WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY

The date:
23-06-2015

The challenge:
As a group you must build the tallest tower you can. The tower must be strong enough to hold a tangerine as high off the ground as possible!

Students from Years 7 and 8 rose to the engineering challenge in Design and Technology of building a “Tangerine Tower” from three sheets of newspaper.

Dividing themselves into groups they then worked as teams to problem solve and construct their designs. A great deal of energy and positive thought went into developing a successful design to meet the challenge. Each team arrived at a solution after much discussion, trial and error (a typical engineering approach) and paper rolling.

The enthusiasm, commitment and success of the event is a credit to our students’ resilience when presented with a challenge.

The Headlines
First of all, I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work this year and, in particular, all those staff who went above and beyond in terms of coming in on Saturdays, holidays and giving up lots of their own time. Schools are only as good as the people who work in them and I have been fortunate to appoint and work with very good staff over the last few years. As a result, the school is now a solidly ‘good’ school with excellent foundations to move towards outstanding. We are expecting some excellent results in the summer and as a school we are much better now at providing a more rounded education to all our pupils. As you will see in this version of the Wire, DSTC pupils have travelled to China, Iceland, Paris and Italy as well as having shown off their skills in Birmingham and Sussex. Perhaps the aspect that I am most proud of is the volunteering work students have done this year. As well as volunteering day itself, we have had pupils join the National Citizenship Service, The Easter Egg Hunt, The Press Pack and act as marshals at the Dartford Half Marathon. I wish all the staff who are moving on the best of luck in their future careers and would like to thank all the parents, pupils and staff who have made my time at DSTC so worthwhile and fulfilling. I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope that you will continue as staff, pupils and parents to make a significant difference to the world around us.
Seamus Murphy
CHINA

During the latter part of the summer term ten intrepid post 16 students set out on an epic adventure for a once in a lifetime experience trip to China. After a relaxing journey to Beijing International Airport via Dubai, we arrived 20 hours later to a very warm welcome by both Chinese teachers and students from Beijing School No 57.

On the first day, Beijing School No 57 provided a series of culture lessons for our students. This introduced the students to both the new and old aspects of what makes China so culturally diverse. This was later followed by a welcome ceremony by the school, which made us all feel very honoured.

The three subsequent days were spent seeing some of the many highlights that Beijing has to offer. This included some spectacular visits to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Bird’s Nest and Water Cube at the Olympic Stadium and the fabulous Summer Palace. These were absolutely amazing experiences and the photo-count was now surpassing three figures.

One of the greatest highlights for all on the trip was the opportunity to barter their way around several of Beijing’s famous markets including that of Silk Street and the Favourite of the Clintons: The Pearl Market. All managed to barter down a vast range of products ranging from the sublime silks and crafts in famous Chinese traditional styling to brilliant fakery and masterful rip-offs.

The other activities that concluded the visit were a visit to the world famous panda enclosure at the Beijing Zoo, which also houses many wonderful and exotic creatures from far and wide around the globe. Students also had the opportunity to experience some of China’s oldest traditions including writing their name using Chinese calligraphy and making Chinese dumplings known as ‘jiǎo zi’ which is one of Beijing’s traditional foods. The results were varied to say the least!

Tired and weary from a 6½ hour flight to Dubai followed by a 7 hour journey to Gatwick, all the students had the most fantastic experience and many had been on a journey of self-discovery in such a different and challenging cultural setting.

POWER

Literacy is undeniably important and is succinctly summed up by Chekhov’s: ‘Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass’.

Literacy has been rebranded this year as POWER (Punctuation, Oracy, Writing, Enquiry and Reading) and there has been a range of activities to empower the students by accelerating their literacy.

We have seen our first SALAD (Speaking and Listening) Day; our first Everybody Reads Day and two Everybody Writes Days.

Book Week 2015 promoted reading at DSTC and, for the first year ever, we had our very own DSTC Reading Panel of judges. The panel read a range of fiction books and reviewed each book for a DSTC Reading Panel display. During Book Week 2015 students participated in quizzes, treasure hunts and, of course, our annual ‘Dress Up As A Book Character Day’. Once again the school became a world of books as staff and students dressed up in a colourful and exciting array of costumes breathing life into literature.
SPORTS DAY
On Monday 20th July students gathered at Dartford Track to represent their form and compete against other students in a range of traditional athletic events in the annual DSTC Sports Day. Events included Shot Putt, Discus, Javelin, Long Jump, Sprints, 800m and the relay. In addition there was the pentathlon in which pupils participated in 5 events and received a points score for each event – a very close and tough competition, particularly in Years 7 and 8. Despite the weather students rallied around and produced some excellent performances which created some very close results in all events.

The event was made more successful by the excellent help, support and organisation of the DSTC Sports Leaders – without their help it would have been impossible to organise and run the event. We are very proud of all the students who took part in the day and helped run the day.

Well done to all!
Miss Frazier

SPORTS DAY
Today looked pretty miserable due to the bad moody weather but that didn't stop everyone taking part and having fun. Girls pushing themselves to their limits in the pouring rain with support from their team mates. I thought that everyone, win or lose, had fun because of the support of friends and that was really cheerful.

I had fun taking photos of the events and the trying girls.

Megan Sutton Year 10

RACE FOR LIFE
The afternoon of Sports Day was spent back at school with every pupil and member of staff taking part in a Race for Life event.

The course had been set up in the school grounds and had been organised by the Year 10 BTEC group and the Sports Leaders. Pupils and staff completed a 3k course either running, walking, jogging or dancing whilst wearing pink and dedicating their efforts to raising funds for Cancer Research. So far £8000.00 has been raised – with still more to come!

A fantastic effort by all and it was great to see everyone taking part for a very worthwhile cause!

LOUISE NORMAN – NATIONAL TRAMPOLINING CHAMPION!

After winning the Regional Kent Schools Trampolining Competition for her age category Louise was invited to compete at the National Trampolining Competition which was held in Telford earlier this month.

At the competition Louise performed skills in set routines and a voluntary routine in front of a panel of judges. Against some very tough competition, from competitors from all over the country who had won their area competitions. Louise went on to win the competition and was crowned National NDP4 Champion for the 13+ age category.

A huge well done and congratulations to Louise!
COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUB
This term a number of girls have been involved in an after-school Computer Science Club. The girls have used a computer called Raspberry Pi with Scratch, programming software, to control LED lights. This has enabled the girls to learn new skills such as wiring up the LED light to a resistor and connecting it to the GPIO pins on the Raspberry Pi. After connecting the LED lights to the Raspberry Pi, they used Scratch to turn the LED lights on. The girls also used a PIR sensor which activates the lights whenever somebody moves.

Here are some of the comments from those taking part:

Jadzia: “I love after school club because it shows you so many things such as how Christmas lights work.”

Holly: “I like the Computer Science club because we learn interesting things about the Raspberry Pi in a way that’s very fun.”

Nadia: “I like the new things I have learnt, it’s really interesting and fun.”

MEDIA STUDIES UPDATE
In February, 54 students visited the Harry Potter Studio Tour to help support their studies in Media. Students toured around the studio and were able to see actual sets, props and costumes that were used in the making of the films. Butter beer was enjoyed by many and students enjoyed the opportunity to have their pictures taken on a broom and in Ron’s flying car using a green screen. A great day out was had by all.

Students were invited by our governor Anita Hudson to help design a re-brand for her estate agency, Parris Residential in Bexleyheath. A number of girls submitted their designs but the winning logo was created by a Year 10 student, Hajar Saleh, whose design was creative and modern. A special mention was also given to Mia Hutton in Year 10 whose logo idea and pitch was very appealing. Both girls were given a substantial prize and we look forward to seeing pictures of the shop re-brand. Well done on behalf of Mrs Girgenti and Miss Clarke to all girls who entered and especially to the two prize winners, and a big thank you to Anita Hudson for allowing the students the opportunity to use their Media Studies skills.

ENTERPRISE TEAM JOIN THE HUNT!!
On 4th April Bethany Arney, Bailey Davis, Lucy Davis, Sophie Tompkins and Pandora Tsang, from Year 8, ran an activity stall at The Dartford Round Table’s Easter Egg Hunt event held in Dartford Park.

The girls designed a back-drop which children could stand against whilst wearing their decorated rabbit masks. In addition, they sold beaded bracelets that had been made during their lunch time Enterprise Club. Well done girls, you were fantastic ambassadors for DSTC.

CREATIVE UPDATE
Team Creative have been very busy this year; November saw the accumulation of months of hard work in the Urban v Musicals Dance Show, closely followed by Thoroughly Modern Millie the musical. The Christmas Concert saw a wide range of musical talent on show including the expanding orchestra.

This year students in Dance have experienced Street Dance workshops with Holly Smedley from Hollywood Performing Arts and a theatre trip to ‘Anything Goes’ at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford. Students are currently enjoying after school sessions with the London Knightz Roller Hockey Club.

In Art, Kaitelin Beard, Emma Challis and Cheyenne Edano were shortlisted for the John Downton Award; their work went on display in Maidstone during October. The sixth form students have been busy participating in workshops at both the National Portrait Gallery and Tate Britain.

The sports department have had a very successful year; the first 11 of our students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award and attended the presentation evening in February. Both Louise Norman and Ashleigh Warren have done exceptionally well at the Kent inter-school trampolining competition where they competed against many pupils from across the Kent borough.

In addition to Sports Day we have had the Summer Soiree, a festival of music and arts.
**VOCATIONAL TEAM STUDENT MENTORS**

Over the last year we have had a selection of sixth form students acting as mentors to Key Stage 3/4 students. This has allowed these students to understand the importance of helping learners to increase their understanding and knowledge which builds confidence, not just for the learner but also the sixth form students. Helping in class during free periods can also promote your understanding as well as helping students increase their self-esteem through the use of strategies and praise. This empowers the mentor in seeing how their help affects others positively.

We would like Year 11 students to think about how they may wish to take part in mentoring when they return as AS students in September. This is a great opportunity to help others and grow as individuals. Mentoring will also add an impressive section to their UCAS or job application forms.

**PARIS**

At the end of the spring term, 23 sixth form students travelled to Paris to attend a Business and ICT conference. The three day visit also included a walking tour of the city and two days at Disneyland Paris.

The students walked along Avenue des Champs-Élysées and the Seine where they spotted several landmarks including the Arc de Triomphe, Flame of Liberty and Trocadero. They also had the opportunity to go up to the top of the Eiffel Tower!

At the conference, the students learned key points about customer experience and communication in a digital world. They asked some fantastic questions of leading Business and ICT professionals, including BBC’s Kate Russell, Andrew McMillan, Head of Customer Care at John Lewis and Joe McEwan of Innocent Drinks.

Pupils were well behaved on the trip and represented DSTC extremely well. They are now looking forward to the next sixth form trip to New York City in February 2016!

**FRENCH**

Miss Jolibois would like to say a big thank you to all the KS3 students who went above and beyond with their French Revolution homework. The projects brought to school were absolutely fantastic and, needless to say, there are some very talented students at DSTC. The girls’ task was to bring a creative piece of homework representing the events of 14th July 1789 and, amongst others, there were amazing cakes, a model guillotine, T-shirts with the events written on and fantastic posters.

Amongst others, Miss Jolibois would like to congratulate the following students who should collect their “Let them eat cake” prizes from her: Sabinka Fricova, Alisha Gao, Alice Mitchell, Rebecca Copsey and Bella Coleman.

**SIXTH FORM WORK EXPERIENCE**

Every year our sixth form students go out on Work Experience for two weeks. This is an exciting opportunity for them to enhance both their vocational and transferable employability skills. We encourage the students to find their own placements to promote their independence and ensure they get the most out of these two weeks.

During their placement the students complete a diary, recording what they have done, the existing skills they have used and any new skills they have acquired. There is a section in the diary for the employer to complete where they can write the student a reference. We endeavour to have a member of staff visit each placement to obtain feedback from the employers about our students. Invariably, we receive very positive comments which make our students great ambassadors for DSTC.

The students this year are going to a wide range of placements, which include:

- The Hilton Hotel, Crossways
- The Guildhall Museum, Rochester
- Digital Cinema Media Ltd, Euston
- Medway County Court
- Kent Film Office, Maidstone
- 3DD Kent (3D model makers), Dartford
- Westminster Archives, London
- along with accountants, banks, shops, estate agents, pharmacies, vets, schools, nurseries and care homes.

We wish all the students well and hope they have a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience.
FAIR TRADE WEEK

In March the Vocational team promoted ‘Fair Trade Week’. Both students and staff took part in various activities which allowed students from different years to interact. It also allowed them to work together as a team using the co-operative values in order to achieve the best result possible. It was very exciting to see so many people taking part and giving up their time all in the name of ‘fair trade’.

Tuesday saw the arrangement of the ‘fair trade cafe’, in which students and staff were able to purchase hot beverages and brownies, all created via fair trade methods. A multitude of students and staff said that they thoroughly enjoyed the cafe and would be happy for the event to occur again. This then lead to the fair trade football match on Wednesday; a combination of staff and sixth form students competed in a competitive, fair trade 5-a-side football tournament consisting of trips, slips and kicks – with the green team crowned the winners. The entire event was fair trade - even the football, which was from a company named ‘Aspiro’. This company ensure that the staff who make the balls receive a fair wage for their occupation. They also ensure that they do not use child labour under any circumstances – this is because they are using the co-operative values to promote equality and fair trade. It was an excellent event creating a sense of solidarity between staff and students and allowing a release of pre-exam stress for all. This event was extremely popular, with everyone wishing to repeat the event.

Finally, Friday consisted of a ‘fair trade taste test’ in which participants were asked to taste both fair trade and non fair trade products, discovering whether they could differentiate between the two - the results were interesting. Anyone who managed to distinguish between fair trade and non fair trade products will have their name entered into a draw; the winner of this draw will win a luxury fair trade hamper! Overall, fair trade week has been an incredibly fun and exciting event for all, and a multitude of individuals wish to repeat the experience again.

Natalie Thornton 13T

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMALE ENGINEERS

Talent 2030 is a campaign that encourages more girls to pursue careers in engineering and manufacturing. They hold an annual National Engineering Competition for Girls, which is sponsored by universities and businesses such as Rolls Royce and EDF Energy.

This year’s challenge was to find the best solution to one of the world’s greatest issues of our time - diabetes, which is becoming one of the biggest global epidemics of the 21st century. Chloe Perry, Louise Damiral-Mercer, Chloe Soave and Bella Coleman entered the competition with their ideas of prevention rather than cure. The students looked at designing a Diabetes Tracker App for iPhone and Android devices, which logs and monitors blood glucose levels, insulin, carbohydrates and number of calories. The App also includes meal plans with quick and easy diabetes-friendly recipes.

The students were very fortunate to have been shortlisted and were ranked in the top 15 nationally. As a result of being one of the finalists, the students were invited to show off their amazing engineering solution at the Big Bang Fair, NEC Birmingham on Saturday 14th March.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to show how talented these young people are. It was also a chance for the students to set up a professional exhibition and to speak to members of the public to raise awareness of the global epidemic.

All in all, the students had a fantastic time and hopefully we are able to inspire and recruit more female engineers in the near future!

Photos of the event can be found in the following link: http://www.talent2030.org/blog/3583/bbf15-photos/
The sixth form enjoyed a great start to the year by being awarded ‘Excellent’ in their ALPS (Advanced Level Performance System) report. ALPS ranks just under 2,500 schools and colleges in the UK in terms of the progress their students make during their time in the sixth form. With grades ranging from 1 – 9, our grade means that pupils make excellent progress at DSTC6th. This could be why we again welcomed many students from both DSTC and other local schools into Year 12.

Our Year 13 students have worked exceptionally hard this year with many now waiting to see if they have secured their place at university. Courses have included the more traditional History, English, Sociology and Psychology whereas others have chosen more vocational routes such as Teaching, Paramedic Science and Veterinary Science. A special mention must go to Kelsey Woodcock who has been accepted on a very competitive Midwifery course. Students who have decided not to continue in education have already secured employment and apprenticeships, for example Showrin Chowdhury has a marketing apprenticeship with a local company and Alfie Day has already started his electrical engineering training.

As well as their academic studies, many sixth form students have taken the opportunity to volunteer both inside and outside the College community. This has included being an ERIC mentor, where students listen to a Year 7 or 8 student reading, Year 8 personal mentor, subject mentor or student leader. Sixth Form students also signed up for the ‘Be my Buddy’ training at the beginning of the year and have befriended a young person in the community with a disability. Others have linked with our local primary schools to gain additional work experience. The Community Sports Leadership group have also been busy running activities for different year groups including a cup stacking competition. They have also taught Year 5 students from Westgate Primary School.

Trips have also featured this year with sixth form students enjoying a Business Trip to Paris and a trip to China. On a more local level, students have taken part in a wide range of curriculum trips including Geography and Science field trips, visits to local businesses, care providers and universities. We already have a full year planned for our new students next year.

We are looking forward to another excellent year next year. For our new Year 11 students, our DSTC6th Open Evening will be on Monday 2nd November at 7pm. Our prospectus will be available on the College web site in October.

THE DARK LORD’S APPRENTICE

Students took part in this year’s acclaimed Harry Potter Science Week by using their magical skills to unravel the mystery behind the missing trophy and to help the Ministry of Magic find the ‘Chosen One’ working for the Dark Lord. The students conducted a preliminary investigation and managed to narrow it down to five suspects amongst staff in the school.

Throughout the week students carried out an array of fun activities in cross-curricular subjects. In Science the students had the opportunity to analyse the evidence found at the crime scene and attend wizardry master classes in care of magical creatures, defence against the dark arts, potions, transfiguration and charms. Students also had the opportunity to marvel at spectacular birds of prey from the Eagle Heights company. In DT the students creatively hand-carved wands (which looked stunning) and made scrumptious sweet treats inspired by the movie. In Maths the students completed a wide variety of fascinating Magic or Maths activities and in English they wrote eloquent letters to the Minister of Magic for the Daily Prophet. Students also took part in a Quidditch Tournament as an inter-form competition.

The students took on the mighty task like fish to water and after 5 days of intense cross-examination, deliberation and unfolding the uncanny twist to the story, the students identified Dobby the School Elf as the culprit responsible for stealing the trophy - but only for the greater good over evil.

To get into the supernatural spirit of events staff also dressed up as their favourite character from the Harry Potter series. Overall, the students found the Science week spellbinding and enchanting as well as educational.

The Dark Lord’s Apprentice video can be found in the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnojkOnnCBI
LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

We were delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to visit Iceland last October. Our group was mainly comprised of Geographers, but we were also really pleased to welcome three Photography students as well.

This was a wonderful trip that involved not only being able to experience this stunning and unique landscape, but also to witness first-hand what it is like to live in such an unpredictable environment. The students were able to swim in the geothermally heated Blue Lagoon, walk on a glacier and see what a waterfall looks like from behind the water.

The scenery was stunning and provided the girls with what we think will be an experience they will remember for a very long time; as well, of course, as being able to see Geography in action!

DSTC ALUMNI

On a cold afternoon on 22nd November 2014 I sat at my home computer and started a DSTC Alumni Facebook page. One of the governors had suggested this would be a good idea to see what some of the former students had been doing and to see if they could get involved in some aspects of the school. We were hoping for about 50 people to join as a base to start from. I spent the next 6 hours accepting people and we were soon up to 250. I was amazed at the response. Within 2 weeks we had 1,000 members – all former students of the school since it began in 1931.

On the 31st March we had our first reunion and over 200 people attended. One was Mavis Hill, who attended the school in the 1930s.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/DSTCAAlumni/members/

Mr Dix

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Once again many of our sixth form students have gone on to study a pre-degree foundation course at UCA.

This year sixth form students have participated in various workshops including the National Portrait Gallery and Tate Britain. At the National Portrait Gallery they went to see the photographs taken by the winner of the Taylor Wessing Prize before working with a professional photographer using the latest studio equipment. All the students were able to take away some very inventive portraits which were invaluable in helping them develop their ideas back in school. Students also met and worked with a professional photographer and many went on to develop their own websites. They are currently working with Abbott to put on a show of their photographs in the canteen.

The Fine Art students spent a day working with a professional artist in Tate Britain on a range of activities. The students enjoyed seeing the gallery from a different perspective as well as talking to different artists about their own practice.

Other highlights included having 3 students shortlisted for the John Downing award; their paintings were included in an exhibition in Maidstone in November.
PRESS PACK
The time has come for us to bid you a fond farewell before our departure. The past seven years have been filled with unforgettable memories – from our arrival as innocent Year 7s who were full of life, to our departure as ‘mature’ adults. There have been times of woe and times of frustration but, like any journey, lessons have been learned along the way. The past seven years have been an absolute rollercoaster and I know that it will be an extremely sad farewell.

We have enjoyed many happy memories at DSTC; including unforgettable trips to Iceland and Paris to name just two. We will certainly take away fond memories from our experiences and will use them to remind us of our carefree school days in the future.

Our gratitude and appreciation goes out to every single member of staff at DSTC, not only those on the ‘front line’ but also those behind the scenes in the office – the ones who ensure DSTC is a well-oiled machine! We would like to articulate our gratitude to you – all of you.

As a Year 13, I intend to study English Literature at the University of Southampton from September. An abundance of people have made this journey through school an absolutely amazing one and for that I could not be more grateful. From the nostalgic memories of being a tiny, shy Year 7 to the intense two years that is sixth form; I would just like to say a colossal thank you to everyone. To the teachers that guided me through lesson after lesson and taught me everything that I know today and to my fellow students who have made my life an absolute pleasure (most of the time); because without you, I would not be the person I am today!

It will be an extremely sad departure from DSTC, but the time has come for us to leave and move on to the next stage. So thank you to everyone at DSTC and we wish you all a happy and healthy future!

Farewell from all of us here at PressPack,

Natalie Thornton, Gemma Norman, Kayley Buller and Zemzem Hussein

BIG BANG
The National Science and Engineering Competition aims to recognise and reward young peoples’ achievements in all areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It is open to 11-18 year olds in the UK and provides young people with the opportunity to build their skills and confidence in project-based work. Thousands of young people enter through The Big Bang Near Me events that happen in 12 locations across the UK in June/July each year. Young people showcase their project to judges and visitors at the Fair.

This year 4 of our Year 11s - Chloe Ford, Kristina Cogswell, Rebecca Steel and Dimasha Perera - entered their own science project titled “Are we the cause of unprecedented weather events?” Working closely with the Met Office, they analysed 80 years’ worth of data collected from the Kentish region to see if they could map any long term trends in the weather patterns we experience. They combined this with the data they collected themselves over a period of several months in 2015 and used their scientific knowledge and research to help answer their proposed question.

The Big Bang South competition was held at Haywards Heath on Tuesday 30th June 2015, and our students really did DSTC proud. They were highly commended by each of the judges they showcased their work to, on both their scientific content and their confident delivery of the material. They had buckets of enthusiasm and passion for their chosen subject, referencing their connections with the Met Office and their personal interest to continue with STEM subjects through to sixth form. The day ended on a high note as they brought home the Natwest Prize for Working With Industry, presented to them by the president of the NSEC South. Congratulations girls, you deserve it after all your hard work!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Please note that on 4th September only Years 7 and 12 should attend

Staff Training Days
Thursday, 3rd September 2015
Friday, 27th November 2015
Monday, 11th April 2016
Friday, 1st July 2016
Friday, 22nd July 2016

INSPIRING EDUCATION, NURTURING SUCCESS