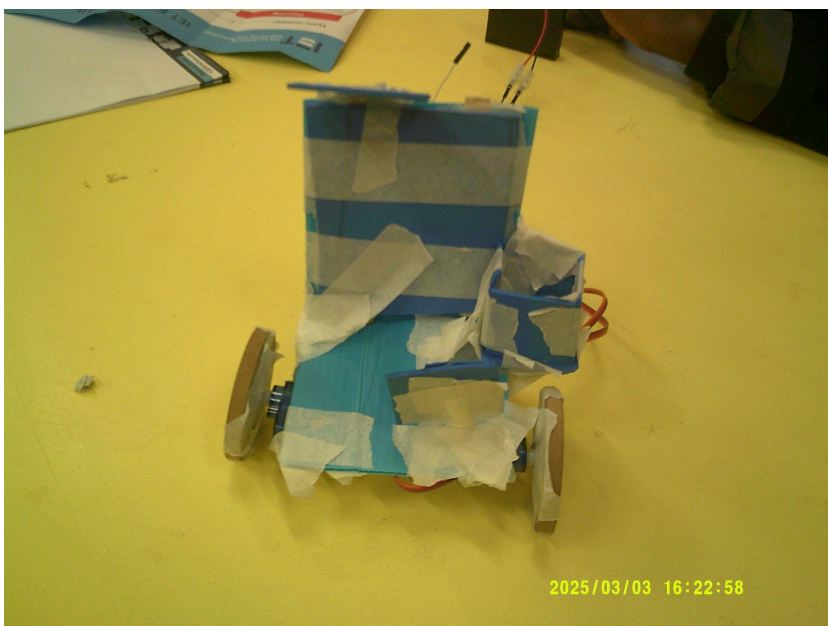


Science goes wild!

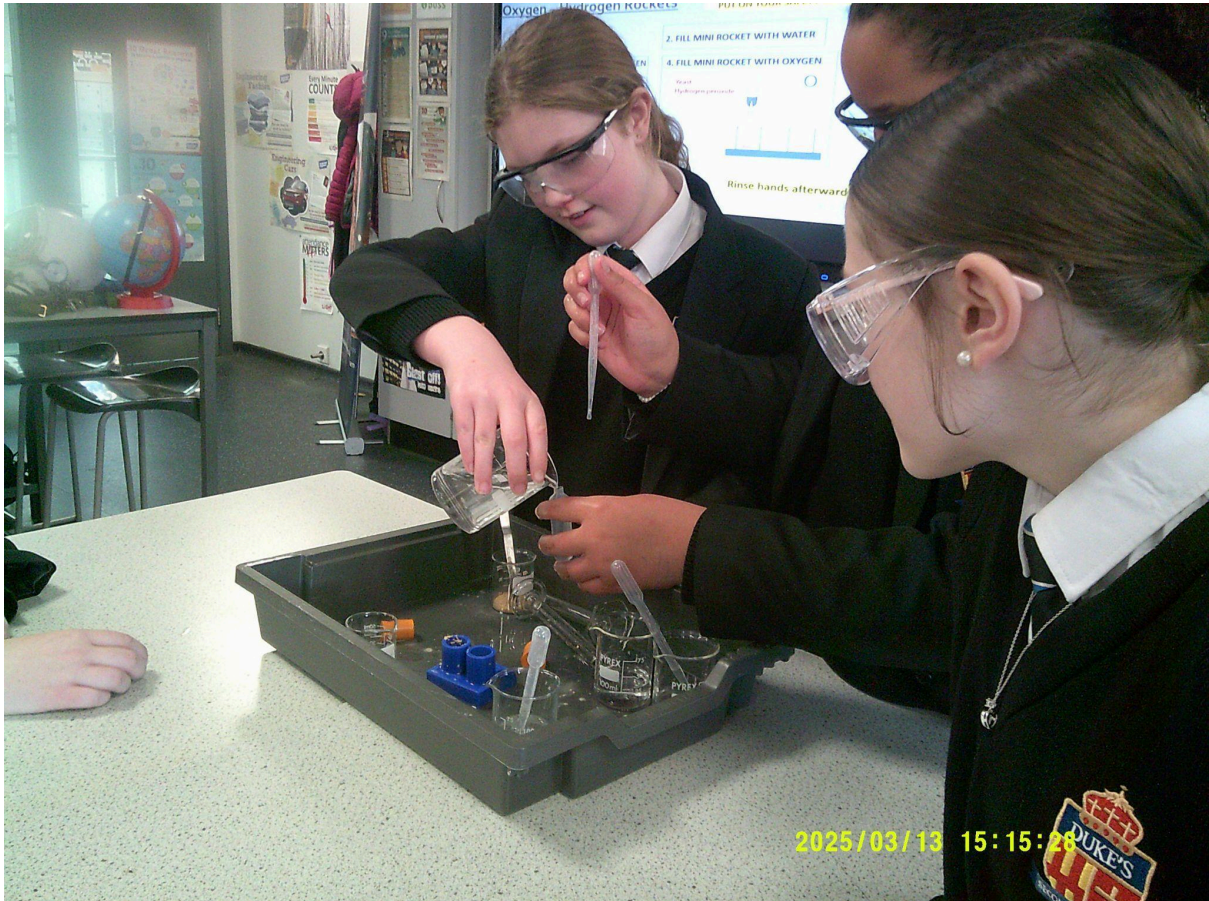
We've been busy in science exploring and creating lots of exciting things this term!

Monday 3rd March Duke's Y8 team represented the school at the Faraday Engineering Challenge. They did very well and created an impressive state-of-the-art wheelchair prototype, complete with navigation screen, adjustable seat angle and sun shade. See team photo and prototype.

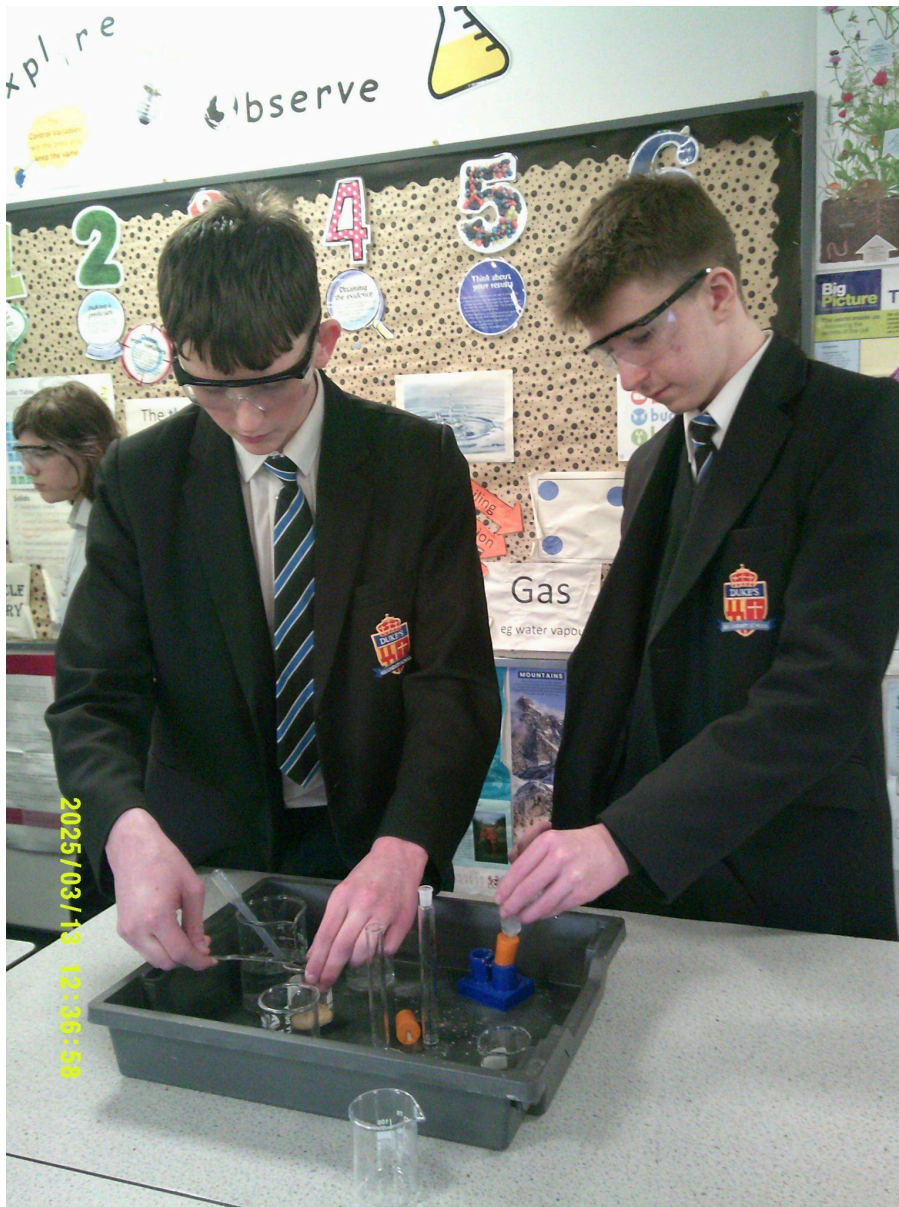


The National Space Academy (part of the National Space Centre, Leicester) visited us on Thursday 13th March, to enthuse year 7 and 10 students about the space industry, which is

a growing sector in the UK, with plenty of local opportunities. They learnt how space exploration has improved life on Earth, from leak-proof nappies to cordless power tools; from freeze-dried foods to memory foam mattresses! They created and fired their own mini rockets, using a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen gas, and learnt how asteroids could be a threat to Earth, and how life on Earth and other planets evolves. Each year had a really exciting, hands-on 2-hour workshop, and even got to try on a real space suit!







Year 8 and 9 students participated in the RAF 'Blast off to RIAT' workshop on Thursday 20th February, where they designed and built their own space lander! The whole-day event involved team work, creativity, resilience and engineering skills, and showcased how the RAF has a wide range of job opportunities in traditional Earth-based flying, and in cutting edge space exploration! Two teams will be going on to develop their designs, with the chance of winning tickets to this year's Royal International Air Tattoo, this summer.



Year 9 students have been participating in Girls and Boys GetSET programmes, which develops understanding of engineering roles with one of our local employers, Baker Hughes. This showcases the opportunities available through the global company, through practical, hands-on activities. Students have had to design and build a prototype pipeline inspection gadget (PIG) and test it in a model pipeline. We have also visited their factory in Walker to see how pipelines which carry oil and gas are manufactured and tested.



Year 10 students on the STEM Like Us programme are receiving one-to-one mentoring so they can develop their career aspirations, learn more about how to achieve their goals, and develop a pathway to success. Along the way, there are challenges and competitions to participate in, and the highest achieving students will win a prize at the end of the year. Last year's cohort's winners will be attending a celebratory event at the House of Lords, London, in the summer.



Year 7 and 8 students have been reviewing the six shortlisted science books, to decide which is their favourite for the coveted 'Book of Year' prize, awarded by the Royal Society. We have submitted our decision, and are now awaiting the prize ceremony to find out who the 700 schools and library groups across the country jointly chose as the winner.



Coming up: the Royal Institution are coming in on **Thursday 3rd April** to run two fantastic shows for all year 7 and 8 students: expect bangs, whizzes, pops, gasps, laughter, and lots of fun! There's chance for everyone to be involved too: come along to the amazing

community show that evening at 5pm in the main hall. **Book your free tickets** on eventbrite at

[Royal Institution Science in Duke's Secondary School Community Show Tickets, Thu 3 Apr 2025 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Or <http://bit.ly/4kILI4C>





