**Press Release**

**Broadoak Mathematics and Computing College**

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**Broadoak hosts “Skirting Science” Event for the Second Year.**

Broadoak Mathematics and Computing College were delighted to host the 6th “Skirting Science” event for the second consecutive year, last Thursday when over 200 female students from secondary schools in the local area attended. The girls who came from a host of schools and colleges in North Somerset, Somerset and Bristol, were chosen for their potential to progress to university and study a science subject.

Skirting Science <http://skirtingscience.wordpress.com>aims to address the gender imbalance in certain science careers. It helps girls make informed decisions about these careers; not those based on misconceptions such as all scientists work in labs. It gives the girls a chance to meet science role models and learn from their experiences. They find out that scientists are normal people with interests. This award winning event brings together Year 9 girls and science professionals and is organised by the local members of Soroptimist International. Each science professional delivers a workshop that provides a hands-on experience of their career.

Nadya Anscombe, the key note speaker delivered the Skirting Science introduction. She has a first class degree in Chemistry is a freelance science and technology journalist and showed the girls the huge range of science subject matter she has written about. She entertained the hall with just a small taste of the articles she has written: everything from harnessing solar power on the moon and beaming it back to earth through to how the receding snow line is creating problems for the wolverine. . Nadya enthused " I have the best job in world. But in my job I spend all day taking to men so that needs to change. And we can change the male dominated industry. "

There was an incredible choice of 17 workshops for the girls to take part in including one called “Not all scientists wear white coats” by Naomi Gahan, Emily Baird, Sophie Hughes, Denise Thomas who all work for Magnox. They introduced participants to the variety of scientific careers within the nuclear industry including chemistry, physics and environmental science activities and scenarios. Another popular workshop was in Bristol University’s Mobile Teaching Unit and was a workshop called “Separating Blood!” by Hannah King, Samantha Moore and Ingeborg Hers Students had a demonstration of the University’s ‘Virtual Microscope’ a resource that undergraduates use to look at the histology of blood.

Broadoak Skirting Science ambassadors helped guide this year's students around school and were at many of the workshops in 2013.

Charlotte James, 14 said: “Skirting Science certainly changed my opinion. I am going to be honest here.... I hated science, but it has made me realise what kind of science is out there. More importantly that it can be interesting and fun, not something horrid."

Skirting Science is supported by funding from Weston Super Mare Town Council.

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