



Talented pupils have fun at Science Challenge Days

Gifted and talented secondary school pupils got busy on some brain-busting tasks when Havering Sixth Form College hosted the borough's Science and Technology Challenge competition.

The challenge involved Year 8 and 9 pupils from 15 Havering schools taking part in four practical tasks in the College science labs, such as building a bridge from paper, making an electronic Lego robot and constructing a working model car.

The pupils were split into mixed school teams of four and the Challenge competition took place over two days - with Mayor of Havering Cllr Pam Light attending and presenting awards on Tuesday, June 8th.

The Science and Technology Challenge is a London-wide contest with each borough sending through two winning teams to the Greater London final.

Havering Sixth Form College has hosted the Havering competition for the past five years and science tutors have been impressed with the talent shown by the visiting pupils.

Each of the tasks – which test the children's ability to work in a team as well as their scientific and technology skills - are led by a team of university students recruited from King's and Imperial Colleges.

The winning teams were: Tuesday - Charlotte Phizackleafoley (Coopers), Ben Dance (Coopers), Jenny Wong (Brittons) and Joe Lary (Brittons). Wednesday - Jodie Briton (Hall Mead), Owen Munday (Hall Mead), Charlie Koen (Chafford) and Melissa Hunt (Chafford).

Challenge Day organiser Paul Waterworth said: "It is a great competition for pupils to get together and work with children from other schools, swapping ideas and knowledge. Many of them find the exercises fun as well as challenging and they all did extremely well on some very tricky tasks."

Havering Mayor Pam Light said: "I saw so much energy and enthusiasm from these young people who were all engrossed in what they were doing and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves."