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Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 12

Newsletter Date: 25th March 2011

Engineering Week

Wednesday - The Future of Phones!

On Wednesday the school was very fortunate to welcome Rich Bernardo, the Director of Creativity for Nokia, the massive mobile phone company. Rich spoke to our Year 9 students about the history of mobile phones and the direction they might go in the future. We heard how more than three quarters of the world's population now own a mobile phone. It's expected that next year 10 trillion text messages will be sent around the world!



Rich showed us a range of concept phones that may be in the shops in a few years' time - phones that stand up on their own when you ring them, completely flat and perfectly clear phones that you blow on to operate and a pair of glasses which show your phone's display and is operated by a movement-sensitive wristband!

Many thanks to Rich and everyone that helped at Nokia, it was another great Engineering & Science event.

Tuesday - Monkey Business

On Tuesday, Nikki Waldron, an assistant producer from the BBC who works in the Natural History unit in Bristol, came and spoke to some of our local primary children and our Year 7 students.

Nikki brought camera and sound equipment to demonstrate some of the communication techniques that are used in the TV industry. The students heard fascinating accounts of how Steve Backshall, presenter on the Deadly 60 TV show, has found himself in many dangerous situations with the wild animals they have filmed all over the world.



Nikki told us that the only time Steve has ever ended up in hospital was when he was bitten by an adder, the only poisonous snake in the UK!



Volunteer students were recruited to perform as director, presenter, cameraman, clapperboard operator and mobile radio operators. They had to try to get footage of the wild gorilla that was loose in the school hall, which fortunately turned out to be a member of staff in a gorilla mask! The visit was a great success, many thanks to Nikki and the BBC.

Pi Day

Monday - Pi Day

Pi Day = 14th March 2011

$\pi = 3.141589.....$



Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th. In American Date format, the day and month are 3/14 which happens to be the first 3 digits of Pi. It is also the birthday of Albert Einstein. In 2009, the US House of Representatives designated March 14th as Pi Day and "it urges schools to take the opportunity to teach their students about Pi and engage them about the study of mathematics".

Having learned about Pi Day whilst talking to a US teacher in Florida, Mr Long thought it would be a nice idea to introduce it to Mangotsfield School. The Maths teachers kicked the day off by wearing T-shirts with various interpretations of Pi; "Pi rate" and "Who ate all the Pi's?" being two of them.

Numerous classes were involved in Pi and circle-based activities: some Year 11 students formed the Pi symbol on the playground, circles were drawn on the playground, and Mrs Smith's Year 9 class planted a circle of flowers with a Pi symbol in the middle (this will look really good when the flowers have had a chance to establish themselves). Many classes also did work on measuring the circumference and diameter of various circular objects, to see how close they could get to Pi.

Lunchtime was the time for the Pi Day Digits Challenge, where students were encouraged to remember the most digits of Pi. We had had 16 participants from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The winner was Ellie Simmons who managed to recite Pi to 150 decimal places, an awesome achievement, for which the prize was £31.42

Next year we will repeat the same activities as this year and hopefully add a few Pi(e) activities by getting the restaurant to join in. Many thanks to all the students and teachers who were involved.



Modern Foreign Languages University trip

Twenty Year 8 students went to UWE on Monday 7th March to attend the AIM HIGHER workshop for Languages. They had a tour of the university and were shown what life on a campus is like nowadays. UWE has an enormous site in Frenchay which is very modern with many amphitheatres, classrooms, accommodation for students and even a gym! They had lunch in the students' canteen, which serves a wide variety of healthy food. Quite a few students regretted they had brought packed lunches!

The AIM HIGHER workshop also provided several language lessons. Our students had starter lessons in Chinese and Spanish, and also high level lessons of French and German. It was a very good day and these 20 students are now filled with ambition to go into further education later in their lives!



Fairtrade Fortnight

Year 5 and 6 students from Mangotsfield and Tynings Primary schools, along with some of our Year 7 students, attended a workshop in the LRC on the last Friday of Fairtrade Fortnight.

We were lucky to have a visitor from Nicaragua, Jitzy Centeno, who is a coffee grower. Jitzy comes from a village in a very rural community, whose lives have been changed since forming a co-operative that sells its coffee to Fairtrade.

Through her interpreter, Jessica, Jitzy told how her village has no electricity or piped water. There is no motorised transport and few villagers can afford a horse or mule. The fields where the coffee is grown is a long way away, as is the children's school, which means a long walk. The nearest Health Centre is two hours by foot and there is often no doctor available.



Fairtrade Matching Game

Producing coffee for Fairtrade means the villagers have a reliable income, double that which they would get by selling as individual growers to a large company. Even as part of a Fairtrade co-operative their average income per producer is still under £300 a year.



Jitzy Centeno

During the day the students had a talk from Jitzy, followed by an opportunity to ask her questions about her life and the difference Fairtrade has made to her life and village. The students from the primary schools then designed individual flags to contribute towards the Fairtrade attempt at breaking the world record for the longest bunting. There were some very original, highly colourful, designs.

Coffee grows on bushes and in Nicaragua is harvested by hand between November and February. The ripe 'cherries are stripped of their flesh and the beans dried in the sun. The flesh is used to make compost to fertilize the next years crop. Jitzy had brought some green coffee beans with her, which the students saw roasted and turned into ground coffee.



Fairtrade Bunting

In the course of her visit to Bristol, Jitzy has talked to over 2000 students, helping to spread the word about Fairtrade.

With Fairtrade guaranteeing a fairer price for their coffee, her village is able to help itself improve conditions for the whole community. They are able to pay for better healthcare and are able to send their children to school. Some of the older women who had no education are able to attend night school to learn read and write.

When you next visit the supermarket, please give a thought to Jitzy and her community and try to put some Fairtrade products into your basket.



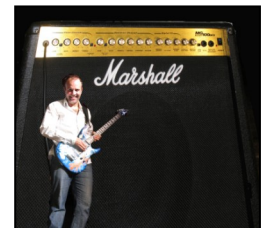
Fairtrade Products

Monday - Dr Lewney and Rock in 11 Dimensions



On Monday we were visited by Dr Mark Lewney who blew our ears with fantastic rock guitar and then blew our minds with an explanation of the world, the universe and everything else!

Using his guitar, two bricks, an inflatable world (not full scale), an air bazooka and a story about 2-dimensional ants living on a piece of graph paper, Dr Lewney took us deep into the world of quantum physics and string theory. He explained how there may be more than the usual three dimensions in the universe - possibly up to 11, including the dimension of time, and that we are living in an era when after 13.7 billion years (13,700,000,000) scientists may discover what he universe is all about!

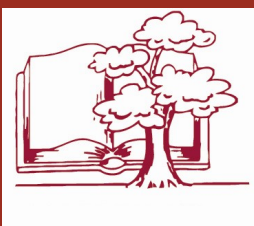


Year 9 Flying Start Challenge

The team had a great day at the Fleet Air Arm museum in Yeovil where we competed in the Grand Final of the Flying Start Challenge. The students did extremely well in all the competitions and as a result we came third overall and won £100.

We thought we had won the Fly-off section - our glider went the furthest (and the straightest) in our first throw and we believed we had it in the bag! Unfortunately our second throw went to ground and, as the final position was based upon the combination of the two throws, we failed to gain the victory! Maybe next year.....

The students were brilliant - they thoroughly enjoyed the event and the competition throughout. Many thanks to all the MBDA engineers who have supported us so well since the start of the process in November.



**MANGOTSFIELD
SCHOOL
AN ENGINEERING AND
SCIENCE COLLEGE**

Please give any feedback or
articles for later editions to Ms
Terri Chard

Phone: 01454 862700
Fax: 01454 862700
E-mail: t.chard@
mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

We're on the Web

www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

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London Law Visit



On Thursday 3rd March, Miss Bowles, Mr John and Mrs Moss took a group of Year 12 Law students to London. During the day students visited the Royal Courts of Justice, went on the London Eye, visited the Houses of Parliament and met Chris Skidmore, our constituent MP, and finally visited the Supreme Court.

After an extremely early start, (leaving school at 6.15 am), students arrived at the Royal Courts of Justice and sat in on some appeal cases from smaller courts. Students then took a ride on the London Eye, enjoying an aerial view of



London and the Houses of Parliament which they would be visiting later in the day. Around lunch time students were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament by Chris Skidmore MP. He then held a question and answer session with the students, who put forward some interesting and challenging questions.

In the afternoon, students were given a tour of the Supreme Court (the highest appeal court in the UK), and were able to see where the Justices made their important decisions.

An extremely good time was had by everyone and students now have a deeper understanding of the English Legal System.

