

Platanos College News

Friday 24th May 2019

Orsted and Natural History Museum project

Earlier this week, 131 of our Year 8 pupils participated in the second year of a 3-year project in partnership with Ørsted (a technology and energy company) and the Natural History Museum, with science-themed learning activities and workshops.

The aim of the project is to generate scientists of the future and is linked to the National Curriculum such as the study of ecosystems and evolution.

There were two key workshops - the 'Science Show' and 'Meet the Scientists' - as well as gallery time to explore the museum and other activities.

Workshop: Science Show

Pupils looked at how the mantle behaves through the use of an experiment with custard to demonstrate plate tectonics. Our pupil Kayla Alves assisted the presenter in leading the demonstration.

Dennis Lopez and Mr. Klassen participated in a demonstration to measure seismic activity through the use of state-of-the-art seismometer and other laboratory apparatus.

The section on the creation of rocks was demonstrated by another pupil Leatiyah Adeyemi, who aided in the the pupils' understanding of plate movements.

Ben Adubofour assisted in demonstrating the effects of earth tremors and earthquakes, as well as the impact this has on causing tsunamis. Japan was used as an example and pupils gained an insight into how the Japanese put measures and controls in place to cope with these occurrences.

The workshops were incredibly action packed and our pupils really immersed into their roles.





Meeting the Scientists

This section of the day involved the pupils working in groups to decide how best to use £1 million and who would receive the funding. The workshop provided a great opportunity for pupils to interact with scientists and work through real-life problem-solving activities.

At the end, three speakers represented the Coral Reef, Orsted off-shore wind-farms, and community-owned wind-farms.

It was immensely exciting for our pupils to compare the pitch from each speaker and reach a consensus as to who would be most deserving of the money, based on the facts, scientific evidence, and vision presented by each.



The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience learning outside of the classroom and impressed the staff at the Natural History Museum. They were wonderful ambassadors for the college.