

21 July 2022

SciFest Success

The IOP were represented at the University of Wolverhampton's SciFest on 8 & 9 July by members of the West Midlands branch on the IOP stand situated in the courtyard at the City Campus.

The University of Wolverhampton's annual two-day festival, SciFest 2022, was all set to spark interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Now in its tenth year, it played host to school pupils from schools around the region on Friday 8 July and families on Saturday 9 July as part of the university's [Aspire to HE](#) programme, offering a range of free workshops, experiments, games and drop-in activities – all designed to bring STEM subjects to life.

Thanks must be recorded for the West Midlands branch members who represented the IOP at the event – West Midlands Branch Committee Chair, Lynne Long, along with committee members Mike Boden, Margaret and David Cross and Ian Kemp, Gary Sinclair from the University of Wolverhampton and a regular host of IOP physics talks for the Wolverhampton Centre, also helped the team out.

It was an early 7am start on the Friday to set up the IOP stand ready for the event with lots of hands-on experiments for visitors to try along with information leaflets including the new [Limit Less careers booklet](#) and a few red physics bugs!



Over 42 schools and 550 students from the region were invited to attend the festival on the Friday and the IOP stand had a steady stream of secondary school children visiting the stand, many returning to record themselves trying out the hands-on experiments.

The family day on the Saturday attracted over 600 people and many parents, carers and children learned about the many career opportunities available through physics. Ian Kemp from the branch committee said, "A good day, with a steady flow of interested and enthusiastic visitors who were willing to get involved with the demonstrations and talk about Physics. Rewarding and well worth doing." Lynne added, "Wolverhampton has such a diverse population, and it was wonderful to see such a varied audience engaging with the IOP team and sharing how accessible physics can be for all".

Dr Martin Khechara, Fellow for Public Engagement at the University, said: "It's absolutely brilliant to be back. SciFest 2022 has been such a success - seeing lots of families of all ages together, happy, excited, and engaging via STEM.



"Events like SciFest are so important to our community, highlighting accessible careers in the STEM subject areas to the people of our community is paramount and events like these enable us to showcase the opportunities on offer in an innovative and interactive way.

"This is our first event since the pandemic, and it's been awesome to be back in the courtyard – seeing families happy and having fun in the sunshine at our City Campus. We look forward to planning a bigger and better event for SciFest 2023.

"We have worked with the IOP team for many years at other events but they have never been to SciFest. It was just amazing to have them there and see how many young learners and families engaged with what they do. It was just fantastic!"