**GUIDELINES IN ESTABLISHING AND RUNNING A SCIENCE CLUB**

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**GOAL OF A SCIENCE CLUB**

* To provide a **dedicated time** for learning enhancement and hands-on activities, including doing a science research project.
* To **inspire learners** to get involved in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation.
* To help develop a **future, world-class workforce** of talented scientists, engineers, technologists, mathematicians and innovators.
* To provide for and **stimulate** talented learners.

**ADVANTAGES OF A SCIENCE CLUB**

* It raises the **profile** of Science and Technology at the school.
* Teachers of the school can become **mentors** for learners and they grow professionally.
* The **quality of CAPS projects** done for in various subjects improves.
* **Interest and enthusiasm** for Science and Technology subjects are created and enhanced.
* Learners acquire **knowledge and research skills.**
* Learners’ **general knowledge expand.**
* Learners grow in **self-confidence and responsibility**.
* A **critical, innovative, problem solving approach** is cultivated.
* The **scientific method and the engineering design method** in experienced **in action**.
* It could be the beginning of a **career path** …

**WHERE TO START**

* Speak to the **principal** and get his/her support for the establishment of a Science club.
* Speak to your **colleagues** to inform them of the club, tell them about the advantages.
* Discuss and decide on a **suitable day** in the week, considering other activities offered at the school. **15:00 to 17:00** is usually a good time.
* It is important that **at least one teacher is allocated** to the science club. The ideal is if it can be treated as an extra-mural activity.
* Decide if you want to charge a small **monthly fee**. This can be used for excursions, buying equipment, etc.
* Ask to speak at a **parents’ meeting** and inform parents about the club. Get parents to help where possible.
* Get **interested learners** together and inform them of the goals, specific days and times allocated, planned activities, etc.
* Let them **commit** by writing down their names.
* Draw up a **plan** for the year and make it known to the learners.
* Once the club has been established, ask businesses for **sponsorships**.
* Create a **Facebook page** for club or add it to the school’s Facebook page, and do weekly posts.

**RUNNING OF THE CLUB**

* Remind members and ensure that they follow **school rules**. Also be familiar with any school rules involving field trips or **safety-related concerns**. Parents need to give **permission** for learners to go on any excursion.
* A science club **could be run by learners** where possible, with an educator that provide guidance and support.
* Let them choose a **small committee** and give **guidelines** regarding their roll. (A **chairperson** to arrange and ensure orderly gatherings, remind learners via announcements, etc., a **scribe** to date and record in short what was done in each meeting – (please provide a book for this), a **treasurer** that collects monthly fees, keep record of all payments (please provide a container that can be kept in the school’s safe)
* Let learners sign an **attendance register** every time. When it comes to excursions or privileges these learners will be taken into account first.
* The club could sometimes kick off with a **quick fun activity or demonstration** that displays a scientific or mathematical principle, or share an **interesting newspaper article**.
* For the first half of the year up to the end of August the focus could be the **conceptualisation, development and completion of projects for the regional Expo for Young Scientists competition. For the last part of the year other hands-on activities, excursions, talks by interesting speakers, demonstrations, etc. can be planned.**
* Remember to take plenty of **photos, post it on Facebook** or create a **display** somewhere where the whole school community can see it.