

What is FameLab Academy?

FameLab Academy is a competition for Year 9 students in Gloucestershire sponsored by **EDF Energy**. Students have just 3 minutes to explain a scientific topic in a dynamic and engaging way to a panel of judges. They will be judged on *content*, *clarity* and *charisma*. The winner from each school receives a Masterclass in communication training, a work placement in a local STEM company and entry into the Gloucestershire Final.

Have a look at our video [here](#) to find out more.

FameLab Academy is a sister competition to Cheltenham Festivals' FameLab - the world's leading science communication competition which discovers and promotes the best new voices in science, technology and engineering, and is currently hosted in 27 countries. Further information about our international FameLab competition can be found here: <http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/about/famelab/what-is-famelab/>

FameLab Academy was launched as a pilot in Tower Hamlets in 2013 and has been running in Gloucestershire ever since. Over 6500 pupils have taken part in the competition so far.

How does it work?

1. Equipped with training and lesson plans, the lead teacher supports students to create a three-minute presentation on a STEM topic of their choice.
2. Each school is matched with a STEM Mentor, a scientist or engineer trained in public engagement, who will make at least one visit to the school to work with the students on their presentations.
3. Ten students compete in a School Final, judged by one member of staff and two scientists sourced by Cheltenham Festivals. (Every participating student can achieve a British Science Association CREST Bronze Award.)
4. The winning student from each school attends a two-day Science Communication Masterclass, and a one-day work visit in a local STEM company to identify the various career opportunities available in the company and to report this back to their peers.
5. These school winners then compete in the FameLab Academy Gloucestershire Final.
6. The Gloucestershire winners have the opportunity to perform at the Cheltenham Science Festival.

What must each school commit to?

1. Nominating a teacher as a main point of contact who will attend a CPD session on Thursday 7 November 2019 and facilitate each part of the project
2. Attracting at least ten students to take part in the competition between December and March 2020, but ideally looking to work with a larger cohort across their school
3. Organising and delivering school workshops, (Heats and) a School Final, from which a winner will go forward to take part in the FameLab Academy Masterclass and FameLab Academy Gloucestershire Final
4. Liaising with Cheltenham Festivals and parents regarding logistics and consent forms
5. Mentoring and supporting your school winner, including bringing a group of students to the FameLab Academy Gloucestershire Final to support them

What happens when?

Activity	Date	Location	Duration	Organisation
Training for teachers	Thursday 7 November 2019	Hartpury University and College, Gloucester	1 day	Attendance essential. Included in the day will be the opportunity to meet the STEM Mentor who will visit the school.
Preparation and heats: teacher-led workshops and independent research	December 2019 - January 2020	In school	Flexible	Teachers will have lesson plans and resources to use as a starting point.
STEM Mentor school visits	December 2019 - January 2020	In school	Half day(s)	Mentors and teachers will liaise to ensure that the timing and content of the workshops are suitable.
School Finals	27 January - 14 February 2020	In school	Half day	The lead teacher will organise the final. Cheltenham Festivals will source 2 judges.
Student Masterclass	Friday 6 & Saturday 7 March 2020	University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham	2 days	Cheltenham Festivals will organise and deliver the Masterclass. Teachers do not need to attend.
Work placement	Week beginning 9 March 2020	In local STEM company	1 day	Cheltenham Festivals will source the placement and develop the content.
Gloucestershire Final	Thursday 26 March 2020	TBC	1 day	Cheltenham Festivals will organise. The lead teacher will bring a group of students to support the finalist from their school.
Students present career opportunities to their peers	March 2020	In school	30 minutes	Lead teacher facilitates as appropriate for the student and school