

PGR Parents, Carers and Guardians Network hosts first Family Fun Science Event

On Wednesday 25th October, the PGR Parents, Carers and Guardians Network welcomed over 70 members and their children to its inaugural Family Fun Science Event. Organised to coincide with half-term, the event allowed postgraduate researchers to bring their children into the Engineering Building's Makerspace and participate in a variety of fun activities including:

- Rubber band racers
- Pompom catapults
- Spinning sculptures
- Paper bird flyers.

Whilst the emphasis was on fun and creativity, each activity was underpinned by basic engineering principles and allowed children, with the support of their parents, to explore the science behind their creations. As with all events run by the network, the day was also an opportunity for PGR parents to network and share experiences, as well as introducing their children to the University campus where they work.

The event was attended by PGRs from all three faculties and the ages of children ranged from 7 months to 13 years. The event fostered a true community spirit by additionally welcoming Postdoctoral Researchers and Staff members and their children, as well as network members who were keen to take advantage of the networking opportunity even though their children couldn't attend.

A highlight of the day was the robot demonstration led by Undergraduates from Robotic Society within the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The children had all their robot-related questions answered and, under the supervision of the researchers, some children even had an opportunity to control a robot.

The Network would like to share its gratitude with Professor Dimitris Papadimitriou (Vice Dean for Social Responsibility and Inclusion, Faculty of Humanities) and the Humanities EDI team for sponsoring the event and providing invaluable advice. In addition, Emma Nicholls (Outreach Manager, Faculty of Science and Engineering) generously donated boxes of Robot Orchestra t-shirts and jumpers for the children to take home alongside the books provided by the Network. Special thanks to Dr Kamal Qazi and team for their fantastic support and allowing the network to use the brilliant Makerspace in Engineering Building A,

The Family Fun Science Event has received great feedback and preparations are already underway for the Network's annual Christmas extravaganza (date and time to be confirmed). In the meantime, the PGR Parents, Carers and Guardians Network remains a space where members can come together to share advice, experiences, and support one another with challenges relating to parenthood and study. If you are a PGR parent, carer or guardian, or planning to be, you are invited to [subscribe to the group](#).

If you have any questions, kindly contact the network founder, Dr Perpetual Eze-Idehen:
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