the public through educational media in order to highlight the shared cultural and technological inheritance of humanity, in order to improve social cohesion.

About Mosaic

Mosaic was founded by HRH The Prince of Wales and convened in November 2007 by Business in the Community, one of the Prince's Charities, to challenge the growing concern around the issues facing young Muslims living in deprived areas of Britain. Today Mosaic operates nationally in London, the West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber and the North West as a set of initiatives championed by Muslims aimed at raising aspirations and providing opportunity. Support is increasingly gathering internationally.

Mosaic's key concerns, as outlined by its founder, are twofold. Firstly in supporting young Muslims and their peers between the ages of 5 and 25 years old who, through no fault of their own, lack access to opportunities in order to maximize their potential to make a positive contribution to society. Secondly, to address the misunderstanding that has arisen between the Islamic and Western worlds in recent years.

Mosaic's core aims are:-

- To stimulate greater levels of volunteering through a network of partners and, where appropriate, direct delivery.
- To nurture and promote talent in Muslim communities, providing positive role models to young Muslims and society.
- To promote leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement based on addressing key social issues of social importance in the UK and beyond.

For information about Mosaic and its other activities please contact Saad Awan, Campaigns Manager, on +44 (0) 20 7566 8669 / saad.awan@bitc.org.uk or visit www.mosaicnetwork.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Young Inventors Competition for Schools?

The Young Inventors Competition is a national initiative for schools which promotes creativity in the sciences and engineering. The project hopes to encourage British children to pursue careers in science and engineering, and uses role models from the Middle Ages to demonstrate that simple ideas and inventions can have a huge impact upon our quality of life.

The competition is run by the 1001 Inventions initiative that is currently exhibiting at the Science Museum in London, in association with the Jameel Foundation and in partnership with Mosaic Network.

Who can enter?

Any United Kingdom school can participate in the competition, and will be allowed to submit 3 entries per competition category.

How do schools enter?

To get an entry pack, Schools can download the application form from our website (younginventors.co.uk) and enter their whole school. Teachers will be required to pick their school's best three inventions per category and submit them by the deadline date.

What are the competition categories?

There are three categories with separate prizes for primary schools and secondary schools. In addition, there is a special prize given in partnership with the Mosaic network charity.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Creative Engineering – The Al-Jazari Award

The 12th century engineer Al-Jazari was known for his beautiful engineering. He believed that machines that make our lives easier should also be beautiful. For example, Al-Jazari built a water powered clock that looked like an elephant and featured robotic people and animals that would move automatically and tell you the time.

The challenge is to take an everyday machine or object and use your imagination and creativity to make it more beautiful.

Healthy Living – The Al-Zahrawi Award

Al-Zahrawi was a Doctor from Spain in the 10th century. He developed many different medical instruments. He was also responsible for introducing catgut (also known as cattlegut) to the world of healing. Before Al-Zahrawi, catgut was used as strings for musical instruments. He discovered that using catgut stitches in operations was safer than using string or any other thread.

Your challenge is to take an everyday object or invention and find a new use for it that helps improve people's health. For example, you could invent something that helps people get fitter or eat more healthy food, or you could find a way of improving the environment by reducing litter and pollution.

Global Explorer – The Merriam Astrulabi Award

Merriam Astrulabi was born in 944 in Syria and she became one of the world's leading experts in making Astrolabes, which were the Sat Nav of their time and helped people work out their location. Some Astrolabes were small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, and they were used by people travelling the world to help them navigate.

Your challenge is to invent a device that will make it easier for people to get where they want to go. For example, you could make their journeys more comfortable, or faster, or make it easier for people to find their way around.

The Mosaic Prize

This is a special Award that will be given to the best entry, from all the categories, by a "Mosaic School". Mosaic is a British charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales. The "Mosaic Schools" are a group of 50 schools in the UK that have partnered with Mosaic and receive support from the Mosaic charity's activities.

How long does the competition run?

The competition launch date is Friday the 29th of March 2010. Prior to this, school teachers across the UK will be contacted to encourage their involvement. The closing date for entries will be 5pm on Thursday the 4th of June 2010.

Who will judge the competition?

The competition entries will be reviewed by the Young Inventors Competition team and the best entries will be judged by scientists and other academics from the 1001 Inventions initiative. The majority of the academics (University Professors and PhDs) will be experts in science, engineering and the history of science. Judging will take place in early June 2010.

When will you announce the winners?

Winners will be announced at a special Awards ceremony that will take place in London in late June 2010. (Exact date and venue will be revealed in late April/early May 2010.)

What's the prize?

All nominated schools will be invited to a special awards ceremony in London and receive their prize from a pioneering scientist, engineer or artist.

The prize for all winners is that their winning designs will be displayed at the Science Museum in London, within the 1001 Inventions gallery in June 2010.

Each winner will also receive an additional mystery prize that will be will be revealed at the competition Awards Ceremony.

Where can I find out more about the competition and its progress?

The website www.younginventors.co.uk has all the information you will need to know about the competition. The launch date for the competition and website will be the 29th of March 2010.