



Westcliff High School for Girls

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NEWSLETTER "ACTIVITY DAY" SPECIAL

Space Star Style



Year 8 had the opportunity to create their own jewellery based on space inspired designs.

Thoughts on the day:
'Today has given me an insight into the future. It has also helped me to develop my engineering skills. This kind of career really isn't just for boys!' 8I



Activity Day is a Rocketing Success

Year 8 girls learned about the history and future of space travel during last week's Activity Day.

They also listened to a talk on rocket propulsion and made paper rockets which they fired using compressed air.

Event organisers Starchaser also brought an 8m rocket onto the school site and four local primary schools: West

Leigh, Our Lady of Lourdes, Chalkwell Hall and Darlingtonurst were invited to come and see the rocket.

Starchaser Industries is a privately held group of companies that specialises in the development, operation and commercialisation of space related products and services. One day we may be using their rockets to take holidays in space!

Doodle 4 Google: Our Year 8 Google Dudes!



The Year 8s were given the following design brief when they entered the E-learning computer rooms: Design a space inspired Google logo for the website using any software you like.

The girls have created some brilliant designs which will be entered into a competition that Mr Dell and Mr Softly will be judging. The winner will receive a mystery prize!

"Rarely Cover" initiative prompts need to rethink school trips

The introduction of a series of scheduled "Activity Days" at Westcliff is part of the school's response to a recent government initiative which limits the amount of cover teachers can be called upon to provide for absent colleagues.

The school was concerned the new initiative, which aims to reduce teachers' workload, could limit the number of school trips and extra curricular activities taking place because teachers are no longer allowed to

cover colleagues. Last week's Activity Day was one of five planned by the school this year. On these days, the whole school will be off timetable and involved in extra curricular activities. The aim is to restrict

trips, conferences and other activities to these days only. The Activity Days also aim to minimise the amount of disruption to lessons caused by a group of pupils being absent on a school trip that the rest of the class is not involved in.



Growing Up Gracefully

Year 7 girls had a very healthy Activity Day. Over the last half term the year 7s have experienced a lot of changes; changes in school, friends, work, and more. The workshops that they were involved in aimed to help them deal with these physical and emotional changes.

They spent part of the day learning about the negative effects of smoking and alcohol. They discussed the laws that are involved with these two unhealthy habits.

They were also able to explore the importance of making healthy food choices.

They finished the day with a cross country run.

Awaking the Intellect

The development of analytical and evaluative skills was the focus of a Critical Thinking workshop for Year 13s.

Critical Thinking services provider "If Then" delivered a series of seminars which aimed to challenge the sixth formers to examine the credibility of evidence and how to evaluate what to believe.

Universities and employers often complain that young people do not have the skills they require, explained If Then director Dr Roy Van Den Brink-Budgen. They may well be extremely knowledgeable but they cannot analyse and evaluate and they do not have the skills to produce a good argument. Sixth former Maria Mohseni said of the workshop: "It's making me think a lot."

All Quiet on the Science Front

Led by Mr Burke, Year 11 girls were engaged in a variety of activities undertaken as part of their GCSE Science coursework. Students were assigned to Biology, Chemistry or Physics groups in order to complete an independent investigation. The morning sessions were dedicated to watching experiments and formulating and testing hypotheses, while the afternoon sessions gave students the opportunity to evaluate and write up their findings. Owing to coursework rules stipulated by QCA guidelines, it is not possible to publish full details of coursework.



Building Learning Power

Year 9s morning activities had an astronomical theme and were designed to make students more aware of the skills and learning habits that they use and develop during their time at school. After an introduction to Building Learning Power, groups branched off into classrooms to carry out activities such as rescuing an astronaut doll from under a bin without being able to move from chairs which were placed approximately 5 metres either side of the bin and making use of resources including sellotape and string.

In the afternoon, students were encouraged to identify the features of a powerful question and compose some questions on rainforest sustainability and climate change to be put to the Prince's Rainforest Project.