



News Release

Henry VIII – unhealthy eater or Britain’s first sporting hero?

Newbury, March 1, 2009 – Schoolchildren can experience one of the first-ever lessons inside the Tower of London’s White Tower – and learn some fascinating facts about Henry VIII.

The event is being organised by the Royal Armouries as part of an exciting programme of workshops, to mark Science Week (March 9 to 13). The Armouries are working in partnership with Bayer MaterialScience, Grant Museum of Zoology at UCL, St Paul’s Cathedral education team, Queen Mary University of London, and the UK Centre for Materials Education.

Some of the workshops will take place in the Bayer MaterialScience-sponsored education space in the Tower vaults. The facility was opened in 2007 and has enabled 3,000 students from across the UK, aged five to 19, to enjoy a hands-on scientific learning experience both in this memorable and historic setting and as part of an extensive outreach programme.

Using a combination of science, and history skills, youngsters will be given a fascinating insight into Henry’s eating habits – including whether he ate his “Five a Day” – and how he went from being Britain’s first sporting hero to a king in poor health.

In addition to the Henry VIII event, the week-long programme includes the following highlights, plus lots more!:

- **The Machines are Winning!** Humans were once the best games players on the planet. Then the machines started getting smart! Learn what makes computers “clever” and play against the Sweets Computer – it gets better and better, the more sweets you eat!
- **Magic of Metals** – It’s hard to imagine a world without metals – look at their uses throughout the ages, from a 13th Century arrowhead to a 21st artificial hip joint.
- **Habitats and Adaptations** – A hands-on interactive session, featuring real animal skins, skulls and skeletons.
- **Water Rocket Power** – Get your team to build a winning rocket, powered only by water, and launch it into the Tower’s moat.
- **Protection Progression** – compare and contrast the materials used in the manufacture of armour, sports equipment and workplace gear. Learn how animals protect themselves in the natural world.
- **St Paul’s Cathedral** – Explore this national treasure and discover the science behind its construction. Climb the famous Dome and experience the acoustics of the Whispering Gallery.

The Royal Armouries’ Science Education Officer, Amy Preece, said, “These workshops are part of an ongoing drive to encourage youngsters to explore the exciting world of science, in a modern and vibrant way, and to consider the many career paths that are possibly open to them.

“The event is part of the exciting ongoing science provision here at the Tower. Our fabulous arms and armour collection and unique setting allow us to create a modern and forward thinking programme that aims to inspire a future generation.”

The Armouries has been running an innovative materials science education programme at the Tower of London for almost six years and has six Sanford awards for heritage education.

As part of its unique partnership with Bayer MaterialScience, the Royal Armouries aims to boost the falling numbers of schoolchildren who choose to study science subjects by exciting curiosity about the subject. In turn, it is hoped this will tackle the falling numbers of young men and women who choose to study Physics and Chemistry at A Level, paving the way for science-based careers such as engineering.

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Note to Editors

About Bayer MaterialScience:

With 2007 sales of EUR 10.4 billion, Bayer MaterialScience is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction, and sports and leisure industries. At the end of 2007, Bayer MaterialScience had 30 production sites and employed approximately 15,400 people around the globe. Bayer MaterialScience is a Bayer Group company.

For more information visit www.bayermaterialscience.com or www.bayer.co.uk

For more information on the Royal Armouries, go to <http://www.royalarmouries.org.uk/home>

- Royal Armouries has sites in Leeds, HM Tower of London, Fort Nelson and Louisville, Kentucky. It is the first British national museum to open a permanent presence in another country
- Open all year daily, 10am-5pm. Closed 24-26 December
- Website: www.royalarmouries.org

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