



CAREERS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL

## WELCOME TO THE CAREERS NEWSLETTER

THE AIM OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THE FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES OUR STUDENTS HAVE ENGAGED WITH, WHILE SHOWCASING SOME OF THE WAYS WE SUPPORT STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS WHILST AT THE ACADEMY, AS WELL AS WHEN MOVING TO THE NEXT EXCITING STAGE OF EDUCATION.

THE INFORMATION AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER TO SUPPORT STUDENTS, PARENTS, CARERS AND STAFF.



## TOP NEWS

- RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT THIS YEARS CAREERS FAIR.
- 5 POST 16 STUDENTS GAINED PAID INTERNSHIPS THROUGH THE CAREER READY PROGRAM.
- 100% ON ALL GATSBY BENCHMARKS MET FOR 5 YEARS RUNNING.
- ALL POST 16 STUDENTS COMPLETED A 2 WEEK WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT WITH OUTSTANDING FEEDBACK FROM EMPLOYERS.





## Mock Interviews

February 2024

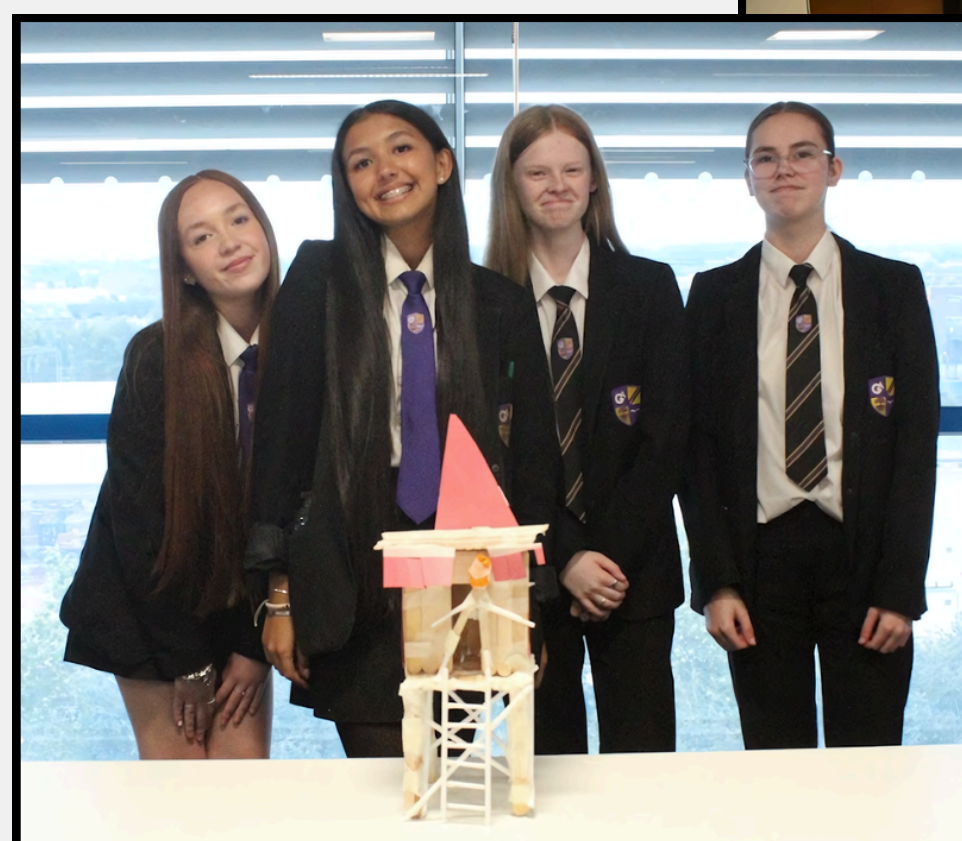


All Year 11 and Post 16 students had a one to one mock interview day in February 2024. We invited over 14 of our business partners to support this event and ensured that year 11s had the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a face to face interview, meeting our business partners and gaining valuable feedback from them.



Birmingham City University, hosted a Women in Science and Engineering event on Tuesday 18 June for Year 9 girls, focusing on issues surrounding sustainability. Students took part in an exciting engineering challenge, where they worked in teams to solve sustainability issues through engineering. Grace Academy students won this event.

## Wise Event Birmingham City University



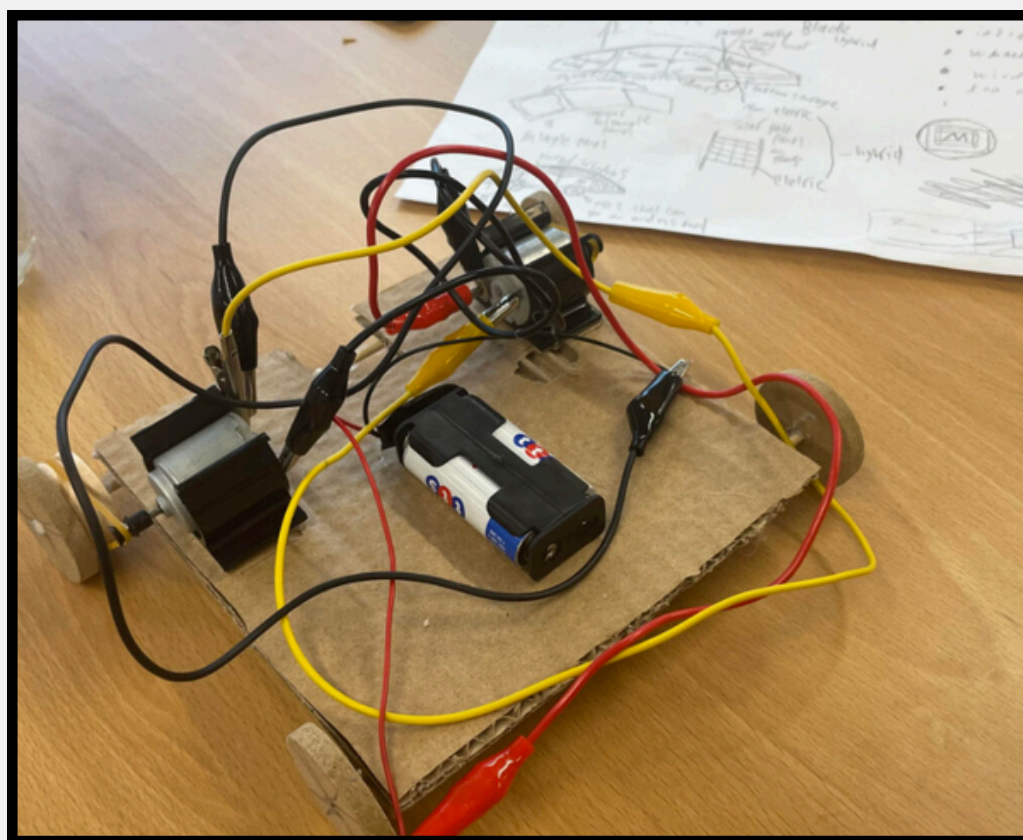
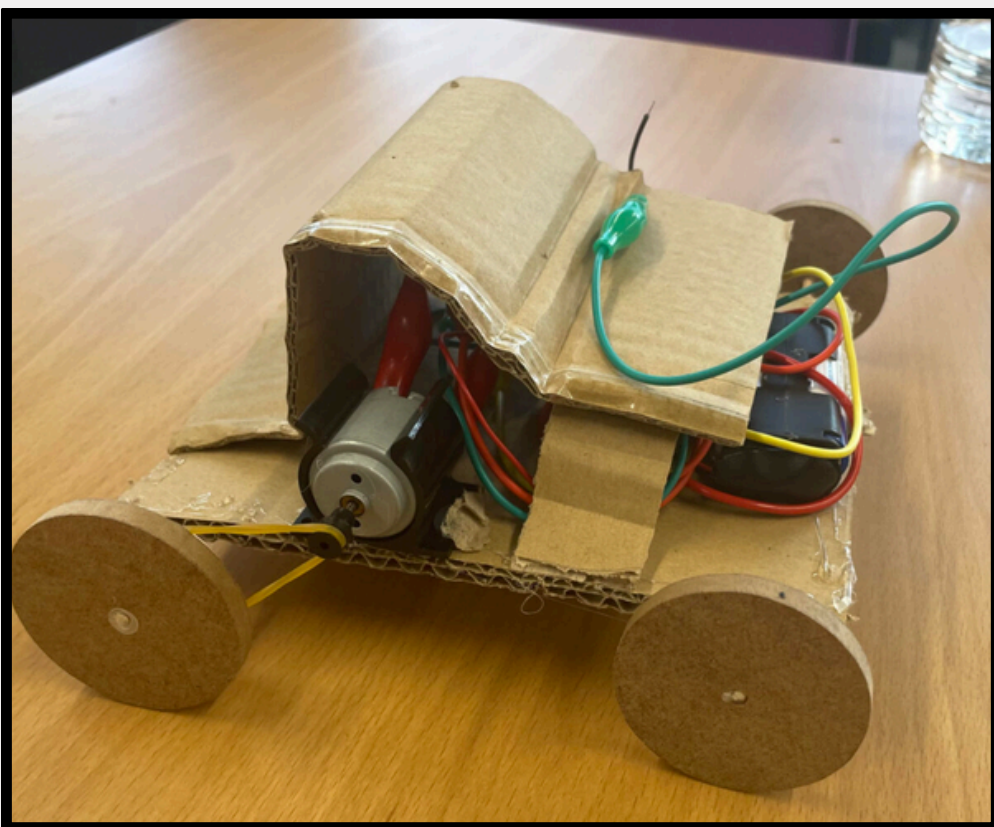




## Career Ready Programme

Congratulations to ten Y12 students who have successfully completed the first year of the Career Ready programme. This programme has had over 20 years of experience working in boosting social mobility by connecting students to workplace opportunities and supporting with a structured programme of 12 one to one mentoring sessions, a paid internship programme, 6 masterclass workshops, workplace visits and sustained continued support for the students.

## Royal Academy of Engineering Workshop



Putting the 'E' back in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in interactive workshops to learn more about the world of engineering. In small teams, each student was trained in a variety of engineering roles, from 'Mechanical Engineer' to 'Electrical Engineer'. They were then tasked to design either their own electric powered car, or a fully-functional assembly line conveyor belt. With their training in hand they were let loose on the cardboard, circuit wires, motor and hot glue!

Congratulations to the winning teams in each year group, and well done to all the students for getting stuck into the workshop, and showing that the next generation of engineers can be found here at Grace Academy Solihull.

## GMI Construction Site Visit

GMI Construction offered a fantastic opportunity for a small group of Y9 students, with a keen interest in construction, to attend an active construction site. During this time students had the opportunity to:

- Learn about the project
- Engage in open discussion with employers and employees
- Tour a GMI construction site







# CAREERS

## University Visits

Post 16 students have had the chance to experience university visits throughout the year at Aston University and Birmingham City University, touring the campuses, having workshops and the opportunity to complete a project and deliver it in a presentation. Criminology students also experienced an Explore Law Day where they had the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a law student for the day.



## **Green Village Program**

Willmott Dixon delivered the Green Village Program to Year 7 students who were tasked with planning and developing their very own eco-friendly village with a focus on nature preservation and green energy. All students used a variety of employability skills to succeed in this task and it showed within their fantastic results!





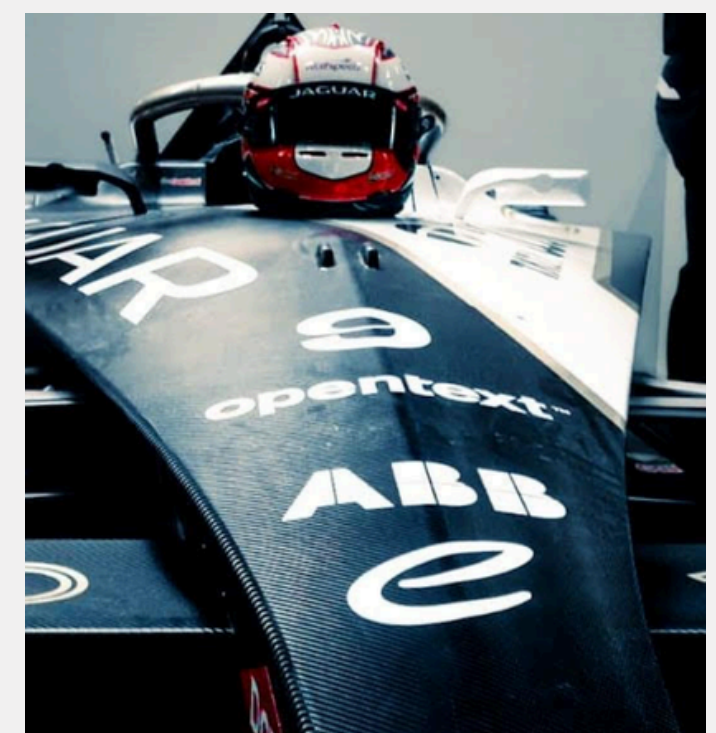


## BALFOUR BEATTY VINCI WORKSHOP

Our Post 16 students spent the day working with Balfour Beatty Vinci in different workshops. All students experienced a simulator so they can see how it really feels to work with an excavator, dumper or dozer and is the next best thing to actually sitting in the cab and operating a real machine.



## BIG BANG FAIR



This June, our Year 7 and Year 8 students attended one of the biggest STEM conventions for young people at the NEC. Students got involved in hands-on activities, talking to STEM professionals and learning more about different careers in Science. With a whole host of things to see and do, our students got stuck into everything ranging from ecology and wildlife care to sitting in a VR racing car. Students even had the opportunity to hold a snake and see a robot dog! The main stage saw fun and interactive demonstrations, including one of Grace Academy's very own assistants!