

# Teacher goes nuclear for trip to top science centre

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**A** PRIMARY school teacher is to visit one of the world's most important scientific research centres.

Chris Lowe, science leader at Lowerplace Primary, is going to CERN - the European Organisation for Nuclear Research - in Switzerland after bagging a place on a trip organised by The Ogden Trust, a charity which promotes the teaching and learning of physics.

Chris, who will spend a week at the centre, which is the home of the Large Hadron Collider, from Monday, July 30.

He says he is eager to learn more about particle physics which he will use to enthuse a younger generation of pupils in Greater Manchester.

Chris, who is also assistant head at Lowerplace, recently played a major role

in creating the school's 'Phiz Lab', and was part of the national Great Science Share held on 19 June 2018.

His next big venture is his involvement with the council on bringing Dippy the Diplodocus to the town in February 2020 which will be a massive science-related venture for the whole town.

A convert to sciences, Chris switched from psychology at the Universities of Salford and Manchester to become a teacher when he realised that he wanted to work with and inspire children.

He already has an idea of what he will do with his new-found knowledge on his return from CERN. He wants to set up after-school clubs or lunchtime sessions for children to introduce particle physics to primary children who are ready to learn about the subject area in more detail. He also wants to do some work around STEM through digital story-telling.

He said: "This will be a really exciting trip for me and will undoubtedly motivate me to introduce to my pupils some new areas of physics. So much has evolved from my association with The Ogden Trust. Their interest and encouragement has helped me to take on new initiatives, and we are now on the radar of some inspiring people from the world of science who are in touch or coming to visit the school."

"I have also received huge support from Lowerplace Primary School which has allowed me to develop the sciences here thus far."

"I hope we can include many more children from schools in the area so that we can share our knowledge. I look forward to returning with plenty of fresh material to take us forward."

The former chairman of The Ogden Trust, Sir Peter Ogden, was educated at Lowerplace Primary School



● Lowerplace primary school teacher Chris Lowe with pupils

before going on to Rochdale Grammar School.

He returned in January this year to open the Phiz Lab.

Coun Kieran Heakin, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Lowerplace are doing amazing work on science what with

their Phiz Lab facility and their recent Great Science Share event. "This is great reward for Chris and how he's clearly getting pupils

enthusiastic about the subject. I really hope he enjoys his trip and with his plans for the school, Rochdale will really benefit from this."



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