

## **Shared Education in Practice**

### **World Maths Day**

We were really excited to be invited to come along today to work along with St Columbanus pupils and to work with the Bangor Grammar pupils.

We've worked with Bangor Grammar and Bangor Academy previously and it was really successful.

So Bangor Grammar, Bangor Academy and St Columbanus have been working together now for about 3 years.

Well I think it's great for the pupils to see the topics that are being taught in school and seeing how they can be used in real life problem solving activities.

We like to mark Maths Week Ireland with some event just to enthuse students. The incentive to bring this to the kids today was to raise awareness of Maths and of maths careers and the importance of considering maths at this transition Year 10 and their GCSE choices.

We do a lot of workshops in primary schools but the secondary schools are starting to buy in too that they see that it is worthwhile and they're getting a benefit from us coming in and assisting them to teach their kids. It lets them have the opportunity to work together with other people that they may not necessarily see.

The speakers have been fantastic as to what opportunities there are in the workplace using the Maths and STEM subjects.

I think it's important that we try and get across the skill base that we need for the future and this is truly dependent upon us building the STEM and Mathematic skills we need for the future. To not do that we are doing an injustice.

We need to make sure these kids are prepared for the workplace so we can keep the jobs in Northern Ireland that should be in Northern Ireland There's no point in us looking in ten years' time, how are we going to fix this, we need to fixing it today.

We need the STEM subjects pushed in schools, we need to encourage the kids to do this, we need to pull it across in a fun way and we need to also show the jobs that are available and show the opportunities are available if they study the STEM subjects.

Students were able to follow the instructions but then make it their own I've been really excited walking around watching them working with different pupils from different groups and talking about how wide do we need to make the base and how high do you think this is and whenever we were getting answers from pupils, we were asking them to estimate first which was a really good way to get pupils get used to looking at something and thinking

how high do I think that is before I even measure it, so yeah definitely I'll take loads of this back to school.

In terms of Shared Education it's been fantastic for me to work with the other Heads of Maths sharing resources, talking about problem solving, talking about different things we've been doing in our department I think it's so vital to be able to share across our school network and especially the Maths departments, it's nice that we have that open communication with each other.

It's lovely to see the 3 schools in Bangor working so closely together and in particular it's lovely to see our 3 Heads of Department doing wonderful work together.

It was really important that we brought these schools together for a Shared Education event that was fun and showed the fun side of Maths.

I think we achieved that today through the activities, through the links to industry and through the collaboration of the pupils.

Yeah, I've enjoyed it quite a lot. I think that it is a really good idea for people to try and understand how certain things work.

Whenever we did the rocket it gave a really great idea for people to experiment with elements of it. I wish I changed the angle as I know the angle that I did was a bit too high.

## MUSIC

How to make a circle with different pieces, a battery, wire a paper cup and pens.

We're trying to get the pen and the motor to draw a perfect circle with the cup. A bit of blue tack and the length of it and how much it was off centre Experimenting with it and we think we've got a good idea of how it should be done If you changed the amount on one side you got a different circle.

I'm kind of learning more about how a circuits work and how to create a fully working circuit that gets a job done.

The Lego task was quite fun because you could just build a tower as high as you want or as wide as you want and we got it fairly high.

It was quite fun being able to paint in virtual reality and the 3D aspect of it.

It's been really, really fun, and really enjoyable working with the other schools.

Working with other people that I haven't met before. And also like, learn new things about technology Engineering and Maths.

I kind of want to do Design and Technology or Art and Animation.

I was thinking about going into software or IT in that sector.

We use all the time Maths is vital for everything. We do it a fun and in a sneaky learning way which is most of what we've done today is sneaky learning and there's nothing wrong with

sneaky learning so long as we scaffold it up with the truth behind it saying this is why we've done it.

Maths is seen as something they must do and I was hoping today that it would inspire some of them that something they want to do.

We have the best people in the world living in this country we just need to be able to educate them so we can we have the best workforce still here and not go elsewhere for jobs.

It's fantastic for them to get involved in building and creating and solving those problems using some of the knowledge they already have.

It's about them seeing the relevance of Maths that success in Maths is a pathway.

It's really been a fantastic opportunity for me and my department to be part of Shared Education.