

## South African science learners win “trip of a lifetime” and it’s all about SCIENCE!



Ten grade 11 learners received the most remarkable Christmas present in 2009. The promising young South Africans – and three science educators – flew to London on Friday 4 December to be part of a 185-year-old tradition, the Faraday Christmas Lectures at the world’s oldest research body, the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

The MTN Sciencentre was approached in August to make this a reality, assisted by Sci-Bono and Unizul science centres, a selection process followed, the winners announced, visa’s acquired, tickets booked and the rest as they say is history.

The itinerary was awesome. In addition to attending the world-famous annual science lectures, the itinerary included visits to The Eden Project, Google Head Office, Oxford University, House of Lords and many more interesting venues.

The Department of Science and Technology played a significant role by making the selection process and all the logistical arrangements necessary in South Africa possible. The Department of Science and Technology recognises the importance of empowering learners who show a potential in science and technology, to encourage their continued hard work and interest in the sciences.

This trip would not have been possible without the sponsors, which included The Royal Institute of London, The Department of Science and Technology, AngloGold Ashanti, Old Mutual, Woolworths, SASOL and host of private sponsors based in the United Kingdom. The MTN Sciencentre was responsible for co-ordinating this initiative as an initial effort. It is hoped that in 2010, this initiative will continue and that more provinces and science centres will be included in the process.

The South African students will be reporting back on Prof. Sue Hartley’s talks (2009 speaker for the Ri Faraday Lectures) on the 300 million year evolutionary war between plants and animals. If you are keen to hear the learners report back, please contact one of the following science centres;

- **MTN Sciencentre – 021 529 8100**
- **Sci-Bono – 011 639 8400**
- **Uni-Zul – 035 797 3204**