



PRESS RELEASE

CHILDREN'S TECHNOLOGY DAYS ARE OFF TO A FLIER

More than 750 Essex primary school children became high-fliers at a two-day engineering and technology event.

STEMTEAM Essex organised its annual e-Tech event at Tilbury's Cruise Terminal and children from as far apart as Manningtree and Grays had fun designing weather balloons and supersonic and jet vehicles.

Pupils filled the Cruise Terminal with activity and noise as they drew up plans for their projects, built them then put them through their paces.

The event was backed by a number of major companies and institutions which gave financial assistance or supplied experienced technical staff as mentors and helpers. They included RWE npower, May Gurney, e2V, Ford, Selex Galileo, QinetiQ, Unilever, Nortel, Petroplus, the Shell Foundation, IChemE, the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Institute of Measurement and Control.

STEMTEAM Essex is dedicated to promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM subjects) to young people through a range of stimulating, yet entertaining, activities. Students from primary school age through to A level stage are encouraged to consider these subject areas in their future education and career planning.

STEMTEAM Essex Manager Mike Williamson said: "The cruise terminal is a huge area and over the two days it was alive with the noise of children enthusiastically going about their tasks and enjoying all the aspects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics that they entailed."

Among the activities at the e-Tech days some pupils drew up plans for a weather balloon and then produced one to their own design. Other groups became development engineers by taking part in the Young Engineers' Bloodhound K'nex challenge building a model of a supersonic vehicle which was launched from a ramp to see how far it would go.

A third option was the building of a jet vehicle which was fired pneumatically along the floor – some achieved 30 metres.

Mr Williamson said: "We have had tremendous support from a large number of firms, especially the Port of Tilbury. It is essential if we are to encourage students to go into these subjects that we have industry behind us."

Issued on behalf of STEMTEAM Essex (www.stemteamessex.co.uk)

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