

**21 April 2009**

## **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FUN AT GOMER SCHOOL**

Students aged 7 - 11 from Gomer Junior School, Alverstoke, today enjoyed a fun-filled and informative Science and Engineering Day, courtesy of the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

The purpose of the day was to introduce school children to science, engineering and technology in a way that would show them the relevance of these subjects to every day life. Children took part in a series of interactive science workshops with scientists from Dstl's Portsmouth West site and other local organisations.

Workshops included an activity called 'How do submarines see?' which saw students building their own periscopes and exploring how sound travels through water. In other workshops children were asked to design, build and test a balloon powered moon buggy, sensor systems capable of detecting heat and a satellite to be sent into space. One of Dstl's activities, 'Science for the soldier', demonstrated the ways science and technology are used to help protect soldiers on the front line. All the workshops were designed to engage students and to help inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Head teacher, Mr Craig Williams, said: "It is extremely important for children to understand and develop key knowledge, skills and attributes to be successful life long learners. Seeing science and engineering fit in to every day life through the Dstl day has been brilliant for all the children. I don't think many of them realised quite how important science is! A brilliant day!"

Dstl's Education Outreach Officer, Jenny Gibson, said: "At Dstl, we believe it is very important for children to become involved with science at an early age. We hope that by taking part in our science workshops, children will realise science is not an elitist or irrelevant subject (an opinion held by many adults in a recent national survey). By arranging Science and Engineering Days, our scientists can share their work and enthusiasm for science with the next generation."

Dstl would like to thank the following local companies who also hosted workshops at the event; PsyChem, Portsmouth University, Astrium, HMS Sultan, QinetiQ, Portsmouth Hospitals and the Health Protection Agency.

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

### **Dstl**

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its three main sites are at Porton Down, near Salisbury, Portsmouth West, near Portsmouth, and Fort Halstead in Kent. Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit [www.dstl.gov.uk](http://www.dstl.gov.uk)

### **Education Outreach**

As a centre of scientific excellence, Dstl takes a proactive approach to enthuse, encourage and inspire future generations of scientists, technologists and engineers. The organisation has pledged to take action to help improve the public image of science, and to encourage a higher number of students to take science GCSEs, A levels and Degrees. Through the government wide Science and Engineering Ambassador (SEA) scheme, Dstl scientists volunteer to visit local schools and demonstrate real-world science, engineering, technology and maths in fun, exciting and interactive ways. Dstl's commitment to community liaison allows employees to visit schools in work-time to share their work with students or act as governors, mentors or classroom readers. Dstl works throughout the many stages of the education system to ensure students, teachers, schools, universities and colleges are supported and encouraged to achieve their best in science and technology.

Dstl's Education Outreach programme forms part of Dstl's wider Corporate Social Responsibility programme to promote social responsibility and wider environmental issues and community awareness at work. For more information about Dstl's Education Outreach programme, including contact details, please visit [http://www.dstl.gov.uk/about\\_us/csr/education.php](http://www.dstl.gov.uk/about_us/csr/education.php)