

STEMM report (Science Festival & Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form)

By Abdullah, Shayan and Alvin

On the 18th of October 2016, a group of 30 students of mixed gender from Year 10, who had an interest in Science, travelled to the Forum in Norwich to witness the Norwich Science Festival. At the venue there were many other schools participating in the festival which held many events related to science. These included virtual reality, 3d printing, a model of the Hadron Collider and experiments with magnetism e.g. Ferro Fluids. This is where we spent half the day.

The other half of the day was spent in the Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form. There were many other schools there such as Neatherd High. We sat in a hall where we were welcomed by an entertainer wearing a Rubik's Cube costume. He then introduced us to a physicist who presented us an experiment that produced slime.

The slime was created using PVA glue, borax and some drops of water. This creates a polymer with both qualities of a solid and a liquid. It takes up the shape of a container (liquid property) and yet can be held in your hand (solid property). This is because the polymer molecules chain themselves meaning they can stretch and bend like chains.

After the slime experiment, the physicist filled a large container with dry ice, aimed it towards a few students in the audience and smacked the back of the drum so the air was flown out as harmless smoke rings. Later, the entertainer introduced us to a few students from another school to perform their experiment. Their aim was to create bubbles with increased tensile strength which would allow them to be held on hands and lie on paper without popping. Their experiment wasn't quite as successful as they hoped it to be. The bubbles were barely even created. This was probably due to the lack of glycerol that they added.

Subsequently, a group of sixth form students from the same school presented us with a physics experiment. They were testing the laws of gravity and velocity by firing Nerf Guns at moving targets. This did not go as planned as their aim was quite dodgy. However, they did manage to hit a few targets.

In a nutshell, this day was quite enjoyable and informative showing us the fun side of science as science isn't always boring.