

PRESS RELEASE

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**NO EMBARGO**

Empowering high school student: climate education

With Climate Change now at the forefront of people’s consciousness and carbon-dioxide (CO2)regularly being spoken/written about across the media, education in relation to Climate Change has never been more important. A new project for schools, being offered by Norfolk’s Teacher Scientist Network1 (TSN), aims to do just that thanks to funding from the Dudgeon STEM Skills fund2.

Open to high schools in the Breckland, Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk districts, TSN is inviting schools to sign-up for a free, 4 week STEM Club programme that will explore the properties of CO2 using a number of different hands-on activities. The hope is that by addressing these properties, students will have a better grasp of some of the basic facts behind climate change and the STEM Club students can spread some key messages around the school and bring about some positive changes in their communities.

TSN’s coordinator, Dr. Phil Smith, explains “*The science curriculum in schools has an awful lot of content these days, which means schools find it hard to go into detail about certain topics, particularly during regular lesson time. With Climate Change being so topical we wanted to offer schools this opportunity to learn more about CO2 in a fun, hands-on way via a series of after-school STEM Club sessions, that will make students feel more empowered with knowledge.*”

The project will also make links between changes in CO2 levels and estimates of those seen around the time of the dinosaurs. TSN is also heavily involved in bringing Dippy the Diplodocus to Norwich Cathedral later this year and Phil hopes both projects will be inspiring experiences for young people.

“*The links with Dippy are really exciting. We hope Dippy’s visit will inspire young people, and we wish to showcase student outputs from this project, so have married the two together!*” added Phil.

Eligible schools, falling within the Breckland, Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk districts, should contact Phil for more details about how to get involved with this project and other projects ([phil.smith@nbi.ac.uk](mailto:phil.smith@nbi.ac.uk) )

Notes for editors:

1. The Teacher Scientist Network is a 25 year old science education charity, hosted by the John Innes Centre that helps teachers reconnect with real science through links with the science community. There are a number of different ways teachers can engage with the organisation, full details on their website, [www.tsn.org.uk/members.htm](http://www.tsn.org.uk/members.htm)
2. Dudgeon STEM Skills fund. The Dudgeon Community Fund STEM Programme aims to increase motivation and competence within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects for pupils aged 12-16 years so that those pupils are more likely to enter post 16 education or employment within the STEM areas. The programme is managed by the Norfolk Community Foundation, <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/dudgeon-community-fund/>

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