

Frozen bananas inspire scientists of the future

More than 200 children spent their lessons wearing night vision goggles, measuring how many bacteria were on their hands and getting up close to a state of the art helicopter.

The children of Vigo junior school in Andover were taking part in a science day organised by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) education outreach scheme.

The day aimed to inspire and motivate children in science, technology, engineering and maths by making the subjects fun.

Dstl collaborated with a number of different organisations for this event including the NHS, Qinetiq and the British Dragonfly Society. Workshops run by volunteers from all these organisations ranged from 'science for the soldier' and 'aerodynamics' to a liquid nitrogen show where a nail was hammered into a plank of wood using a frozen banana.

Headteacher Jackie Green said: "The day has been totally amazing and the children have loved it. One thing we really wanted to do was to engage the girls in our school in science and engineering and get them to realise that they can achieve in these areas. For them to see women presenting workshops today was fantastic and lots of the girls commented on it."

Dstl education outreach co-ordinator Ali Bridewell said: "We get a real buzz from seeing children discover more about science and technology while having fun. Hopefully some of these children might be spurred on to continue studying these subjects in secondary school and further education."

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Notes to editors,

Dstl

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