

From testing Martian soils to blowing up lunch bags – Science Week is a hit

Hands-on approach inspiring future scientists

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LADY Boswell's School has always been passionate when it comes to science.

Last week, the school enjoyed science week using a hands-on, investigative approach. The whole school travelled both below the sea and into space, visiting the International Space Station using virtual reality headsets.

These travels provided the children with amazing new experiences while at the same time demonstrating some emerging technology.

Additionally, as part of 'space day', the pupils received a mock Skype call from a senior scientist at the UK Space Agency asking them to consider research data to plan the best landing site for a Martian rover vehicle.

Further enquiry opportunities saw the children testing Martian soils for signs of life, materials for astronaut visors and whether liquid coatings influence the effects of ultra-violet light.

The children were introduced to the ongoing developments of robotics and programming in space missions, and some children were lucky enough to programme their own Martian rover vehicles.

A highlight was a visit by Eagle

Heights, who brought four birds; they learned about their habitats and enjoyed them flying over their heads and around the school hall.

As ever, chemical experiments were popular; a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar was used to great effect in making mock volcanoes, blowing up balloons and causing lunch bags to explode.

Inspiring

Popcorn, plastic milk, rockets and toast were all used to discover irreversible changes. Physical science opportunities included the creation and testing of electromagnets, lemon batteries, string telephones and zip wires.

Headteacher Sharon Saunders said: "Lady Boswell's believes in a well-rounded education for all, but shares the government's aspiration to an excellent science, technology, engineering and maths education system that aims to produce the scientists and engineers of the future.

"We are thrilled that during our science week we have been able to encourage the children through a 'learning by doing' approach and fill them with the excitement which inspires enquiring minds. Our thanks to Sevenoaks School for sharing some of their resources and expertise."

