

# Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2026

## LhARA Exhibit – Planning Meeting #1

Paul Jurj

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- **30 Jun – 5 Jul 2026: RS Summer Science Exhibition (SSE)**
- **26 Feb 2026:** Public engagement training (w/ Steve Cross @ Imperial College).
- **27 Mar 2026:** SSE landing page goes live with flagship exhibits.
- **1 May 2026:** Exhibition promotion begins; exhibitor websites finalised.
- **Now – Spring 2026:** Define and refine our message, then design, prototype and test the exhibit.

# Exhibition week: programme overview (30 June – 5 July)

Date	Time	Details
Tue 30 Jun	9am–11am	Press preview
	11am–4pm	Schools' Day (KS2 students only, late primary)
	6pm–10pm	Late opening
Wed 1 Jul	10am–4pm	Exhibition open to public and school groups
	7pm–10pm	Soirée 1
Thu 2 Jul	10am–4pm	Exhibition open to public and school groups
	7pm–10pm	Soirée 2
Fri 3 Jul	10am–6pm	Exhibition open to public and school groups <i>Potential later opening until 7/8pm (TBC)</i>
Sat 4 Jul	10am–6pm	Exhibition open to the public <i>Pride on the same day; potential late opening</i>
Sun 5 Jul	9.30/11am–6pm	Quiet opening / Exhibition open to the public

## Audience (~ 10,000+ visitors total)

- **8,000** members of the public (wide range of ages and science backgrounds).
- **2,000** school students and teachers (primary & secondary, UK-wide).
- **1,000** invited Soirée guests (Fellows, media, government, policy).

## Implications for us

- We must be able to **explain LhARA to non-specialists**.
- We also need depth and message flexibility for experts and Soirée guests.
- Different audiences will engage with **different elements** of the exhibit (e.g. VR popular with the school pupils).



## Costs

- Effective exhibits delivered using a wide budget range (**£5k–£25k**)

## Support from the Royal Society

- Up to **£5,000** Exhibitor Support Grant - expect to access the whole amount
- **Additional** travel/accommodation support available for non-London teams
  - We are aiming to book accommodation for June/July asap

## Call for input

- Please flag any potential **funding opportunities** via your departments, institutes, partners or grants

# Volunteers & staffing during exhibition week

## We need a strong volunteer team!

- Exhibition runs for **six days**, including Soirées on two days.
- RS recommends **4 trained people on the stand and at least 8 staff per day** to allow for breaks.
- We will likely have one person per demo/activity + 1 lead and also need coverage for:
  - Soirées,
  - Setup, takedown and logistics.

## Please sign up!

- Initial availability form for exhibition week has been circulated.
- We currently have **19 volunteers** who can cover various days during the week.
- If you would like to volunteer and have not yet completed the form, please do so here by the end of this week:

<https://forms.gle/m4dCr7xfRm8bv6oV7>

# Example rota (Royal Society)

			CORE 1 (lead)	CORE 2 (optional)	1 (Replace)	2 (Recover)	3 (Recycle)	Total
Monday 30th June	SETUP		Iman	Lucy	James			3
Tuesday 1st July	Press	8:30 - 11am	Iman					1
	Schools	10-1pm	Iman	Lucy	Emily	Weijian	Yang	5
	Schools	1-4:30 pm	Lirong		Yuanjing	Kaixuan	Alexia	4
	Late public	6-10pm	Hui		Grace	Thorin Daniel	Nita	4
Wednesday 2nd July	Public	9:45-11:30	Lucy		Thorin	Cameron	Yang	4
	Public	11:30-1pm	Lucy		Adam	Kaixuan	Nita	4
	Public	1-2:30	Hui		Thorin	Cameron	Yang	4
	Public	2:30-4:30pm	Hui		Adam	Kaixuan	Nita	4
Thursday 3rd July	Public	9:45-11:30	Lucy		Catherine	Anne	James	4
	Public	11:30-1pm	Lucy		Yuanjing	Susan	Akita	4
	Public	1-2:30	Iman		Catherine	Anne	James	4
	Public	2:30-4:30pm	Iman		Yuanjing	Susan	Akita	4
Friday 4th July	Public	9:45-12 noon	Hui	Lucy	Emily	Xin	Jiahao	5
	Public	12noon-2:00pm	Hui	Lucy	Grace	Alexia	Touseef	5
	Public	2:00-4:00pm	Joe		Emily	Xin	Jiahao	4
	Public	4:00-6:30pm	Joe		Grace	Alexia	Touseef	4
Saturday 5th July	Public	9:45-12 noon	Lei		Jiahao	Judy	Xiao	4
	Public	12noon-2:00pm	Lei		Swarnali	Lucy	Sade	4
	Public	2:00-4:00pm	Joe		Jiahao	Judy	Xiao	4
	Public	4:00-6:30pm	Joe		Swarnali	Lucy	Sade	4
Sunday 6th July	Public	9:30-12 noon	Jin	Hui	Annu	Judy	Shraiya	5
	Public	12noon-2:00pm	Jin		Solomon	Xin	Anne	4
	Public	2:00-4:00pm	Joe		Annu	Judy Lee	Shraiya	4
	Public	4:00-6:30pm	Joe		Solomon	Xin	Anne	4
	PACK DOWN	6:00-8:00pm	Iman					1
Monday 7th July	PACK DOWN	8:00-12 noon	Iman	Lucy				2

# Public engagement training – 26 February 2026

## What / when / where

- **One-day public engagement training** with Steve Cross.
- **Date & time:** Thursday **26 February 2026, 10 am - 4 pm.**
- **Location:** Imperial College London (room TBC).
- **Costs:** travel and accommodation can be claimed (covered by the Royal Society).

## Who should attend

- **Anyone** who plans to volunteer on the LhARA stand during SSE.

## What to expect from the day

- Practical sessions on **talking to different audiences.**
- Time to **test and refine** how we explain LhARA and our demos/activities.
- Scenarios and role-playing visitor interactions.

# LhARA exhibit: what we proposed to the Royal Society

**Title:** *Laser-focussed on science for radiotherapy*

**Key elements mentioned in the application**

- **VR tour** of the LhARA facility, including a fly-through from the proton/ion's perspective.
- **3D model** of LhARA for a tactile, hands-on explanation of the layout.
- **Plasma lens demo** using pollen grains to illustrate EM manipulation of charged particles.
- **Leo Eve upright treatment chair**, exploring benefits of upright radiotherapy.

# From Great Exhibition Road Festival to SSE

## What we already know works

- VR tour is extremely popular, especially with younger visitors.
- 3D model is great for hands-on explanation.
- Plasma lens demo / quadrupole trap is a strong hook for the accelerator physics.
- Leo chair opens conversations about patient experience and clinical impact

## How SSE is different from GERF

- Higher expectations on **production values, coherence, interactivity and accessibility**.
- Audiences include **Fellows, media, policymakers**.
- We need a **clear, coherent narrative** ideally tying all elements together

# What is expected from exhibits

## Key characteristics

- **Engaging fast:** visitors decide in  $\sim 30$  seconds whether to stop.
- **Interactive:** something to do, not just read.
- **Accessible:** suitable for non-specialists, different ages, varying mobility/vision/hearing.
- **Robust:** can survive six days of heavy use.
- **Visually clear:** simple messages, uncluttered design.

# Exhibit example 1





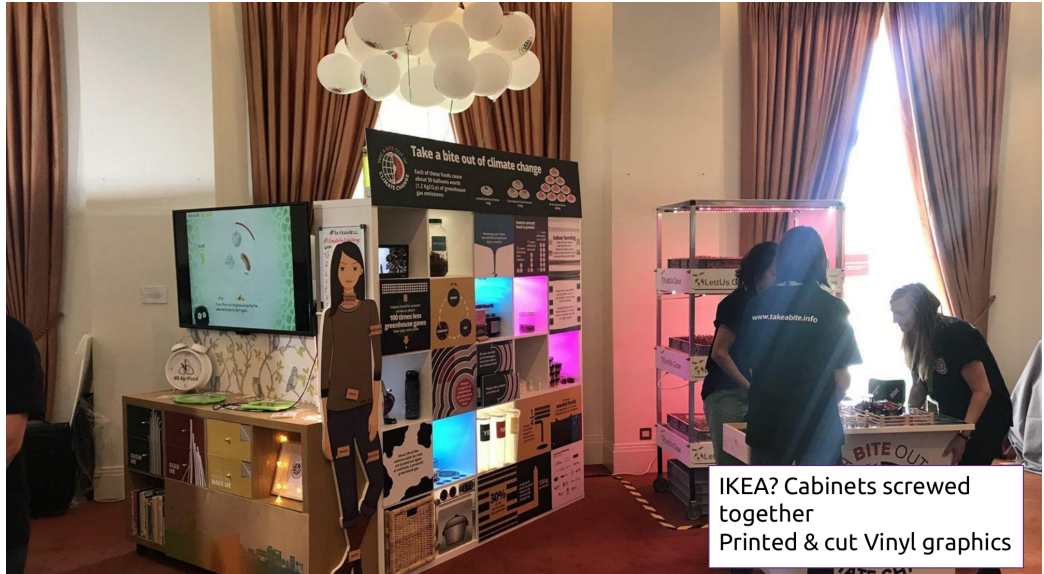
## Exhibit example 2



## Exhibit example 3



## Exhibit example 4



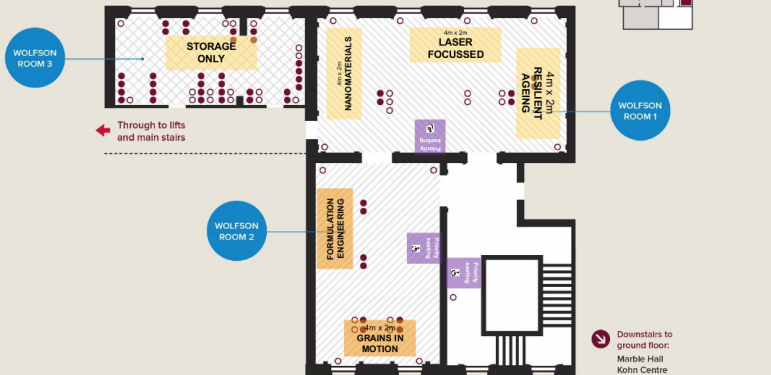
## Exhibit example 5



# Exhibition space

## Wolfson Library Suite

### First floor



THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY

SIZE SPECIFICATIONS	LENGTH (M)	WIDTH (M)	AREA (MP)
Wolfson Room 1	13.6	7.2	—
Wolfson Room 2	11	7	77
Wolfson Room 3	10.96	5.43	—

**KEY**

○ Plug socket

● Internet portal

**NOTE**

**Wolfson Room 1:**  
Only 3 internet portals in use at any time.

**Wolfson Room 2:**  
Only 1 internet portal in use at any time.

# Planning timeline - for discussion

## Phase 1: Now – End of February

- Clarify overall **story and key messages**.
- Assess current demos for interactivity and identify potential improvements
- Assign leads and resources for each demo/activity

## Phase 2: March – May

- Prototype improved/interactive demos (e.g. new plasma demo)
- Finalise 3D model build and VR activity
- Develop exhibit graphics and spatial layout
- Explore external support for build and stand design

## Phase 3: May – Exhibition

- Production, testing, logistics and integration of all components