

Superheroes at the Institute of Physics

This year's spectacular exhibition at the Institute of Physics on Caledonian Road is not to be missed this summer!

Under the gaze of Orion that adorns its ceiling, superheroes grace the floors – and walls – of the Institute's iconic gallery space, and everywhere you look there are exciting activities to have a go at.

The exhibition is called Superheroes Unlimited and its five superheroes are each based on a real life scientist who is already making a real difference to the lives of others and the world we live in.

Open exclusively to local school children for its first fortnight, it is now open to everyone for the whole summer holiday.

Visitors can get really hands-on with fun physics experiments, be creative with arts and crafts activities, and find out how real-life role models are saving the world with science.

And there's an awesome activity pack to take away too, that includes activities from the exhibition and a whole lot more.

Who doesn't want to make a tornado in a bottle or invent a search and rescue robot?!

The exhibition is free to visit and is perfect for families with children aged 7-9.

Toby Shannon-Smith is Manager of Public Engagement at the IOP. Talking about the concept of this year's show, he explains:

"We wanted to illustrate the importance of scientists in a fun way, by drawing a comparison between scientists and superheroes.

"We looked at established superheroes and questioned what it is that makes them super. Is it down to incredible powers, their high-tech gadgets or a shiny costume?

"Then we asked Year 4 children from Laycock Primary in Islington what they thought made someone a superhero, and this is what they told us:

"Helping the environment; saving living things; keeping people safe; being kind and brave; and doing amazing things.

"At the IOP we know lots of people who do all these things, and we picked five of them to model our summer superheroes on. Five amazing physicists, who are doing this all over the UK; and without the aid of superpowers.

"We gave them secret identities and called them Superheroes Unlimited."

This year's exhibition is part of the IOP's [Limit Less Campaign](#) that aims to support young people to change the world and fulfil their potential by doing physics.

The IOP believes that too many young people are put off studying physics by the negative stereotypes that can surround it.

By tackling these out of date ideas and encouraging youngsters from all backgrounds to enjoy science, the IOP hopes to enable many more aspiring physicists to reach for their dreams, and in doing so help create a diverse workforce that can tackle 21st century problems such as climate change and cybersecurity.

Toby continues:

“We want our young visitors to find out about our heroes, try out some challenges and experiments and create their own science superhero – and maybe even discover how they want to change the world for the better, and how they can become a real-life science superhero.”

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday between 10:00 am until 16:00 pm. Recommended visit time is 1-2 hours. More [here](#)