



Space Programme: Space Academy Roadshow

Following on from a very successful Space Summer School 2009, students for the 2010 programmes were chosen based on their keen involvement in STEM projects in their schools, particularly in Science, Mathematics and Engineering and those who showed a passion for Space. The work carried out on the programme was a perfect match for the SLQ Award being undertaken by the students from Great Barr School.

Throughout the full experience, students were given a great deal of support and the level of practicals and interactive work was very high. The pace of each day was pitched just right and so all students participating were engaged and enthused. The experiences helped to promote STEM careers and to focus pupils, helping to show them the diversity of careers related to taking STEM subjects.

During each day the students were given many opportunities to work independently and in groups. The nature of the working with 'other school' pupils was of real benefit as students were encouraged to mix during many tasks given and responded very well. The benefits were seen by their improvements in communication, problem solving, co-operation and decision making. During the programme the positive learning experience raised students' expectations of success and encouraging them to think of long-term benefits of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Engineering and motivated them to pursue careers in these fields.

Many of the students from Great Barr are studying for their STEM Leadership Qualification (SLQ Award) and the work carried out on the Building Bridges three days, was invaluable for their portfolios and additional knowledge gained towards the STEM knowledge.

Student's anecdotes from every group that ever took part were of a *very positive* nature. Complimenting the standard of the experiences they had gone through over three days of the Space Programmes.

From the August and October half-term projects 2010, below are some of the comments that students have given as part of their evaluations, on taking part in the Space Programme.

"Day One, was really good because Sophie from the Space Academy made it fun, we learnt so many things in physics, with lots of practical's to help us." Bradley, Y9

"I really enjoyed day 1, as we did so many science experiments in a really fun way and it set us up for the visits on the other days." Emily, Y8.

"On day one we learnt many new facts, including that the atmosphere on Mars will kill you in minutes." Divya, Y8.

"I found this day a lot of fun as I was learning about Space and making the rockets was great, even though ours exploded!" Lauren, Y9

"I enjoyed doing all the practical's, especially watching a comet nucleus forming and learning how to survive on Mars." Jessica, Y8.

"I really enjoyed learning about Mars as often we only really look at our planet closely and it would be amazing if scientists could find life on this planet." Rebecca, Y9

"My favourite bit of the whole day was when the dry ice came out. I think it's made me think about the different temperatures on other planets and how we take our planet for granted." Ryan, Y9

"I was surprised when Sophie used the infra-red camera on the class and my feet were the coldest because they hadn't conducted a lot of heat to the surroundings." Ciera, Y9

"On Day Two I really enjoyed the galleries and learning more about the life of an astronaut, I particularly liked trying the freeze dried food that they would also eat." Ryan, Y9

"The best bit for me, I particularly liked learning how the Big Bang took place but I would like to do the whole experience again." Jon, Y9

"I enjoyed day two at the National Space Centre the most, it was fun and interesting. I loved it so much I am going again with my family." Lauren, Y9

"I really enjoyed this, a rocket ride through the galaxies." Zara Y8.

"I think it was good that we had to work with the pupils from the other school, it made us think about our roles more and was vital to how the mission would progress. Everyone had an important job to do to land on Mars safely." Divya, Y8

"I really enjoyed the Mars Rover experience when we all had to take part in a simulation of getting to and from the planet. I particularly enjoyed working with others, especially the pupils from the other two schools." Taylor, Y9

"I have never been to a space centre before and it was so cool. I loved watching the 3-D movie and learning about how the rockets are fuelled and their design." Ciera, Y9

"I loved when we got to fly in the wind tunnel, although I was very nervous before. We had lots of help from the teachers so that we felt confident enough to go in and it was one of the best experiences I've ever had." Rebecca, Y9

"It was amazing! I was speechless when we came out." Emily, Y9

"I definitely would love to go in the wind tunnel again or do actual sky diving in the future. I was really glad that my teacher got us a copy of the DVD from Airkix because I was able to show my family that I really did do it."

"I would now really like to do something like Sophie as it seems like a fun job and I would like to do more with Science in the future." Taylor, Y9

"We were very lucky to do these space themed days and I want to say thank you for this brilliant experience. Flying in the wind tunnel was the closest I may experience of actual human flying." Wesley, Y9

"I want to say a big thank you to my teacher Mrs Davies and Sophie for letting me have this opportunity. Now I have a good idea of what it's like to go into space. It was the best thing that I have ever done in my life so far, thank you for that." Ciera, Y9