



RHYTHM: Addington pupils enjoy a workshop as part of proms week
Picture: PETER BLOODWORTH (Ref 111073)

Drumming up enthusiasm

CHILDREN showed off their creative talents when they sang, danced and drummed their way through a school proms week.

Youngsters at Addington School in Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, took to the stage for a range of musical performances during the school's proms week from Monday, July 4, to Friday, July 8.

During the week pupils from neighbouring schools were invited

along to join in with shows and concerts held throughout the day.

One of the highlights of the proms was a drumming workshop which saw pupils get behind drum kits to tap out different beats.

And the grand finale of the week was Addington's Got Talent where pupils from all years had the chance to get on stage and show friends and family their singing, dancing and acting talents.

CHALLENGE: to keep a raw egg from destruction Winners manage to plan within budget

PAUL CASSELL

FOUR technology brainboxes at Little Heath School left other schools with egg on their faces when they came second in the AWE Schools' Engineering Challenge.

The Year 10 team comprising Ben Green, Aaron Noone, Aaran Wilkinson and Nathan Cook walked away with £500 in prize money for the Tilehurst secondary school on Wednesday, July 28.

The competition held at Tadley Community Centre, called Project Benedict, set pupils the task of designing, building and testing a structure to protect a raw egg from destruction during a number of tests involving weights and other pressure equipment.

The challenge was created by a team of AWE's engineering

graduates and all materials were supplied to pupils on the day. However, the materials were priced according to their strength, requiring students to manage their budgets. The event was intended to demonstrate vital aspects of a career in engineering or science.

Assistant head Gisella Vignali said: "We are really chuffed. The team did exceptionally well and beat some stiff competition, and we are very proud of our students and their achievement."

"As a school we like to take part in competitions whether it is sports or more academic subjects as they not only support students' development but bring lessons to life."

Ten schools from Reading, West Berkshire and Hampshire took on the challenge. The eventual winners, a team from St Bartholomew's School in Newbury,

received £750. Kendrick School in London Road, Central Reading, took third place and won £250.

AWE managing director Andrew Jupp, presenting the prizes, said: "Science and engineering skills are really important to the country, which is why we run these competitions to nurture interest in these important areas."

"This challenge was all about teamwork. You needed a balance of good planning, engineering skills and budget management."

"It is wonderful to see your enthusiasm and I have been impressed by the results."

Schools liaison chairwoman Philippa Kent said: "The challenge was a great success and the teams this year were particularly innovative. We enjoy working closely with local schools to encourage interest in science, engineering and technology."

Film-makers' visits provide inspiration

THERE were cries of "Viva España!" as girls from The Abbey Junior School enjoyed a day of Spanish film fun.

Year Five pupils at the Christchurch Road school took part in a workshop organised by the British Film Institute to give them a taste of the language before they have the opportunity to take it up later at the senior school.

They were visited by Geraldine Walker from the BFI and watched Spanish films with and without subtitles to see how much they could understand.

They also created their own storyboards as a way of developing their graphic design skills while absorbing Spanish vocabulary.

At break the girls enjoyed an array of tapas treats and learned

about Spanish food such as pimientos, manchego, chorizo, pan, tortilla, aceitunas and calamares.

Head of Spanish Irene Fanning said: "The girls have really enjoyed the day, saying: 'me gusta el Español' - I like Spanish."

There was more film fun at The Elstree School in Woolhampton when pupils received a lesson from movie director Gregg Helvey.

Year Eight pupils Oli Reid, Jack Pullan, Gregg Rishton, Chris Matthews, William Chaffer and twin brothers Charlie and Henry Arrowsmith directed and starred in their own production called Vivaldi's Violin for their CE examinations this year.

Writer and director Gregg Helvey visited the school last month to screen his short film Kavi, telling

the story of a boy in India who wants to play cricket and go to school but is instead forced to work in a brick kiln as a modern-day slave. He discussed the film project with the boys, spoke to them about his own work and shared in their common interest in cricket as well as the contrast of their lives at Woolhampton with those of pupils in India.

Kavi was nominated for an Oscar for the Best Live Action Short Film in 2010, won a gold medal in the Student Academy Awards in 2009 and has scooped more than 50 other awards worldwide.

ME GUSTA MUCHO: Geraldine Walker and Irene Fanning watch as Josie Carter, Emma Gray, Paige Weibel and Alex Griffin tuck into tapas



Trading blue coats for pink vests

PUPILS, staff and parents at Reading Blue Coat School were in the pink as they raised more than £1,000 for Cancer Research UK by taking part in the charity's Race For Life.

The fundraisers decided to take part in the race at the Sonning Lane school last month after hearing that a fellow pupil's mother had died of the disease.

"We did it because we wanted to support our friend after her loss," said sixth former Georgia Anderson.

Blue Coat pupil Emily Daly added: "It's also for the cause. It's a really great cause."

To boost the funds, everyone at the school was invited to make a

£1 donation to the charity for the privilege of dressing in pink on the day.

Eight years ago the school's network manager Wendy Cherry learned that she had beaten breast cancer and made a decision to give something back to those who had helped save her life - by participating in the annual Race for Life.

She launched Blue Coat's own Race for Life and the fundraiser has gone from strength to strength each year.

"Rather than do it on my own, I thought let's do it within the school," Ms Cherry said.

There was strong camaraderie as the group united for a common cause. Georgia added: "Everyone waited at the end to cross together."

CAMARADERIE: Reading Blue Coat sixth formers line up to Race For Life