

NewsRound



Keeping parents and students informed

Term 2 Letter 4 Friday 25 November 2016

Best STEM Club 2016 Award



Ashcroft Technology Academy's STEAM Club, which has continued to grow from strength to strength, was thrilled to win Best STEM Club 2016 at the prestigious STEM Inspiration Awards at the House of Lords on Thursday, 24 November 2016. Ashcroft Technology Academy came first place out of a national cohort of 3,500 schools.

This award recognises the work done by the Academy's STEAM Club to promote the STEM agenda to enrich the experience of our students in the traditional STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The winning prize is an exclusive visit to the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN Laboratories in Switzerland. Some fortunate STEAM Club students will fly to Geneva in January, where they will have the opportunity to see cutting edge science in action, as well as meet with top physicists and engineers from across the facility.

Four STEAM Club student representatives, Hannah Colwell, Shania Tiekku, Spike Snijder and Angus Stewart from Year 8 and 9 attended this event with Ms Khan and Mr Gallagher. They met several VIPs, all of whom congratulated Ashcroft Technology Academy on this success.



The students demonstrated impeccable manners and in depth knowledge of their enrichment through the STEAM club activities they have participated in.

Lord David Sainsbury of Turnville hosted the awards event and holds a strong interest in the promotion of STEM in UK schools. Since 1990, Lord Sainsbury's Gatsby Charitable Foundation has made grants to support STEM education in secondary schools totalling £150 million, so he was particularly pleased when he viewed examples of STEAM Club's excellent work, which includes incorporating the Art subjects into STEM.



Lord Sainsbury complimented the STEAM Club on pioneering the way with its innovative STEAM projects and acknowledged the significant proportion of our Sixth Form students who are STEAM ambassadors and who progress onto STEM pathways for their higher education and careers.

Yvonne Baker, Chief Executive of the National STEM Learning Network, praised the STEAM Club highly and expressed her interest in collaborating on more nationally recognised projects with the STEAM Club also.

The Best STEM Club 2016 Award was presented by Dr Andrew Taylor, the Executive Director of the National Laboratories at Rutherford and a member of the Executive Board. In his award giving speech, he complimented Ashcroft Technology Academy's STEAM Club for the significant positive impacts made in raising young people's aspirations and achievements in STEM through a variety of interactive investigations, project work and by building new connections with STEM contacts. Dr Andrew Taylor recognised that our students now have a passionate interest in all areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and he volunteered a bonus prize to all the STEAM Club students to pay an exclusive visit to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, one of the national scientific research laboratories in the UK operated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Justine Greening, PC MP for Putney and Secretary of State for Education, took time out from her Parliamentary business to pay a special visit to the event to meet the STEAM Club student representatives and was thoroughly pleased when Ashcroft Technology Academy was announced as winners, being a school from her own constituency. Justine Greening said that she would like to visit some STEAM Club sessions at Ashcroft Technology Academy, when her schedule permits.

Justine Greening made a special arrangement for her PA, Nikki Simon, to provide an exclusive tour of the House of Lords, which our students enjoyed very much.



Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, congratulated Ashcroft Technology Academy's STEAM Club and encouraged the students to keep him informed of their excellent projects, which are expanding their skills sets further.

The staff and students at Ashcroft Technology Academy are extremely pleased with this result and look forward to the next phase of STEAM at Ashcroft. Well done, STEAM Club!



Thursday 15 December 2016

Doors open at 6.00 for 6.30pm start

All ticket monies donated to *educate for Life*

CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

A reminder that the Christmas showcase will take place on Thursday 15 December. Please arrive in time for a prompt start at 6.30pm. Doors will close at 6.25pm and latecomers will not be permitted entry.

Year 7 trip to Lille

Our MFL Department are organising a day trip to Lille for all Year 7 students next year on Friday 30 June.

During the trip students will take part in a number of language activities in the centre of Lille town including a visit to a traditional boulangerie to make baguettes and croissants.

The full cost of the trip (excluding lunch and dinner) is approximately £81 per student which can be paid via sQuid either in full or as a deposit and three instalments.

A letter and a permission slip has been issued to all Year 7 students. If you wish your son/daughter to take part in this trip please sign and return the slip to Mrs Campbell at reception by Wednesday 14 December.



Hindu Temple visit as written by Danish and Darren 7T1

The visit to the Neasden Hindu temple on Monday was a wonderful opportunity to visit a tranquil place of worship. We were in awe when we entered the entrance hall of the temple. The entire room called the Haveli is hand carved from dark wood. We all took our shoes off and walked in respectful silence to the central prayer hall, the Mandir. When we entered the Mandir we were overwhelmed by the complexity of the marble carvings and the holy feeling within the room. There were statues of white murtis everywhere, carved from white marble. After a few silent minutes of taking in the peaceful atmosphere we headed down to the exhibition, which was very informative for our RS studies. During the trip we were provided with a booklet with many questions in it, and we watched a video and listened to a talk to help us complete these questions.

We were able to visit an assembly hall where thousands would gather to pray. We returned to the main Mandir to watch a prayer ceremony; puja. We enjoyed the chanting and found it amazing to see holy men who had devoted their whole life to their religion. We left feeling very peaceful and felt we had learned a huge amount about Hinduism!



Times Table Tournament

Fantastic results from the following Year 7 students who represented their houses in the Year Final Times Table Tournament competition held during an assembly this week.



The final four will compete against Year 8's finest to determine who truly possesses the eye of the tiger!

In fourth place earning 10 house points Discovery's Larvin Paest 7T4.

In third place earning 25 house points Endeavour's Elliot Johnson 7T2.

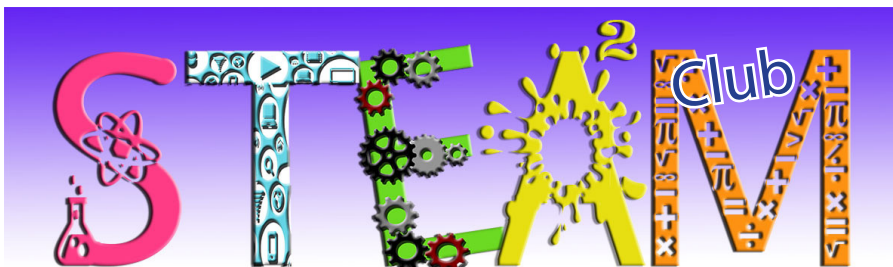
In second place earning 40 house points Challenger's Anass Ashaoui 7T3.

And finally in first place earning a whopping 50 house points Challenger's Safer Mirza 7T5.

Certificate collection – Examination certificates are now available to collect from the Academy.

We will be holding a collection 'drop-in' afternoon on Wednesday 14 December, from 1pm until 4pm, in the conference room by the main reception.

We have certificates from 2012 onwards available to collect, as well as all new certificates for the summer 2016 GCSE and GCE exams. Certificates are expensive to replace, and important to have as proof of your qualifications, so we recommend that everybody collects theirs. The Academy will endeavour to keep all uncollected certificates for a maximum of 4 years. After this time, they will be confidentially destroyed. If you cannot attend the 'drop-in' session then you are very welcome to arrange a collection at a different time. You can do this by emailing the exams email address exams@ashcroftacademy.org.uk.



Year 9 Mega Maths

'Modelling' started in this week's STEAM Club with great enthusiasm shown by Adam Ouarda 9T7, Angus Stewart 9T4, Dejanae Oakley-Joseph 9T1, Jakub Szolski 9T3, Karen Fernandes 9T3, Krisztian Hunter 9T5, Luca Wilson 9T5, Mi-Mi Aulaci 9T4, Souraya Louafi 9T7 and Zakaria Butt 9T4 who all gave excellent input to today's project

Our first modelling task was to look at Bungee Jumping. We decided that none of us would want to be the first person ever to do a bungee jump and that throwing a sack of potatoes into a river just didn't cut it as an appropriate representation. So we decided that we needed a mathematical model of the situation. Like any good problem solver we started by drawing a diagram and from this the 'STEAMies' realised we needed to consider mass (of the jumper), length of rope, elasticity of the rope and extension of the rope. Additionally – SCIENCE TEACHERS and google BEWARE – Year 9 'STEAMies' will be asking about Potential Energy, Kinetic Energy and Elasticity!

Mr Sellars is looking forward to seeing these factors put together mathematically next week for some safe Mega Maths Bungee Jump Modelling!



Doctor Who Project

'STEAMies' rotated projects this week and the Year 7s began their Doctor Who Project. In today's Year 7 STEAM Club session, the Doctor's TARDIS had broken down due to a malfunction with the motor, leaving the Doctor stranded on an unknown planet. Our 'STEAMies' rose to the challenge of attempting to repair the TARDIS motor, but the task was not a simple one. Using the Physics of Electromagnets to help them, the 'STEAMies' attempted to construct a new and improved motor for the TARDIS. Lots of problem solving occurred and much application of their knowledge of circuits and magnets until finally, a successfully working motor was built!

Particular well done to Faran Basit 7T1 and Isaac Miller 7T1 for saving the Doctor from being lost to us forever with their magnificent motor!



Robots calling Year 8

In was the inaugural Year 8 Robot Programming Club this week and Mr Haddleton showed all the STEAMies short videos highlighting what each robot was capable of. They were then asked to practice remote control of the Jumping Max robot.



Showing remarkable dexterity the STEAMies quickly mastered using the iPhone controller to navigate around a complex floor course in the classroom. Some were even able to make the robot jump to a target accurately by estimating jump distance and angle of ascent. Well done!

Next week the challenges continue with the STEAMies trying to pilot the robot cargo drone to take off and land safely onto a small target landing pad.

Thank you to Mirobot Controller Leonardo Forchini 10T3 and sixth form ambassadors for their support.

Physics in Action trip

A level Physics students enjoyed a day of inspirational lectures at Imperial College this week. Every student found that there was at least one lecture which held their particular interest and it has encouraged them to do further research about careers in those specific fields.

The programme began with Nic Harrigan talking about evolution and simulations from RNA to present and the building of quantum computers to address the complex nature of today's big problems. Simon Singh then proceeded to discuss the Big Bang and the origin of the Universe. He traced the idea from its conception to the mathematical proofs but left us with a word of warning that we still don't have absolute certainty with this concept, and the scope to engage with the question of our beginning was still wide open for future physicists.

There was a brief talk on how to prepare for exams and this served as a reminder that time is of the essence and preparation is key to achieving success.

After lunch Dr Jen Gupta spoke about exploring the unseen Universe and introduced the range of technology we can now employ compared to Galileo's first explorations with his telescope. It was very interesting to see how simple diagrams recording Galileo's observations of the moons of Jupiter could completely destroy the concept of the geocentric universe and shift our ideas toward a new heliocentric model.

The Formula E Mahindra Racing engineer then introduced the new racing concept of efficiency, environmentally friendly and entertaining racing as sport. He spoke about the technological challenge presented to engineers and drivers and the range of technology monitoring and big data used to help this sport evolve.

Finally, Dr Mark Lewney gave a "mind expanding and ear stimulating" interactive talk about Rock in 11 dimensions using bricks on strings, foam protons and neutrons and his rock guitar. He was amusing and entertaining and very thought provoking and brought the day to a close with resounding applause.



Indoor Adaptive Rowing Competition

PRAISE for the following students who represented Ashcroft in the Indoor Rowing competition today. They were excellent ambassadors; polite, engaged and supportive of one another. We are awaiting the results to find out if some students have secured their place in the Borough finals with a chance to represent Wandsworth in the London Youth Games.



Well done team!

Ethan Crick 7t7
 Jack Wannan 7t7
 Nasra Abdullah 7T6
 Arman Choudry 7t3
 Holly Flook 9t4
 Chloe Newell 9t2
 Shahd Tewfik 9t1
 Otis Raymakers 11t3

REMAINDER TERM DATES 2016-2017

Term 2 begins Mon 31 Oct - Fri 16 Dec
 Term break Mon 19 Dec – Tue 03 Jan 2017

Staff Dev Day Tue 03 Jan
Term 3 begins Wed 04 Jan– Fri 10 Feb
 Term break Mon 13 Feb – Fri 17 Feb 2017

Term 4 begins Mon 20 Feb – Fri 26 May
 Staff Dev Day Fri 31 Mar
 Easter break Fri 31 Mar – Mon 17 Apr
 Bank Holiday Mon 01 May
 Term break Mon 29 May – Fri 02 Jun 2017

Term 5 begins Mon 05 Jun – Fri 21 Jul

TERM DATES 2017-2018 Academic Year

Term 1 begins Wed 30 Aug (Year 7)
 Thur 31 Aug (Year 8-11)
 Term break Thur 19 Oct - Fri 27 Oct 2017

Term 2 begins Mon 30 Oct - Fri 15 Dec
 Term break Mon 18 Dec – Tue 02 Jan 2018

Term 3 begins Wed 03 Jan– Fri 09 Feb
 Term break Mon 12 Feb – Fri 16 Feb 2018

Term 4 begins Mon 19 Feb – Fri 25 May
 Easter break Thur 29 Mar – Fri 13 Apr 2018
 Bank Holiday Mon 07 May 2018
 Term break Mon 28 May – Fri 01 Jun 2018

Term 5 begins Mon 04 Jun – Fri 20 Jul



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Multi-choice menu MEAL DEAL Choose a hot meal from Option 1 plus something from Options 2 or 5 Choose a soup from Option 2 plus something from Options 3 or 4 or 5 Choose a sandwich from Option 4 plus something from Options 2 or 5 Choose the Salad Bar option plus something from Options 2 or 5
1	Chicken & Sweetcorn Lasagne with Garlic Bread Vegetable Quesadilla	Sausages & Onions, Potato Wedges Vegetable Layer Pie	Beef Curry and Rice Veggie Mince Pitta Bread and Salad	Roast Chicken (Halal) and Roast Potatoes Cauliflower Cheese	Homemade Tuna Fish Cake with Potato Wedges Vegetable Pasta Bake	
	Stone Baked Pizza Jacket Potato	Pasta King Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	Pasta King Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	
	Green Beans and Salad	Baked Beans or Macedoine	Broccoli and Sweetcorn	Carrots and Cabbage	Salad and Peas/Sweetcorn	
2	Leek and Potato Soup	Winter Vegetable Soup	Tomato and Basil Soup	Minestrone Soup	Vegetable Soup	
3	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	
4	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	
5	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Fruit Sponge and Custard	Chocolate & Mandarin Pudding Pudding and Custard	Apple Pie and Custard	Steamed Sponge and Custard	
	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	



Meal Deal (Option 1 + 2 or 5) £2.15 students/£2.36 staff **Main Meal only £1.83 students/£2 staff**

Lunch Rota next week: 1.05 Year11/Year 8 1.15 Year 9 1.25 Year 10 1.35 Year 7