



Aldworth

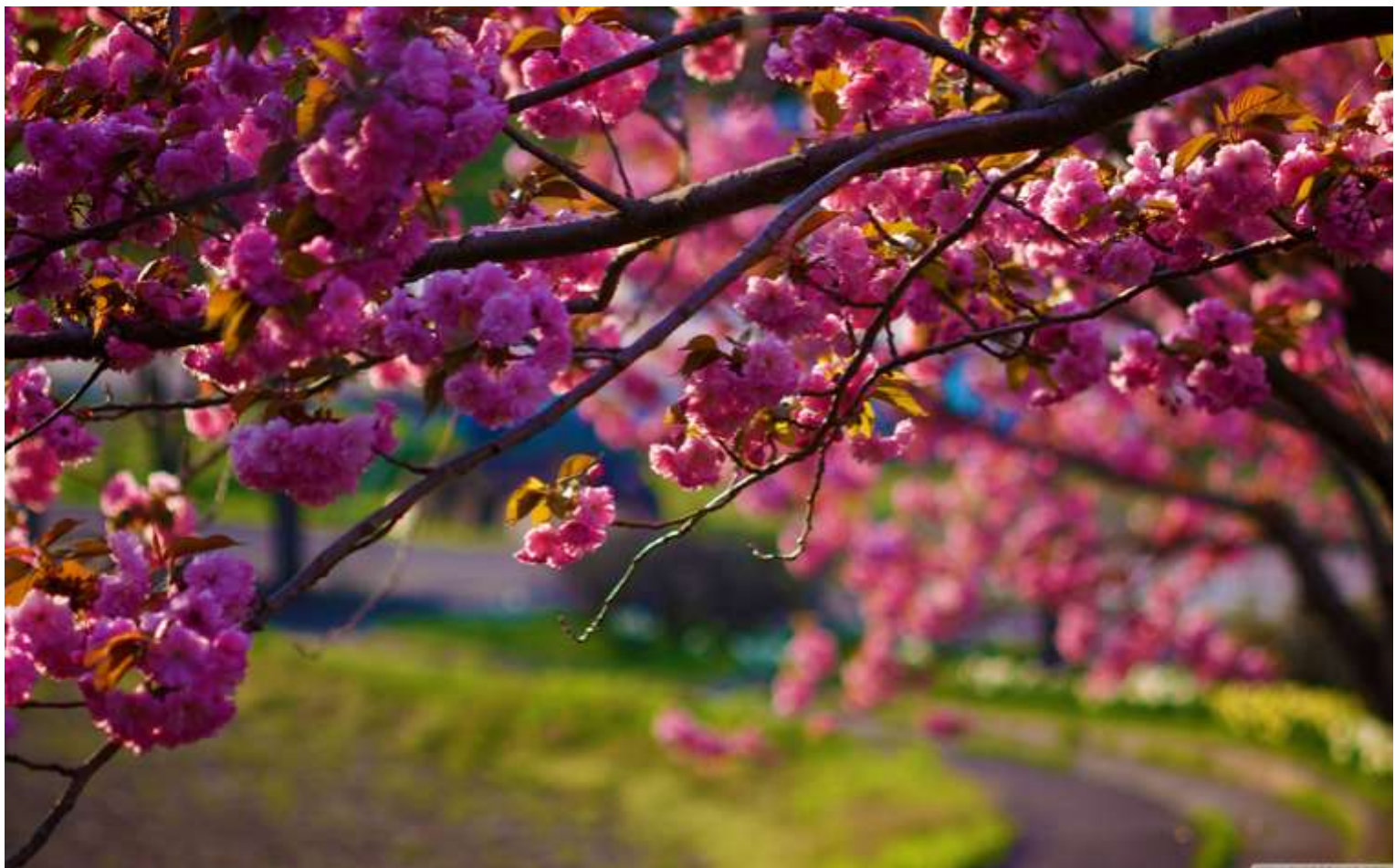
Building bright futures

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

What's Inside:

Trips
PE
Careers
EARA & Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
STEM



TRIPS

BTP CADETS TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On Monday 15 January, our British Transport Police Cadet Unit visited the Palace of Westminster in London to learn about how the UK Parliament works. Eleven students from Year 9 and 10 travelled by train to Waterloo and walked from the station to the Houses of Parliament. Along the way, the cadets got to see the London Eye, popular tourist attraction London Dungeons, and took their photo beside the Nelson Mandela statue at the Royal Festival Hall.



Our Headteacher, Mr Rice, said: "We wish to thank Rt Hon Maria Miller MP for facilitating the trip to the Houses of Parliament. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed learning about the customs and traditions associated with both houses".



Ms Fitzgerald

THE DOCTOR'S THEATRE SHOW

Year 10 historians spent the morning of Thursday 29 February at the theatre in Didcot. After an early start leaving school at 8.30am, they arrived for a 10.00am performance of 'The Doctor's Show'. Part play and part examination workshop it tells the story of medicine through time from the medieval period to the twentieth century. The play itself is humorous with lots of laughs as the actors whizz through the key events but also regularly paused to give students the opportunity to develop examination technique. Behaviour was impeccable and a great time was had by all.



Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
Mrs Thomas

POETRY LIVE TRIP

On Thursday 29 February year 11 English students went to The Reading Hexagon to see 'Poetry Live' being performed.

"And off we set, to witness an amazing show. We arrived early, and although our allocated seats got changed (to what I thought were worse ones) at the last minute, the students' spirits remained high and expectant. And they were not disappointed!

Not only Aldworth embodied the representation of impeccable behaviour, but also our students showed the nature of their inquisitive and well-furnished minds by asking interesting questions to the 'Poet laureate' and commenting on their impressions of the readings. Overall, a very enjoyable and educational experience

that I hope will serve them in good stead in their upcoming exams."

One of the students that went along had the following to say:

"Poetry Live was one of the most exciting trips I have ever been to. All the poets including John Agard were amazing. John was the funniest one. Each poet helped us believe that maybe one day we could be as talented as they are. Each portrayed a very important message with each individual poem. Especially some of the background context for each poet made me understand how cool poetry actually is."

Mr Barquin

TRIPS - DISNEYLAND PARIS



MEDIA LIVE DISNEYLAND PARIS TRIP - 25-27 FEBRUARY 2024

Our Year 10 Media students had an excellent trip to Disneyland Paris. We explored the parks and rides and met the Disney characters.

We then attended the conference where 3 guest speakers discussed how to be successful in the Media industry. Students were able to learn about different opportunities and different careers.

After a busy day, we then had dinner together in the 1930's Hollywood diner restaurant and explored the Disney studios before watching the light show and fireworks!

Miss Green



TRIPS - NEW YORK



On Friday 9 February, 41 students embarked on a trip of a life time to New York!

The aeroplane crew manager made a point of finding the staff to tell us how impressed they were with our students great manners and respect!

Upon arrival at the hotel we were allocated our rooms and then headed out to Target for the important American sweet essentials.

A quick rest stop at the hotel before walking for photos at Times Square and a meal at Bubba Gumps. The service was excellent and the students were again superb!

Last stop of the day was the Empire State Building. We were lucky to have a clear mild night with sparkling views. The walk back was the medicine for a good sleep! The students were ready for bed in no time and again were respectful to the other guests staying. There were other groups staying in the hotel and we were definitely the best behaved there! We were so proud of every single one of them. They were a fabulous bunch who made new and stronger friendships straight away.



The following day started with a monies sites tour visiting a number of famous sites followed by pizza for lunch.

A long walk took us along the high line looking down on the New York streets.



Hard Rock Café was a great stop for dinner before heading to the theatre for the Lion King. The theatre staff commented on how great the students were.

We were very proud of them all, they did such a great job of walking with a bit more walking whilst still managing the time difference.



TRIPS - NEW YORK

On Sunday we had another busy day visiting the Statue of Liberty, One World Centre, Rockefeller and Top of the Rock, Central Park, Stardust Diner and a spot of shopping around Times Square!

On Monday we visited the New York Film Academy for film editing! We definitely have a few talented movie editors in the group!



We also had some requests to visit a sweet shop so popped there before lunch. After lunch we headed to the airport for our flight back home.

They did so well - 41 students, 35 miles of walking, surviving time differences, long distance travel away from their families, different beds, room shares, working out dollars and international payments, busy schedules to fit in as much as possible plus having 5 staff as their parents for a few days!

The students were all superstars and made some fantastic friendships. We became one big New York family. Some of the students spent lots of time speaking to people they have never crossed paths with at school before. It was lovely to witness!



Mrs Poulton



PE

There have been some real high points this term which will be elaborated on below and I am very much looking forward to next term when we will be back to full strength, including the addition of a new member of PE staff to the team whom I hope will boost our ability to facilitate more extra-curricular clubs, fixtures and trips in the future.

I wish everyone a restful Easter and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school, raring to go in April.

Mr Voce

Netball Tour 2024

The academic year has delivered successful seasons for both our Year 11 and Year 8 teams in the Basingstoke schools league this year, the Year 11's ending up 2nd in the league. The commitment shown by these teams led to the department organising the long awaited 2024 return of an Aldworth school Netball tour. We took our Year 11 team with guest appearances from two Year 9's and the Year 8 netball team to PGL Liddington for a fun filled weekend full of netball.

The students who attended have shown commitment to their team and have consistently attended training and represented the school. Both teams played in six games across the weekend, resulting in the Year 8's missing out on a place in the semi-finals by one point and the Year 11's making it into the semi-finals, coming 3rd overall.

Both teams played some truly outstanding netball umpired by England netball umpires. The weather was truly bonkers but the girls persevered and all deserve a medal for resilience and teamwork. As well as netball, all students got to take part in other activities such as axe throwing, zip lining, the big swing and much more. A great time was had by all and we are already looking forward to the 2025 netball tour.

Year 11 team: Dani, Nakita, Sophie, Lilly, Eylul, Isabelle, Jasmine (Year 9), Phoebe (year 9)

Year 8 Team: Freya, Molly, Isabella, Zara, Megan, Izzy, Ella



Regional Netball

This academic year also saw a return of Aldworth school netball team attending regional netball via a tournament in Southampton. The year 11 team put on a fantastic performance against some very strong teams. They really held their own on court and stepped up to the mark.

Year 11 Netball team: Lilly, Dani, Nakita, Sophie, Ella, Eylul, Isabelle, Lucy



Basingstoke Schools Trampolining Competition

The trampoline team have been working hard once again this academic year to follow on from last year's success in the Basingstoke school's competition. We welcomed back last year's team now competing up a level as year 8 competitors as well as welcoming a new year 7 team. Both teams have worked incredibly hard and made huge improvements across all levels.

We welcome all abilities at the trampolining club from club bouncers to those who have never stepped foot on a trampoline. The idea of the Basingstoke school's competition is that every one of any level can have a chance at competing. Some of our year 7 competitors have only been trampolining since September and some of our year 8's had not competed at a trampolining competition prior to last year. But! Thanks to their dedication to training and all the hard work they put in both teams won their age category.

Both our year 8 and year 7 teams won 1st place.

Students also did exceptionally well individually with the following results:

Year 7:

2nd Bethany

3rd Lola

6th Amber

8th Martha

10th Tanmaya

16th Rosie

17th Cristina

Year 8:

1st Daisy

3rd Molly

4th Emily

7th Lainey

8th Izzy

As a school we couldn't be prouder of them all.

Regional Trampolining Competition

This year's Year 7 Trampolining team; Bethany, Olivia, Martha, Lola, Amber attended the regional trampolining competition along with Finley in Year 9. This is the first time in many years that the school has had students competing at this level and what can I say. The team put in an outstanding performance.

This competition was a big ask of the year 7's as for many of them this was their first ever trampolining competition. All competitors held their own put all their skills and knowledge they have gained in training and performed some beautiful routines.

Individually Bethany got 5th and Finley came 1st in their age category meaning that they both qualified for the next round, the zonal round. A huge congratulations and well done to Bethany and Finley.

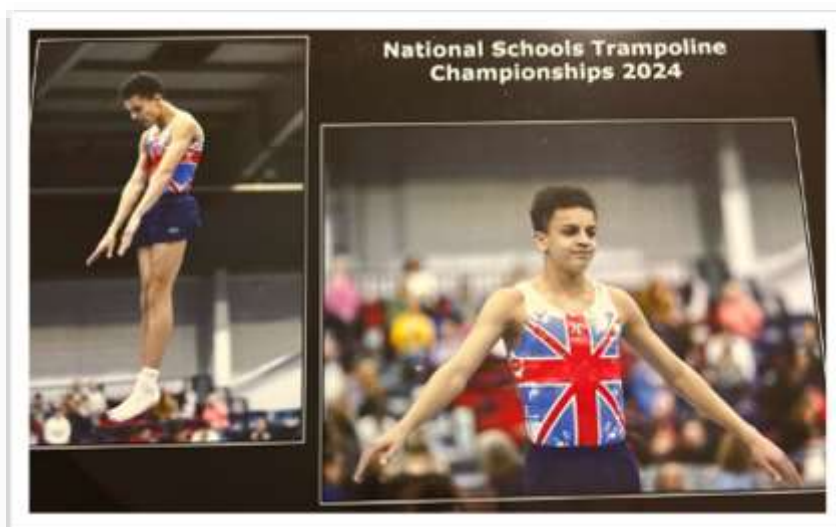
Zonal Trampolining competition

In the Zonal round both Bethany and Finley had their work cut out competing against some very high level performers. Once again both athletes stepped up to the mark and produced outstanding routines on the day. Bethany competed in a very large category for her age range and did well to come 18th out of 35 competitors. Finley finished 3rd in his age category which meant he qualified for the National Championships.



National Finals Trampolining competition

What an experience. It was a real honor to support Finley at the National Championships. The arena set up was very impressive. Finley settled in well at his orientation training on the Friday evening producing some solid routines. He then stepped out on Saturday and despite his understandable nerves, kept his cool and focus and executed 2 high level performances meaning that he finished with an impressive 10th position out of 20 nationally. A huge congratulations from all of us at Aldworth.



Basketball

Our U16 Boys basketball team have worked hard to improve their performances in recent months despite having a fairly small squad of 8 players. The boys started their campaign off with a 57-31 defeat to Bishop Challoner where the introduction of zonal defence, which they had not applied in competition before, took time to bed in. Harley was the top scorer in the match with a series of good jump shots and lay-ups. Most notably the 'engine room' he showed in getting up and down the court the whole match was noted by the squad.

The next match was a very tough assignment in the U16 county cup against Purbrook Park who travelled all the way up from Portsmouth. My goodness they were giants. Two players being 6ft 5" and 6ft 7". It was the first time that I had seen two players dunk on one of my teams and their height and range was just too much for us, running out 78-28 victors. However, this performance was a mile better than their game against Bishop Challoner both offensively and defensively. It gives me a lot of hope for their last couple of games this season, the next of which will be against Everest after Easter.

Our U15 Boys basketball got back to action against Brighton Hill last week picking up where they left off defeating BHCS 69-16 in a brutal display of scoring on the fast break. 3 players were into double figures in scoring with both Arvin and Joey top scored with 16 points each.

We are frustratingly still awaiting the confirmation of who our opponents are in the semi-final of the U15 county cup. I hope this will be announced shortly.

Finally, our U12 Boys basketball team played against Bohunt in the County cup on Monday. It was a very tight game going into the 4th quarter only trailing by 2 points. Sadly, Bohunt went on a late run, ending up 22-16 winners. A notable performance was put in by Carl, who scored all 16 points for our team. Finishing is the main area of improvement for this team and when they do, they will become a formidable team because the way they move the ball is outstanding. Plenty to look forward to next year.

Football

This year was a year of change for the Year 8's. There were plenty of new players who had not been involved previously, which included a number of Year 7's making the step up to help the Year 8's. The results may not have been as intended, but plenty of progress was made. Each performance had a steady improvement, and the players were extremely unlucky not to have beaten The Vyne in their final game. The team is moving in the right direction, and I am excited about their progress and their games for next season. Well done all involved!

The Year 9 boys have returned a much improved side from last year's competition. They have played in two hard fought contests. In an end to end game against Cranbourne the team gave everything for the entirety of the match, including hitting the post. Despite many good attacks Cranbourne were unable to get passed the new look defence of Jenice, Aleksander, Joshua and George. The team was unfortunate to not find themselves ahead but two spectacular goal keeping performances including Ollie who was playing the year up kept the game at 0-0 until the final couple of minutes. The team was unfortunate to concede in the final two minutes of the game.

With multiple players returning from injury the team has high hopes for their final game of the season which will be played after the Easter break.

Next term

In the summer term our extra-curricular timetable will considerably change as it always does to allow the 'summer sports' to take centre stage.

Athletics, cricket, rounders and tennis will all be available to come and try out. There will also be plenty of fixtures in those different sports, some of which already have booked fixtures in our calendar. As a result, Netball, Football, Trampolining and Rugby will take a short break before returning in the Autumn term.

Finally, the Basingstoke Schools District Athletics event will be held at Down Grange Athletics track on Wednesday 19 June. This event will be for Year 7-10 and as per normal will be an all day event. I would love to see as many students at our athletics clubs as possible this year. I hope for a much improved performance from our squads this time around so that we can push up the leaderboard.

Dates for your diary

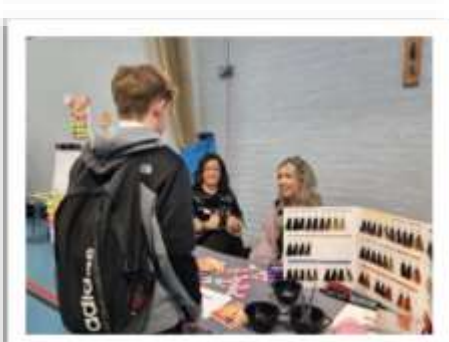
Thu 28 March	Year 11 Interim Reviews to Parents
Fri 29 March to Fri 12 April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Wed 17 and Thu 18 April	We Will Rock You School Production
Mon 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY
Wed 22 May	Year 8 Interim Reviews to Parents
Thu 23 May	Year 9 Interim Reviews to Parents
Mon 27 May to Fri 31 May	HALF TERM

CAREERS UPDATE

CAREERS FAIR - MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

Thank you to all those who came to and showed support of the careers fair. It was a great day! We had over 40 employers visit us and they said that Aldworth pupils were engaging, polite and interesting to talk to! We have had fantastic feedback from pupils and parents so far. If you have any comments to make, please do encourage your child to complete the student survey (sent via Satchel One) <https://forms.office.com/e/91TFqEHZew>, or complete the parent survey <https://forms.office.com/e/2JVKnfPkWE>.

We aim to continue to improve the careers opportunities provided at Aldworth, so if there is something specific that you want to see or have us tell/provide students, please do contact me.



CAREERS UPDATE

CAREERS FAIR - MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024



CAREERS AND FUTURES FAIR

The children were lovely and extremely well behaved and polite, so please can you pass on our thanks to them.
From Jackie & Vicky; Dignity

The careers fair was really fun! -Josh, Year 8

The fair gave me peace of mind about what I can do after I finish school - Freya, Year 8

The fair helped me to pick a college and find the type of job I want to do - Olly, Year 10

Thank you for inviting me to attend - this was a great event - the children were engaged and polite - even those who weren't interested in Healthcare Science! The team of students helping on the day were absolute legends, friendly and incredibly helpful, really great ambassadors for the school. Hope we can come again - Sam Wright; Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT

Well done in the organisation of the schools first careers fair. Great organisation and presence throughout the day. Leanne Edney; Aldworth Alumni & local children's author

I got to see how to apply for college and university, and find out about the options I can do when I leave school - Isabella, Year 8

It was great to see the kids so enthused by the different offerings! Genuinely had such a great day!
Ed; Anvil Arts

The fair was really good; I liked to see the models and it has helped me apply for an apprenticeship. It was good to chat to the people from the companies -Rhys, Year 11

I liked looking at BCOT- the courses and options, and then talking to Kiddi Caru & Halo hair, as these are the jobs I want to do - Jess, Year 9



CAREERS UPDATE

HEALTH CARE DAY - READING UNIVERSITY

On Thursday 14 March, Reading Health Hub visited Aldworth. 70 students from years 8 - 11 attended workshops to find out about the values and beliefs needed to work in the NHS and to find out about taking vitals of patients using blood pressure, respiratory and oxygen equipment or having a go at listening to heartbeats with stethoscopes and testing muscle strength with physio equipment.

We also launched the Step into the NHS challenge for those who have shown a keen interest in medicine - please take a look at Satchel One for details about this competition.



EBP GET INSPIRED EVENT

On Wednesday 7 February, 10 Year 8 students attended the EBP Get Inspired Event at the Apollo Hotel. They had a fantastic time! There were VR headset activities, chemistry experiments using nitrogen, yummy tasting samples and games to try and beat the laser sensors! Students got to find out about a whole range of careers they have never heard of!



NATIONAL STEM CHALLENGE

Good luck to Finley, Nathan, Luke, Liam and Pablo who have all submitted a team or single entry into the National Stem Challenge competition! The specification was to create a report about sustainable futures based on either Housing or Space - great effort with their entries! They did this work independently. Well done!

FINANCE ASSEMBLY FOR YEAR 8 AND 9

Thanks to Kevin White from Fortem Financial Management for giving another excellent finance education assembly, this time to our Year 8 and 9 students. Pupils learned about pay slips, tax, differences between credit and debit, how to keep their money safe and how to save. The students listened and engaged well asking some great questions!



CAREERS UPDATE

LEARNING ABOUT THE TRAVEL & TOURISM BUSINESS

On Tuesday 26 March selected Year 7 and 9 students got to participate in a careers workshop about the travel and tourism business, hosted by Aldermaston Coaches. The Aldermaston coaches team brought a coach to the school and talked to students about training as a coach driver and the ways into the business, their travels and other perks of the job, laws around driving and compliance and students got to take a look at a coach engine! Students asked great questions and it was great for them to hear about a career that they would not normally consider at their age - they appreciated the free merchandise! Aldworth would like to thank Aldermaston coaches for their time and participation in our careers workshops!



YEAR 9 NAVY DAY

On Wednesday 27 March, Year 9 (and a few bonus Year 8's!) got to take part in the Navy careers skills day. The students learned about teamwork, leadership, respect, discipline and determination through a series of PT (physical training) exercises and by completing a STEM challenge. Students joined in brilliantly and had fun with the Navy team playing games such as 'jumping the river', competitive PT cone challenge and the communication tower build. Students who came in unsure about joining in, left with a spring in their step and new-found confidence! We clearly also have some natural leaders in Year 9 (Albie was particularly singled out by the Navy as having fantastic leadership skills!) and superb future engineers - in particular the Comms tower team led by Oliver was particularly impressive! Richie and Andy from the Navy team praised Aldworth students as being a 'lovely bunch, and a pleasure to work with'! I was so proud of the efforts, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by the students, it really showed how great Aldworth students are! Well done to all!



EARA AND ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

The Equality and Rights Advocates termly meeting was held at Aldworth on International Women's day. As always, it was a fantastic event that provided the young people from local schools a platform to challenge and share their

ideas and views on how women are viewed/treated in comparison to men. Our students then talked bravely about the good work they are doing here at Aldworth to ensure it is a safe inclusive community for all.



The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been congratulated by the school and the Diana Award on achieving their inclusion badges which is a real accomplishment that was well deserved. They received this for:

- Their commitment to celebrating culture and difference through our Free To Be Me day
- Their successful efforts to involve the whole school through our anti-bullying survey
- Their dedication to ensuring representation through our diversity book shelf
- Their promotion of student wellbeing through our beautifully decorated Wellbeing lounge
- Their creativity in raising awareness of the protected characteristics

This was a whole year's worth of hard work for which they should be incredibly proud!

Mrs Coultriss

STEM

ROTARY DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 14 March we took part in the Rotary Design Technology Tournament at Basingstoke College of Technology. We would like to congratulate our team from Year 9 who won the Foundation Class Best Portfolio and Winning Team Awards. Our congratulations also go to the Year 10 team who won the Intermediate Class Best Portfolio and Winning Team Awards.

This is a recognised STEM event bringing together student teams from local schools and colleges each aiming to find the best solution to a technological problem. Teams need to have good communication skills, be well organised and able to show the stages of development of their task in a design portfolio. Each team's solution as a working model is competitively tested and assessed by a team of judges.

Miss Newell

