

Bottisham pupils pick-up prizes at Cambridge University's Nanoscience Centre

Winners of an art competition based on images from the microscopic world of nanotechnology visited Cambridge University's Nanoscience Centre on 4 July 2008 to receive their prizes.



Pupils at Bottisham Village College took part in the competition, which was organised by the Centre, as part of their Year 9 art course.

The two winners and five runners up received their prizes from Mark Welland, the University's Professor of Nanotechnology, and were given an exclusive tour of the Centre's Labs and Cleanrooms. They were each presented with an iPod Nano and a certificate. The school will receive a digital camera.

For the competition, the students were set the task of studying images on the nano scale and investigating nanotechnology and its potential uses. They then had to set out their own versions of what the nano-world looks like or might look like in the future.

To assist them, researchers from the Nanoscience Centre visiting the school during a science lesson to talk about the emerging discipline and its applications.

Mandy Wilkins, Head of Art at Bottisham, said: *"The competition was an excellent chance for our year 9 students to produce imaginative work and for the Art department to work with the Science department. The students really enjoyed the workshop demonstrations given by the 'Nano' team, which the Art teachers also attended to improve their understanding of the subject."*

Matthew Brown and Hugh Burton took the top prize, with their entry *Fly's Wing on the Nano Scale*. The runners-up included Thomas Pumfrey, Joe Acklam, Samantha Bruno, Ellie White and Anna Wharton. The winning art work will now go on display in the Nanoscience Centre.

Alex Elbro, the outreach officer at the Nanoscience Centre who ran the competition, said: *"After having spent time with the pupils explaining what nanotechnology is and how it might impact on their lives, it was fascinating to see the enthusiastic response to the competition. The pupils' ideas show great imagination which has been reflected in their designs. It has been intriguing to see how their nano inspired projects have grown from simple notebook sketches to full-size artwork."*

The competition was run as part of the Nanoscience Centre Outreach for Schools Initiative, www.nanoscience.cam.ac.uk/schools/index.html, and was supported by EU funded FRONTIERS Programme, www.frontiers-eu.org, of which the Nanoscience Centre is a partner.

