



PRESS RELEASE

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RSE Christmas Lecture: Stampy's Christmas Cake Caper (An Adventure in YouTubing)

The buzz around this year's Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Christmas Lecture, 'Stampy's Christmas Cake Caper (An Adventure in YouTubing)' has been amazing. When news broke that Minecraft legend Stampy Cat (aka Joseph Garrett) would be in town, over 500 excited fans queued in the centre of Dundee for the coveted tickets; some from as early as 5.20am. Such was the interest that the event sold out within a few hours.

Stampy Cat is Garrett's Minecraft character who shot to fame when Garrett began posting videos of himself building virtual worlds in Minecraft. Today, Stampy is one of the most successful YouTube stars. His channel has more than 6.7M subscribers, most of whom are pre-teens who watch his videos to gain tips and inspiration for their own Minecraft creations.

The RSE hosts an educational Christmas Lecture every year; however this event is bigger than anything that has come before. Around 2,000 local school children will attend the day-time event on the 30th November at the Caird Hall in Dundee during which, Stampy will give insights into how he makes his videos and what it takes to be a successful YouTuber. Stampy will also create a brand new Minecraft adventure episode live on stage. An evening event held at the same venue will allow a further 2,000 fans to witness Stampy in action.

The RSE looks to appeal to a wide range of ages and audiences to make learning accessible and interesting for all. The hope is that this year's Christmas Lecture will be an inspiring event; one that illustrates the power that gaming has to engage young people with technology, creativity, collaborative working and much more.

Stampy will be joined on stage by Chris van der Kuyl, RSE Young People's Committee Convener and Chairman of 4J Studios - the studio that created Minecraft. He commented, "As convener of the RSE's Young People's Programme I was delighted that Stampy agreed to deliver our Christmas Lecture this year. Next week

almost 4,000 people will attend the largest event in the history of the RSE. Stampy is an inspiration to a whole new generation of young people who can clearly see that future careers will rely on a unique blend of talents, creativity, technical and design skills that can be mastered by everyone. Stampy is the epitome of the 21st century digital native and I am sure he will inspire the audience, young and old, who will pack out the Caird Hall next week."

It is particularly fitting that this year's lecture is being held in Dundee. As well as being home to 4J Studios, Dundee is also the first UK city to be recognised as a UNESCO City of Design.

Stewart Murdoch, chair of UNESCO City of Design Dundee and Dundee's Director of Leisure and Culture, said: "Minecraft is a hugely inspiring game and an incredible design tool for people of all ages to reimagine the world around them. We've seen here in Dundee how Minecraft can be used by school children to plan the redevelopment of our city's Waterfront, including the construction of the new V&A Dundee.

"As the UK's first UNESCO City of Design we want to engage young people looking at the world as designers, unleashing their creative potential. I love it when Dundee innovates. This ticks lots of boxes for the city, for the RSE, for Minecraft, and for Stampy's young fans."

'Stampy's Christmas Cake Caper (An Adventure in YouTubing)' will be filmed and is expected to be released on the BBC's iPlayer on 3rd December.

ENDS.

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Notes to Editors

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is a leading educational charity which operates on an independent and non-party-political basis to provide public benefit throughout Scotland. Established by Royal Charter in 1783 by key proponents of the Scottish Enlightenment, the RSE now has over 1600 Fellows from a wide range of disciplines. The work of the RSE includes awarding research funding, leading on major inquiries, informing public policy and delivering events across Scotland to inspire knowledge and learning.