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# Western Regional Group

## Regional Heat of the National Schools Geology Challenge 2019/2020

Hosted by Structural Soils – At Windmill Hill City Farm

29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The National Schools Geology Challenge is now in its 8th year. The challenge is a competition for sixth-form students interested in geology and the earth sciences. Teams of 4 - 6 science, geography and geology students produce a themed poster, complete a geological quiz and deliver a six-minute presentation to a panel of leading geologists from academia and industry! The regional finalists will then go on to compete at the 2020 Finals which will be held at Burlington House, London, on Thursday 19 March 2020.

The Western Regional Group will be holding the regional heat on 29 November 2019, hosted by Structural Soils Ltd – at Windmill Hill City Farm. The theme for this year's Regional Heat is:

### Planetary Geology – The Solar System and Beyond:

The goal of planetary geology studies is to understand the origin of the features seen and analyse samples returned, Planetary geology studies usually relate to the quest for an understanding of the geological history of the body from its formation during accretion from the early solar nebula to its present condition. Most planetary bodies in the solar system of any significant size have passed through stages of accretion, internal heating and differentiation, and surficial and tectonic evolution. However, some objects have not, for example, small asteroids, comets, and smaller solar system debris such as meteorites. These objects can give important clues to the nature of the origin of the solar system, as they contain unaltered primordial material from the original nebular dust cloud. An important sub-discipline within planetary geology is meteoritics, the study of meteorites.

From Volcanoes on Mars too Resource Extraction from Gas Giants – and all the way to K2-18b – A future for Humanity?

The Challenge is aimed at Years 12/13 in England and Wales. Studying geology A-Level is not a requirement to enter the competition; science and geography students are equally welcome, so please do not be deterred if your school does not offer geology.

The Heat has three competition elements that the students must complete

- A 6 minute geology-themed presentation (50% of mark)
- A poster on the same topic as the presentation (25% of mark)
- A geoscience quiz (25% of mark)

If you would like to enter this years' competition, or have any questions related to the competition please contact the Western Regions Early Careers advisor, Mike Addinall ([Mike.Addinall@soils.co.uk](mailto:Mike.Addinall@soils.co.uk)) or contact us using the details below. Further information is available and will be sent out to the competing teams.

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