

Stardust Hunters

Sarah Roberts¹, Emma Wride², Chris Allton^{1,3}, Jana Horak⁴, Paul Smith⁵,

Rich Johnston¹, Mark Coleman¹

¹Swansea University, ²AstroCymru, ³Oriel Science, ⁴National Museum of Wales, ⁵National Botanic Gardens of Wales



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

AstroCymru

ORIELSCIENCE



Swansea
University
Prifysgol
Abertawe



National Botanic
Garden of Wales
Gardd Fotaneg
Genedlaethol Cymru



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

national
museum
Cardiff
amgueddfa
genedlaethol
Caerdydd

Abstract

Every year, approx. 3,000 tons of cosmic dust falls to the surface of the Earth - in this 18-month STFC-funded pilot project, we aim to enable school children to carry out searches for these tiny particles, and using equipment in Swansea University's Advanced Imaging for Materials (AIM) facility, we will analyse these potential micrometeorites and contribute to this growing field of research. To date we have reached just under **1000** school pupils in various educational settings both in-person and online, and over **4000** members of the public via stands/talks at online and in-person events.



Aims

The Stardust Hunters project aims to:

- Provide school pupils with the opportunity to genuinely contribute to real research
- Inspire and engage school pupils
- Provide under-served communities with the opportunity to participate in real research
- Enhance the educational ambitions of young students



How...

Name _____ Date _____ Year _____

SEARCHING FOR MICROMETEORITES

WHAT I AM INVESTIGATING
What is the question you are to investigate?
What do you want to find out?

EQUIPMENT
What do you need for your investigation?

I PREDICT...
What do you think you will find?

REASONS FOR MY PREDICTION
What do you think you'll find this?

MY PLAN

How will I do this?

MY RESULTS
This is what I found...

REFLECTION
What went well?
What would I change if I did it again?



Use the toolkit

Carry out an investigation

Look for potential MMs

See if further investigation is needed...



Find out more...



S.G.Roberts@Swansea.ac.uk



stardusthunters.org.uk



@Stardust_Hunter

