

BIG BANG AT SCHOOL

FUNDING TEMPLATES



This document will help support you to raise funds for additional workshops and materials for your core event.

The Big Bang at School is an ideal way to help you and your school develop links with local businesses, which should also help you in the long term.

We will collaborate with you and make our business networks aware of the opportunities to support your Big Bang, steer businesses towards you and broker the conversation for support. **(Please do remember to [provide us with an event date](#) as early as possible so we can let our networks know.)**

But as well as using our networks, we recommend that **you also fundraise and make business links for yourself** so you can have more influence over what you'd like to achieve in your school.

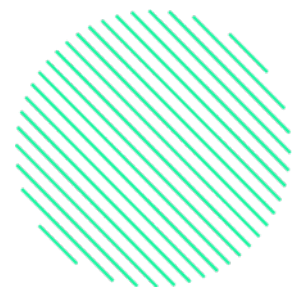
To investigate new funding opportunities, you might want to ask parents, former alumni, or just Google local businesses. For local businesses, you'll have more chance of success if you can find people's names via LinkedIn or, even better, if you know their direct email address.

Give yourself an afternoon to work on making those links and share the responsibility with others if you can!

Here are some key points to help you fundraise:

- 1) Provide simple stats and data to help the potential funder understand your challenge**

Provide them with clear information to define your cause, how much you need to raise and why, and celebrate what you're doing.



Tell funders about your school by using recent data:

- **What % of your pupils get free school meals?**

.....

How are you helping young people eligible for FSM?

- **Are you in a rural or inner-city area?**

.....

Expand on how this can be a challenge and how they could help.

- **What is your teacher to student ratio?**

.....

Many people outside of teaching are not aware of this measure and may not have been in a school for a number of years! Let them know the challenges.

- **How many of your students have English as a first language?**

.....

This is another measure that is not often used that can really help.

- **What is your [POLAR4 rating](#)?**

.....

A measure of social mobility. Explain what the POLAR4 rating is for those who might not know and tell there where your school sits.

- **Are you in a government [priority area](#)?**

.....

The list of areas is large and may apply to you.

- **Are you a PRU or SEND school?** If not do you have SEND students or students with EHCPs at your school, can you include such students in your Big Bang?

.....

- **Remember:** The most important thing you can do is to build a compelling case and communicate it clearly. If you are finding this challenging, we are happy to work with you - just [email us](#).





2) Bring your event to life.

On top of the raw information and numbers, do try and pull out a clear narrative of what you hope to achieve from the event. Some people respond more to stories and images, so if you can include these as well.

Feel free to use one of our [images](#). We also have a [video](#) that you can send.

Will your Big Bang also help the community in some way or solve a local problem outside of the classroom? Highlight any parts of your event that could help find a solution to a global problem such as climate change, the energy crisis or food costs.

Here are some quotes you may want to use from other teachers who have held Big Bang at School events:

- “An amazing opportunity for students to showcase their projects and to develop their communication skills. It was fantastic for students to find out about different STEM careers and pathways that they could follow.”
- “This was an excellent opportunity for employer encounters and to support students to see a wider picture and range of jobs within the STEM sector.”
- “It raises the profile of science in school, getting everyone involved and trying something new.”
- 94% of teachers rated the Big Bang at School programme as 'excellent' or 'good' in 2021/22

3) Explain that your event is unique. Celebrate that with them!

Your Big Bang at School is unique and the only event of its type in the outreach sector. You can inspire **the whole school** at all attainment levels, not just a single class or those pupils who have already bought into STEM!





You may wish to mention how your Big Bang at School event could **transcend the walls of your science department** by being cross-curricular and involving other departments. By supporting this event, your funders could help you and your colleagues bring to life the maths, geography, design and technology, food technology and music curriculums. This could also help you expand your search for funders **outside of the STEM sector and widen your career messaging**.

4) Define what you are requesting.

Funders are also busy and need to know exactly what you're asking for. Here are some tangible things you could suggest they fund:

A show or workshop. Although we can link you with a range of free activities, additional funding can help you buy in a show or workshop. [Neon](#) is a great resource for this as well as free activities and careers materials. [Science Made Simple](#), [The Royal Institution](#) and many other non-profits are brilliant at providing ready-to-run shows for around **£500 to £1,000**.

Additional materials. If you are running an activity such as bath bomb making, food science, chromatography, or something completely new, you will need to buy additional materials. Your lab technician will have a better idea of what's involved but **£500** would be not an unlikely estimate and would make for a nice, simple request to a funder.

Staff costs. Don't forget to mention how much staff cover costs, as some organisations may not be aware. This could be included as evidence for how you're "match funding".

Awards and prizes. Why not add an awards ceremony to celebrate your students, teachers and technicians? Funding a few medals or prizes is not an unreasonable request, and an easy win for the funder if you bring in local media.





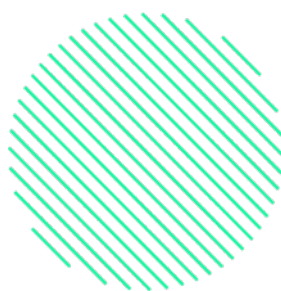
5) Some basic template ideas

We've attached some templates you might want to use or adapt when you approach local businesses.

Please feel free to contact us or ask other teachers in your cohort if you encounter any challenges or have any questions. We're happy to have a call with you to discuss your local business network and wider funding options.

To find more information about your school, here are some useful links:

- For your school URN (England) visit: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>
- For your school reference (Wales) visit: <https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/?lang=en>
- For your school SEED Number (Scotland) visit: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-secondary-school-information-dashboard/>
- To find your DE reference code (Northern Ireland) visit: <http://apps.education-ni.gov.uk/appinstitutes/default.aspx>





Dear [Name],

[School name] is running a [Big Bang at School](#) event on [date].

This hands-on and exciting festival will engage our students and inspire them by showcasing the range of careers available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

We are approaching local businesses for [sponsorship/ donations] and as we are very local to you in (location), we wanted to reach out.

Our school (add FSM, Minority Ethnic, Rural data, etc, and any other measure you feel works) and your financial support could help us run a really successful event and inspire our students.

With your help, we could expand the event and making it truly engaging for our pupils by purchasing a STEM-related show or workshop. A donation from you could also help us fund the materials we desperately need to run our own activities or buy awards and prizes to celebrate our students' projects and achievements.

In return, this event will help you by raising awareness of your business with parents and potentially by providing you with a local talent pipeline.

Big Bang at School events have a great reputation among teachers, children and parents right across the UK. (Add your own quote or use this "This was an excellent opportunity for employer encounters and to support students to see a wider picture and range of jobs within the STEM sector." – Teacher).

For more information on what you would be funding, here is a [video](#) of what a Big Bang at School looks like, and [a description of what's involved](#).

If you're interested in supporting us, please do get in touch on at atschool@thebigbang.org.uk. We'd love to have you involved and celebrate alongside us!

Kind regards,
[Name]





Dear [Name],

We are a local school who are running a local Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Fair on the [date].

We would like to ask your support for funding so that we can inspire the next generation and help them with career advice. We specifically need:

- **Help funding an inspiring show or workshop.** This will be around **£500-£1,000**.
- **Help funding some additional materials.** We are creating a [theme] workshop and need materials for our students so they can get hands-on with STEM. **£500** would help us be able to run this.
- **Help with staffing costs.** The fair will reach and inspire many students at all levels, but to run it we will need to meet some additional support staff costs.
- **Help with awards and prizes.** We want to celebrate our students' STEM project work and need help buying some medals, trophies and prizes. You could also help judge and give out the awards!

Here is a [video](#) of what a Big Bang at School looks like and [here](#) is a description of what's involved and how'd you'd be key to the day.

Please let us know via email: atschool@thebigbang.org.uk if you'd like to learn more about our exciting Big Bang Fair.

Kind regards,

[Name]





Appendix 1

Societies that fund STEM events:

British science Association

- 1) [British Science Association Engage Funding](#) to support schools run CREST Awards with students who are from backgrounds and groups underrepresented in STEM
 - **£350 Grant**
 - **Deadline: 14 October 2025**
- 2) Keep an eye on the **British Science week Kick Start Grants** site [here](#) if you're thinking of holding your fair in March.
 - TBC: Previously **£400**
 - **Deadline: TBC**

[Royal Society](#)

- Up to **£3,000 Partnership Grant** to fund schools and colleges to work in partnership with STEM professionals from academics or industry
- **Deadline: 2 December 2025**

[Royal Institution](#)

- A **science show** you could have as an assembly that is free and worth **£800**
- **Deadline: TBC likely June 2026.** Express interest [here](#)





RSC Outreach Fund 2025 - Royal Society of Chemistry Applications Portal

- **Engage with school students:** The scheme is open to all individuals and organisations including but not limited to members of the RSC, academia, industry museums, not-for profits and community groups. The aim is inspiring and raising aspirations of student audiences to nurture a future generation passionate about the chemical sciences.
- **£500**
- **Deadline: 4 October**

Society member led funding:

Do you know any members of the [Biochemical Society](#)?

- **£1,000 to £2,500** amounts available for public outreach and activities.
- **Deadline: 6 October 2025**

Do you know any members of the [Royal Astronomical Society](#)?

- **Up to £5,000**
- **Deadline: Feb and August 2026**

Do you know any members of the [Microbiology Society](#)?

- **Up to £1,000**
- **Deadline: 1 October 2025, TBC May 2026**

Do you know any members of the [Genetics Society](#)?

- **Up to £1,000**
- **Deadline: TBC March 2026, September 2026**

