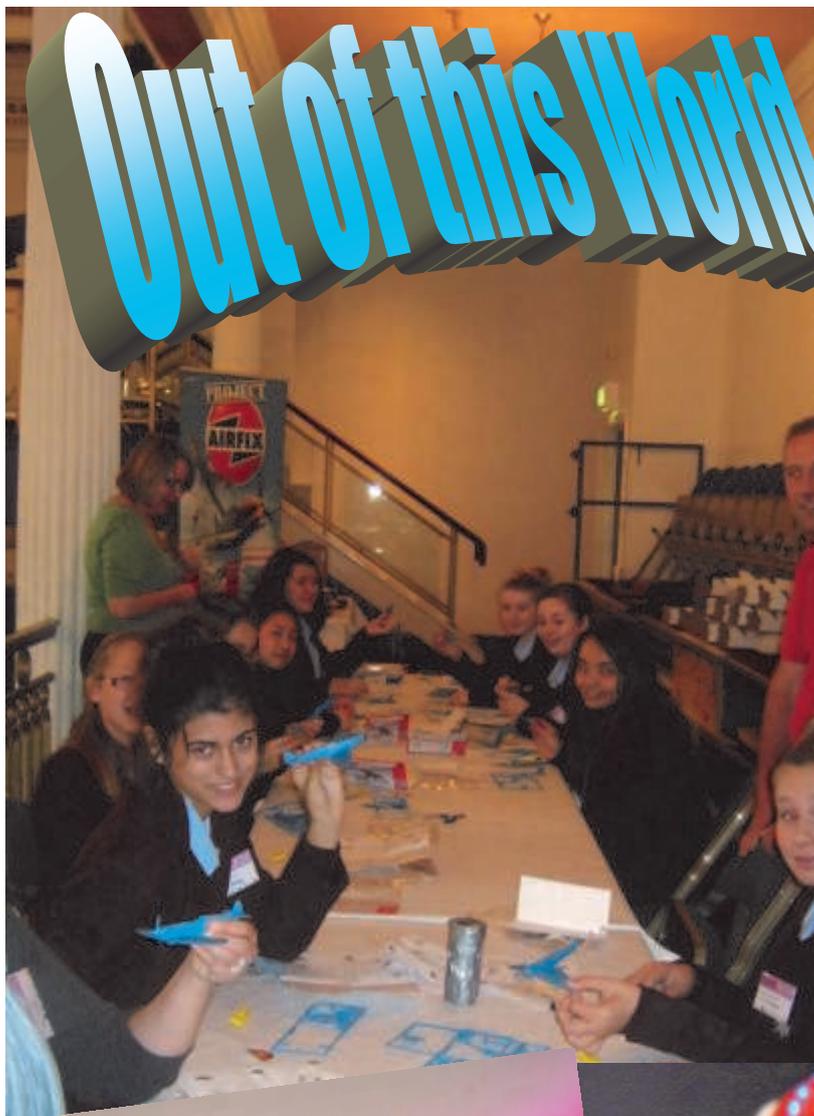


Science Talks

October 25th 2012

Priceless!



The Channel Suite at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone is where everyone is assembled for TeenTech. It is buzzing with energy as students from different schools come together to enjoy a day filled with learning about science and the different technologies that fill day-to-day life.

by Emily, Sophie, Frankie, Paige and Max from Aylesford Sports College

Each team of students had their own ambassador for the day who went around with them and supported them with each piece of technology.

There was a speech at the beginning of the day, with Maggie Philbin describing how the day would go and what it was all about.

TeenTech is a day which was made to revolutionize the way that teenagers think about science. Along with its partner EBP Kent they are trying to inspire young minds into making a career in science and to understand that science is awesome.

This day is all about trying to show that science isn't stereotypical and men and women are both popular in the science industry.

The insight zone was filled with different stands that appeal to all of the different ranges of students. Each stand attracts your attention immediately, demanding respect for the equipment and technology on show. It is a large hall with noise bubbling from the inside as the pupils talk, and try the different equipment set out.

There are many different stands such as NAO for the engineers which focuses on understanding robots

and designing them, and the RAF and the Royal Navy for those who are interested in the technology behind the scenes.

There is Raspberry Pi for programmers and other stands for those who are interested in everything.

One of the main stands that was very enjoyable for most of the groups was the Pigeon Cam as students are amazed at being able to become a "pigeon" and fly over the buildings in London.

See more reports inside!



'Getting better every time,' says Maggie



Science Talks conducted an interview with Maggie Philbin, the founder of TeenTech.

When asking the first question to Maggie: 'Why did you get involved with this event' she replied with: "There is a large disconnect with teens in classrooms and technology. Students have a lack of understanding of the

'It gives pupils the chance to meet engineers..'

wide variety of different sciences, by coming to this day it helps explain science and the variety of sciences to them."

The second question asked to Maggie was 'What is your role in TeenTech?' She explained how it first began in 2008 in Berkshire.

Maggie also told Science Talks that the event has been held in different places already this year, including Hull and Tonbridge. She also said they are still trying to improve this event to make it even better than it is now! With the final question, 'What will kids benefit from the event?' the reply that Science Talks was left with from Maggie really gave an insight into TeenTech. "It is a very hands-on experience and it gives pupils the chance to meet scientists and engineers. It helps to change the stereotyping by showing real life examples. It gives a better understanding of science."

Worth leaving work for



Among the school children are the ambassadors who have been promoted to looking after these young people for the day. Mike, an ambassador for Marlowe Academy, was at the AIRFIX stand making aeroplanes with six dedicated students who were intrigued by the prospect of making their own miniature aeroplane.

Mike said: "Basically we got asked if we wanted the opportunity to be ambassadors for the day and I took it." When asked if he believed that today was worth his time because of having to take a day off, he replied: "Yes, it's useful to be able to connect with people and the children to show that it's not all about the technology, its about the people behind it."

Hair-raising

The robot revolution is coming to England and it shows by the fantastic piece of technology made by the NAO team at today's TeenTech.

This initiative piece of work inspired all those who went and visited it, making movements that startled the students because of the likeness to them and the likeness the robot made to the human race.

The robot can please its audience by dancing to Thriller by Michael Jackson, which shows that you can create anything with programming.

NAO is the company that deals with the understanding of robots and the programming of them. The robot brought in today at Teen Tech had sensors to which it was able to sense the students who were sat learning about them.

The pigeon cam is an exciting piece of technology that was enjoyed by every group. It uses the students' bodies to be able to simulate flying in skies over London, and uses live environmental data to make the simulation as realistic as possible. With the nametags over important buildings, students are learning their way around the aerial view of London. This simulator doesn't have to be the pigeon cam, many other pieces of technology just like this one are based on the body's movement and this can be used to control other pieces of technology such as the new TVs with body control.

Raspberry Pi is a company that is based on programming, and their stand was to show the students that programming is useful. Their stand let the pupils discover what the basics of programming are and that it is not boring, as one student had apparently described it a few years ago. It can be used to make cool stuff. One of the tasks was to design what the student thought that a computer looked like and the students were shocked when their idea of the computer was not as they thought it was when faced with this small square of technology.

The second task that they did before the whistle went was to write out the

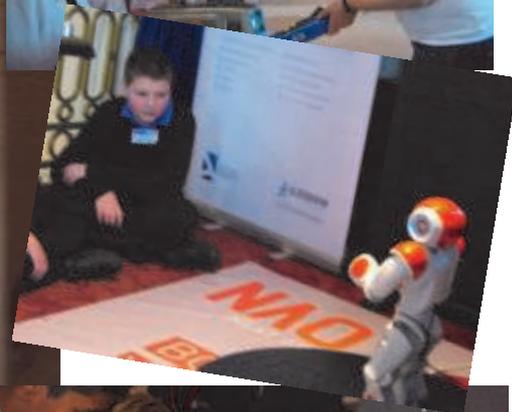


steps of tying shoe laces and when student asked how this was programming, she was told:

'Programming is writing out a set of instructions for the computer to follow.'

The Japanese Victor Company otherwise known as JVC is a maker of video cameras and headphones as well as many other pieces of technology. This particular stall at the TeenTech event caught the eye of not only students but the teachers as well. It involved everyone by setting up

ing experience!



to win headphones and laugh at their friend's funny faces!

Students believe that the **Royal Navy** and the **RAF** jobs are all about being in the firing line when the stands show that this is not true.

There are many and different jobs in both careers and students find this out after they have visited the stands leaving with completely different ideas **to how it's run.**

Stereotypes can appear in these careers but there is not a lack of men or women, they are both level with the other.

Both of the careers are trying to show that there are much more to what people say they are and when a student takes the time to speak to them about being interested in joining the forces they realise that they are much needed in both of the careers and very much so welcome.

one several cameras which were linked to screens for the students and teachers to have a laugh with, especially the screen that puts a moustache on the people that stand still for long enough and also to show a variety of technology.

f The cameras used face detection for students to participate in games such as "smile shot" of which the camera takes a picture one the person or a person in the group has a 100% smile. This resulted in a lot of happy faces, not only by participating but being able

A PPtastic!

In the Apps Challenge, students had to come up with their own ideas for a brand new app. Four schools take part in this every session, and one of the sessions there was Aylesford Sports College, Dane Court Grammar, Chaucer Technology and Charles Dickens.

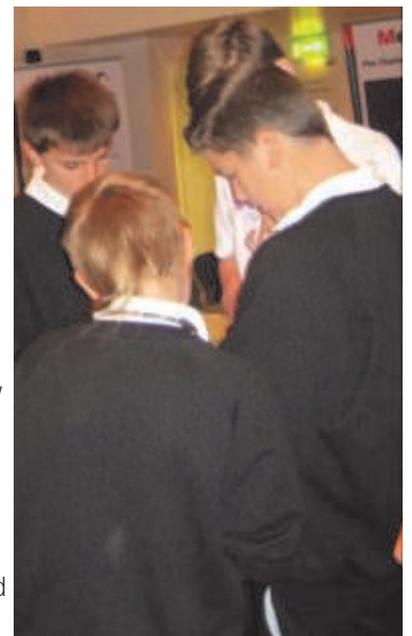
Each of these came up with extremely good ideas and completely different to each others. They took the time to chat to each other and each think of what they thought would be more marketable than other ideas.

One of the ideas that the Aylesford Sports College put forward was the idea for a Lost and Found app that directs you too the nearest bus



or taxi station. Among the other ideas put forward there was Cheap as Chips from Dane Court

Grammar, the app that finds the best deals and the cheapest shops; Dream Time by Chaucer Technology the app that delivers an ideal world into your dreams and Time Tap from



Charles Dickens School an app that lets you see timetables, when your lessons are and where **they are, and all homework that's been** programmed in.

Hello to the NEWS TEAM



Emily: There was a great atmosphere. It was an energetic and fantastic experience.

Paige: This was an intriguing new experience to work on a newspaper.

The hardest thing was hitting deadlines!

Max: I enjoyed today. It went really well.

Sophie: Working on this newspaper was a very good, interesting experience. The challenging thing for me was doing all the typing.

Frankie: This was a fantastic and exciting experience to work on the newspaper. The hardest thing was being organised!

COMMENT: Imagine a science technician or engineer: what do they look like? Mad hair? Long lab coat? And is it a male or female? At TeenTech, students were asked to draw their idea of what a scientist looks like and a majority of students were in fact **male and perceived to be 'mad'**. Considering these results younger people seem to stereotype people working in science. Pasted around the venue were posters of celebrities. Students were surprised to see their icons and what they had achieved in science. Teen icon Rock Edwards has a degree in natural sciences from Cambridge University! For years, scientists have been portrayed as old men who are crazy and wear white coats. These stereotypes have been flowing into the younger generation. With the help of TeenTech and EBP Kent, views have changed as careers in science have blossomed and inspired younger males and females to get involved.



So what did visitors think...?

Invicta Grammar Girls

Yasmin: 'It opens up different opportunities.' Elena: 'I understand what the industry is like.' Ella: 'I didn't realise how fun science can be.'

Dover Grammar School for Boys
James: 'I found this day fun and enjoyable.'

Aylesford School Sports College
Tutor Kristian Laslett: 'It is very engaging. Many different hands-on activities, which keep all pupils amused.'
Chaucer Tech Gavin and Jack: 'It's been phenomenal! TeenTech is great because we do things and be creative and it's fun as well.'



Note from News for Schools:

The writing, photographs and design are the work of three students from Aylesford Sports College.

After a rapid briefing, they threw themselves into the task with great enthusiasm and professionalism. They interviewed all the people involved, wrote up their work and organised it into sections. The students came up with the fantastic headline on the centre pages to match their photo. They even ensured they took this silly picture of their teacher!

Well done—they all did an amazing job.

