



## Rotary Technology

## Challenge

The Rotary Technology Challenge is a gateway for ambitious students aspiring to be engineers and designers to enrich their learning. The task this year was to create a flashing beacon which fit into a list of specification points, and was undertaken by three teams from Heckmondwike Grammar School.



The Foundation Competition: The Year 8 team performed outstandingly and narrowly missed first place by only two points. Beth Waterfield took the lead on portfolio preparation. "We were in the foundation level and the brief was to create a beacon that flashed about 20 times. For the first three-quarters of an hour we focussed on our portfolio (which we realised after was a bit too long!). Then we started on the construction which went well until we realised the bulb and batteries didn't actually fit inside the structure. Last minute we managed to bring together a beacon that flickered on and off." Well done to Beth along with Qamran Akhtar, Mayon Gupta, Qamran Akhtar and Lola Freakley.

The Intermediate Competition: The Year 10 was composed of Caitlin Reid, Hannah Cockcroft, Morgan Hartley and Abdullah Nanawadee.

The Advanced Competition: The year 12 team were faced with creating a beacon that flashed 10 times in 10 seconds. Though we were given the hint of a pendulum design by the experienced judges, we were determined to create a unique design. This led to a marble run design. Though indeed unique, our design did not actually function when it came to the testing stage. We were commended on our portfolio and creativity, and despite everything, we finished in second place. Our team was Wajihah Aroob, Daanish Chilwan, Lauren Holmes, and Alfie Miklo.

Written by Lauren Holmes 12TSD

## Mother's Day Bath Bombs

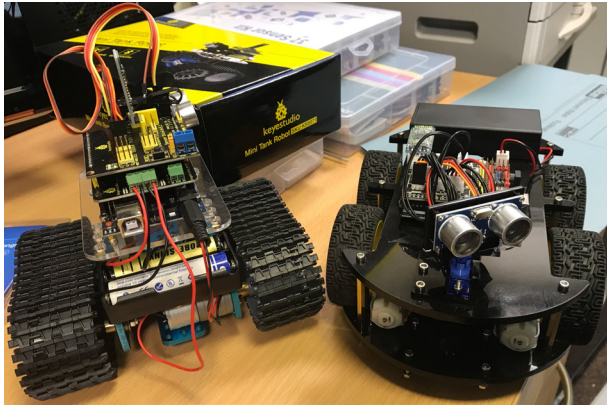
Last week our Year 7 Science club students enjoyed making bath bombs, intended as gifts for Mothering Sunday. As well as picking the colour of their bath bombs, students also decided on the fragrance, choosing from delights such as bubblegum, California sunshine and chocolate orange.

We are told the Mothers enjoyed using them as much as the students did making them.

Thank you to Mrs Griffin and the chemistry technicians, Lisa and Janet, for running the club and making many mothers happy.



# Department Focus: Computing



As students are coming to the end of their courses in both Y11 and Y13, the focus is on revision, securing understanding and practicing the range of skills and knowledge that they have been developing over the years.

Year 13 Computer Science students are busy finishing off their practical projects. Each year the students are allowed to choose their own problems that they solve by writing a program. It is always impressive to see the variety and detail that these students put into their own projects and as we allow the students to choose their own coding language,

they are able to develop these skills to a very high level. This year is no exception with a large range of topics including an investigation into biological diversity, a take-away system that will use live data to calculate delivery times and a maze solving robot to name just three. These students often use their projects as a discussion point on interviews for University and Apprenticeships and feedback from these interviews often includes comments on how impressive these projects are and can often help with the offers students receive.

This year all students have been using electronic notetaking using Microsoft OneNote. This has enabled them to access their notes from anywhere they have an Internet connection as well as teachers being able to check the quality of notes and distribute content without having to print/copy using lots of paper. Students have also taken to recording their own tutorials and guides for using different software which they then share with their peers and comment on each other's work.

## Sports News - A Week of Wins!!!

A huge well done to our Year 9 netball team, Year 9 football team and Year 10 football teams on their victories this week. The netball team on Thursday, were crowned Spen Valley schools tournament winners, on Wednesday our Year 10 footballers secured a place in the Spen Valley Cup final after winning Spen Valley 3-2 in the semi's, and on Tuesday our Year 9 football team beat St John Fishers 2-0 in a semi- final. Amazing performances for all teams.



### Student of the Week

**Eleanor Turner 7SGF** for her achievement in becoming a violinist in the National Children's Orchestra and  
**Adam Pow 7JJR** for his brilliant finish in the recent National Cross Country Championships representing West Yorkshire.

**Sam Walshaw 8MRL** for always having a very lovely positive attitude!

**Kristina Todd 9LAS** for being a hard working, helpful and a lovely young lady!

**Rosie Masud 10HJP** for all of the voluntary work she does out of school.

**Olivia Jenkins 11SGN** for producing a beautiful piece of artwork based on a beloved family member.

**Eve Halmshaw 12JLW** for helping lead Houldsworth to victory in the House Drama competition.

**Faheem Patel 13DAJ** for making excellent use of the silent study area in the JCC.

### Dates for the Diary

**11 April** - Y8 Parents' Evening

**12 April** - Students to finish at 2.30 for the Easter Holiday.

**29 April** - First Day of Term

**6 May** - School Closed - May Day

**13 May** - GCSE Exams begin

**16 May** - Y9 Parents' Evening

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