



Year 8s ‘make it work’ at robot wars STEM event

Scientists from Year 8 and our Sixth Form (see p2) recently excelled at two different Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) events.

Budding Year 8 Roboteers Becky Hutchinson, Grace Piper, Callum Jones and James Doggett represented Sacred Heart at the *Make It Work Robot Challenge* at Hugh Baird College.

The team constructed a robot to compete against nine other teams and also had an opportunity to speak with different STEM ambassadors from the world of industry.

Accompanying the students was Maths teacher Mr Morrison. He said: “The team worked incredibly well to construct the robot and then practiced controlling it.

“The challenge involved collecting as many tennis balls as possible and getting them into a basket, with a bonus pink ball being worth two points. There were two mini leagues of five teams, with the top two teams going through to a knock-out stage.

“The team started fantastically, with James at the control, they won 3-0 and 3-2, with the tactic of going for the bonus ball paying dividends in the second match.

“It was then time to play the other unbeaten team, Greenbank High, in the third match.

“After an enthralling battle, the game ended with Greenbank getting a last minute score to draw the game 3-3.

Progression

“With the team looking strong for progression to the knock out stage, the rest of the team had a turn at driving the robot.

“At first, this looked like a mistake. The controller was passed around different members of the team, as each struggled to get a tennis ball. However, it soon became evident the robot had lost some bolts and was not operating properly and the team lost the final game 2-0.

“Luckily, after such a strong start, it was confirmed the team had qualified for the semi-finals.

There was now an intense five minute pit-stop to try and repair the robot in time for the semi-final.

Unfortunately, despite the team’s best efforts, the robot failed to operate properly, which resulted in us getting knocked out, as it was unable to collect any tennis balls.

“The eventual winners were Greenbank High, who had only managed the last second draw against our team in the league stage.

“It was a valiant effort for the team to finish third out of ten teams, most of whom were a year older than ours.

“There were plenty of comments from the organisers praising the students’ efforts.

“The team really enjoyed their day and can’t wait to try and win it next year.”

News in brief

Year 11 mock exams take place today and tomorrow. The Christmas Fayre is on Wednesday at Lower Site and the Pensioners’ Party is on Thursday.

STEM event plants ideas

Sixth Form students recently took part in a STEM event giving them an insight into the role of a modern engineer, *writes Science's Mr Radford*.

Students met engineers from different disciplines at the *Engineering Your Future* event, held in Warrington.

The students worked in teams to solve a problem set by civil engineers based around the issues facing the modernisation of the railway network.

Their next task was introduced by young graduate chemical engineers based at the oil refinery in Stanlow.

Students had to investigate the issues surrounding an oil leak at the plant and come up with possible causes. This was based on a real incident that occurred in the summer.

They then got to ask questions about different aspects of engineering and the pathways available to them.

Different

Over lunch, students talked to engineers based at universities and in industry. This allowed them to see the many different facets of engineering, even meeting an ex-Sacred Heart student, who is now a lecturer in Electrical Engineering at LJM.

After lunch, students found out about the manufacture and importance of mechanical seals used in compressors and pumps. These devices are essential in the transfer of chemicals used in all aspects of modern life. Finally, students worked in teams to make decisions about how the UK optimises its energy production in the future, based on costs, environmental factors, availability etc. It was great that students took a real active role in the day, hopefully inspiring them to follow an engineering path as a future career



Christmas Carol Concert

Presented by Sacred Heart Catholic College, Crosby

Sacred Heart Catholic College Choir, Chamber Choir, Staff Choir,
Former Pupils Choir, Ursuline, Great Crosby, St Anne's Primary School
Choirs, St Edmund's Church Choir and the St. Nicholas Singers.

Guest Soloist *Danielle Thomas*

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral,
Wednesday 19th December at 7.00pm

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Crosby Schools and the local
community come together to show their
support and raise funds for treatment
for much-loved local teacher.

Admission £5

Tickets available at school reception

"Let's do this for Isabel!"