A new children's science education centre based within a working medical school research laboratory, offers children and teenagers an insight into what scientists actually do and how their work influences real life.

**Inspiring young scientists**

CENTRE of the Cell is located within the Whitechapel campus of Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, part of Queen Mary, University of London. It is free to visit and can host 40,000 visitors each year. Centre of the Cell is a giant orange pod suspended within the atrium of the RIBA award winning glass Blizard Building.

**students can diagnose disease using high-power microscopes**

designed by SMC Alsop and Amec. Visitors approach the pod via a colourful glass walkway and, as they enter, look down on the scientists working in the building's vast subterranean laboratory.

**Interactive**

Once inside, the children gather around a central nucleus for a powerful audiovisual display, projected around the walls of the pod, which introduces them to cells – 'the building blocks of life'. The nucleus then opens to reveal interactive games; students can try their hand at virtual experiments, observe real body parts and diagnose disease using high-power microscopes.

Designed by Land Design Studio, the combination of digital technologies and real-world science creates a science education experience not available in the classroom. During every school session at the Centre, children will get to meet researchers based at the Medical School and ask questions about their work. More than 80 scientists and researchers contributed to the content of the centre.

Centre of the Cell's major funders include the Wellcome Trust, the London Development Agency, the Mencap Company and Queen Mary, University of London.

www.centrefortheclcell.org.uk  
www.landdesignstudio.co.uk

**Clearly designated reading area**

**CENTRE of the Cell is especially for children aged 9 to 16, the topics are linked to the Science National Curriculum at Key stages 2, 3 and 4, and cross-linked to the Maths, English and Citizenship curricula.**

The location of the Centre is pivotal to its mission. Tower Hamlets and its neighbouring boroughs are among the most deprived areas in the UK. The facility aims to improve attainment, raise children's aspirations and increase the number of young people studying science and healthcare.

**COLOUR-CODED sections of carpet form a reading area in each of the three classrooms at Harrow Gate Primary School in Stockton-on-Tees**

Colours of the rainbow were chosen by the School, which wanted to create a vibrant feature for pupils. Supacord by Heckmondwike FB offered over 40 colour options for the scheme.

The School has regularly used its flooring coverings for design innovation, according to Tony Booth from contractors Carpet Time. “In this case, it was looking for the creative use of colour to provide a clearly designated reading area where the children can sit, that will inspire them and improve their attentiveness.”

**Anti-static**

Supacord is suited to educational buildings because it is designed for areas of heavy wear and tear. It also has anti-slip and antistatic properties, both of which are a significant concern for schools, who are looking to protect their students and their equipment.

[www.carpetsforeducation.co.uk](http://www.carpetsforeducation.co.uk)