

# 2023 Impact Report

ignite!

## Our year in review

Thank you for reading our 2023 Impact Report! This year has seen us expanding our reach, our team, and our relationships across Nottinghamshire - and we are beginning to see the fruits of our new strategy which is running from 2023 to 2026.

This report focusses on the three key outcomes of our work: supporting people and industries to come together for young people, unlock their unique creativity, and provide them with the tools to take control of their futures.

Ignite! is continuing to create endless opportunities for young people despite an increasingly harsh funding environment. Please consider becoming a regular Ignite! donor to help us continue to ignite futures.

*With love,*

*the Ignite! staff and trustee team*

ignite!

# The Headlines

## New here? Here's what Ignite! does:

We are working to provide young people with endless opportunities to flourish in their creativity, follow their curiosity, and ignite their futures.

## How did we do in 2023?

Ignite! had over **6,500** engagements from over 5,200 individual participants and 192 sessions which directly engaged children, young people, and families. Our programmes reached 34 primary schools, 14 secondary schools, 7 special/alternative provision schools and 1 college.

This was our biggest year for programmes like Ada Lovelace Day, Creative Sparks, the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity and Curious Tots, where we reached more participants than ever before.



## Our Team

We are proud to actively create early career opportunities within our team. We hosted 11 placement students and interns this year, and provided paid work for 27 freelance creative practitioners. We are grateful for the 100+ volunteers who supported our programmes too, joining up with our growing team which now consists of seven staff members and eight trustees.

Our funders are a vital part of the Ignite! team and in the last year we've teamed up with seven new funders. Over the next year we hope to deepen and widen these relationships to achieve financial sustainability as a charity.



# Our work

## Outcome 1: Coming together

We want to see the architecture, culture and networks of Nottinghamshire come together to provide for its children and young people.

A variety of Nottingham partners converge on our **Primary Parliament** events to provide schools and pupils with opportunities to learn from and engage with people with a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills. In 2023 these partners included Green Hustle, Nottingham City Council Transport, Read On Nottingham, ChalleNGe, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham, BDP, Skate Nottingham, and Bulwell Forest Garden.



The Ignite!-delivered **Festival of Science and Curiosity** continues to be a source of huge connection, bringing together over 300 researchers with artists, 14 funders and 15 other organisations to achieve a common goal of taking scientists out of the lab and into schools and community spaces. In 2023 we reached 9,500 participants with 94 events.

Finishing its second year, our **Curious Tots** nursery programme has now begun providing evidence-based CPD for nursery leads in the Nottingham Schools Trust.

**Creative Sparks** is supported by NTU psychology students, work experience placements and community volunteers, bringing their own insights and experience to the sessions.

Our **Making Connections** project, exploring identity and mental health through gaming, brought together ten young people, three artists, one writer and two researchers as well as establishing new partnerships with the Outburst Group at Base 51 and Gasleak Mountain.

"My time with Ignite! changed my mind about my career... I've now got a place for teacher training starting in 2024"

**Ignite! intern**

"You have managed to build a relationship with the young people really quickly and they really look forward to taking part now"

**Outburst coordinator**



# Our work

## Outcome 2: Unlocking creativity

We want to see children and young people reach their potential in any path they desire.



Our **Holiday Activities Free Fun and Food** programme this year engaged with children and families from right across the city, from Bulwell, Hyson Green, St Ann's and Sneinton, and provided these children with the space, time and freedom to explore nature, galleries, heritage and science centres in their own ways, often for the first time.

'This is the first time I've been in a forest'  
**Summer Holiday Activities attendee**

**Ada Lovelace Day** provides an opportunity for 140 Key Stage Three girls to discover the range of futures in biosciences that are open to them. This was also the first time that local primary school pupils have visited BioCity since the pandemic, opening up the possibilities available to children right on their doorstep.

Our pilot **Hidden Figures** project instigated a collaboration between an artist and groups of women, creatively exploring their own understanding and knowledge of health and nutrition and culminating in a shared tasting event as part of the **Festival of Science and Curiosity**.

**Creative Sparks** in St Ann's and Strelley have been able to experiment with clay, construction, dance, fashion, storytelling, kite-making; their own ideas influence the activities they take part in and the environment is one where everyone feels free to have a go, play and express themselves.



'Creative Sparks is my favourite place'  
Creative Sparks attendee



# Our work

# Outcome 3: Taking control



**Primary Parliament** enables children to develop their communication skills to express their ideas in ways that work for them. They overcome their worries about presenting on a stage, or use lego-making, drawing, poster-making, storytelling and poetry to communicate what they think about current social issues.

We want to see children and young people being heard and able to affect personal and societal change.

We worked with special schools for the first time while taking part in the **Real Science in Schools Symposium**, providing a space for these children to recognise themselves as scientists now, not just in the future.

Staff at Crabtree Farm Primary School have said there has been a noticeable impact from **Curious Tots** on their children's confidence in asking questions, being imaginative and expressive, and using materials.

"We're learning from Elaine every week... because it's something above and beyond what we would do."

**Crabtree Farm Primary School**  
Early Years Foundation Stage Lead

'It helps with developing children's ability to express themselves verbally with high levels of eloquence'

**School staff**



**The Festival** magazine, a 40-page masterpiece packed with engaging science content, was pieced together and illustrated by local Confetti college students, copy-edited by year 7 students. and was designed with a real focus on readability to make it our most accessible magazine yet.



**Only by working together** can we truly provide young people with endless opportunities to flourish in their creativity, follow their curiosity, and ignite their futures.

We know that the best way for us to support young people is to reach out to others, share freely, and grow our community of volunteers, advisors, champions and donors.

We are grateful to the very many people and organisations that have supported Ignite! thus far and are excited about those yet to join us in our mission to ignite futures.

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## **Thank you to our partners in 2023**

### **Programme Partners:**

Base 51 & Outburst  
Crabtree Farm Primary & Nursery School  
ChalleNGe  
Green's Windmill & Science Centre  
Nottingham City Early Years  
Nottingham City Libraries  
Nottingham City Museums & Galleries  
Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum  
Nottingham Trent University  
University of Nottingham

### **Funding Partners:**

Boots Charitable Trust  
Capital One  
Catalent  
Department for Education  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
The Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity  
Nottingham City Council  
Pioneer Group  
The Renewal Trust  
Small Steps Big Changes  
UK Science Festivals Network & UKRI  
University of Nottingham Institute for Policy and Engagement

Ignite! is predominantly funded on a project-by-project basis, meaning we have limited funds to cover our core costs.

**Please consider supporting our work.  
Visit [www.ignitefutures.org.uk/donate](http://www.ignitefutures.org.uk/donate) to  
become a regular donor.**