

Heartbeat



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Y9 students show drive on Manufacturing Day



Our Year 9 students swapped normal lessons for a Dragons' Den-style experience last week, as they set about designing tailor-made cars.

The young entrepreneurs stepped inside the 'Griffins Den' as they tried to impress judges from car manufacturer Vauxhalls with their very own car designs.

Our would-be businessboys and girls were split into groups with each team having to assign a team leader, designer, accountant and marketing executive.

The teams were each given specifications tailored to a would-be customer. Then, armed with cost sheets for all the parts and materials required to build their vehicle, they set to work.

Hannah Masters, Internal Auditor, Training Grant Administrator & Finance Analyst, for Vauxhalls, outlined what students needed to do to be successful in the day's challenge. She said: "Among the consid-

erations students had to be aware of was to keep a careful eye on how much they were spending.

"They needed to make the highest profit possible, whilst providing a product their customer would want to buy. They needed to look at the cost of all the parts and the price the customer is willing to pay."

Ms Masters' wise words were certainly adhered to as the students all produced high quality ideas.

Our visitors from Vauxhalls were impressed with the standard of work produced and the mature way in which the students behaved.

The judges were then left to pick two winning teams (pictured above) from all the entries. Ms Masters added: "We chose the two car designs we believed had thought about the design and price of the car the best. They were Team ERCCN, who designed the Horizon 1.4, and the

team that designed the Vauxhall Hoja."

"The visit was really good. I have to say, some of the students really got involved and the first group I had were the best group I've had throughout all the schools." Among those who helped organise and oversee the day was Design Technology's Mrs Stewart. She said; "Year 9 can be very proud of their work and how they conducted themselves throughout the day, it was a great success.

News in brief

Year 9 exams start today. On Wednesday, there is the Y11 trip to Alton Towers and the ICT trip to the Olympic Stadium. Also on Wednesday, there is the Y13 book return and Y6 Parents' Information Evening at 7pm. On Thursday, there is a meeting at 6pm in the Drama Studio for the parents of those students going to Barcelona.



Salters Chemistry Festival peppered with success

Four of our Year 8 students became amateur sleuths for a day recently as they tackled a crime using scientific methodology. Ellie Crossland (8R), Leah Burns (8R), Michael Dolan (8C) and Louise Simpson (8R), along with Science Teacher, Mr Long and Science PGCE student, Miss Webb, headed to Liverpool University to attend the Salters Festival of Chemistry. Mr Long explained more about the day: "This was a really fun day, filled with lectures, competitions and other activities." The festival is run in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry, the aim being to inspire children into pursuing a career in science.

At the University, the students headed to the Central Teaching Laboratories, a new building costing more than £40 million. After an introduction and welcome, they

went to the lab for a Forensic Mystery Challenge, entitled, *The Body in the Staff Room*.

In a state-of-the-art lab, the students had to use their laboratory skills to analyse a mystery powder and find the murderer. With lots of enthusiasm, the team worked in a methodical manner finishing their task in record time.

After lunch, the four embarked on a tour of the facility, where they looked at modern instrumentation. The students then returned to the lab to solve a mystery involving the Starship Enterprise.

A reaction had to be controlled to 10.5 degrees centigrade - with no room for error. Thankfully, bringing their scientific know-how to the fore, the team hit the correct temperature.

The students then attended a lecture on

molecules, energy and reactions in a lecture theatre normally used by the students at the University. It was an interactive lecture, with pupils assisting in making slime, dyes and seeing water disappear.

The day finished with a prizegiving ceremony, where all the students received a prize for attending.

A number of other prizes were given out and Sacred Heart finished runners-up in the University Challenge, beating 14 other schools. A fantastic achievement where the team's knowledge, teamwork and ability shone through.

Louise summed up how much the group enjoyed the day by saying: "It was an impressive and educational experience that I would recommend to other students. It is certainly one that we would all like to do again."