

Year 8 Design & Technology Students achieve top marks

Science and Technology Challenge Day at Stoke College

On Friday 8th July the Design and Technology Department took a group of Y8 students to Stoke on Trent College to be part of the Science and Technology Challenge day. The day was divided up into time slots so that the students could be involved in four activities. These were: Robotics programming, E-Fit identification, Vehicular prototyping and an additional Medical investigation.

Robotics Programming- The students used programming software to guide a robot around a course while performing a variety of tasks.

E-Fit – Students went through a number of operations using a special computer programme that a number of Police forces use to build up a photo quality identity profile of two criminal suspects.

Vehicle Prototyping Task – From a number of parts and components the students needed to build a vehicle that would travel at the fastest speed.

Medical Investigation – Students went through the same process that occur in a Hospital's A &E department. Students used the patient's vital signs over a time period to deduce their conditions and work out a course of treatment.

The students from the Academy were paired up with students from other schools. This can be a daunting experience but all of our students accepted this situation from the very start. The organisers were looking at how well the students achieved in each of the tasks, but more importantly how they worked together with new colleagues and used those great transferable skills, like team work, problem solving, prioritising and setting goals and achieving them.

It was a thoroughly productive experience for all the students and two teams from The de Ferrers Academy won first prize for their respective activities. Mr Ian Dudson, the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire presented the awards to the students. He praised our students and said that he was impressed with their tenacity when solving the problems and said that STEM subjects (Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology) will help in creating the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for tomorrows demanding and developing society. Well done Year 8, you have made us so proud and you tackled the day like true designers!



