

YOUR EDUCATION NEWS

Musical theatre enthusiasts enjoy day out at RADA

A MUSICAL theatre group which was started as a lunchtime hobby has resulted in students visiting the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA).

Sharon Heare set up an extra-curricular drama group three years ago for Year 7 and 8 students at Maltings Academy, part of Academies Enterprise Trust in Witham.

During the sessions, young performers showed an interest in taking part in musical theatre and so an extension to the club was launched at lunchtime.

Now, around 30 students from

Year 7 to 10 are part of the club and have performed to parents, local primary schools, during honours assemblies and in the community.

Most recently, students were invited to visit the prestigious RADA drama school in Gower Street, London.

Miss Heare, head of drama, said: "Originally, the aim was to encourage students and to boost numbers of students taking drama at GCSE. The first year of running the club, we saw the largest group of students choosing GCSE drama for many years.

"Drama club continues after school alongside the musical theatre group and we are constantly recruiting younger members as the older ones take a back seat to focus on their GCSEs in Year 11.

"Many of these students have gone on to become involved in local theatre productions. Previous students have gone into the profession and have achieved success as actors."

She continued: "It gives me a great sense of pride to have encouraged their enthusiasm for the stage."



Students from Maltings Academy were invited to visit RADA drama

Engineering students show their skills in Goodwood competition

AMAZING FIFTH PLACE FOR TEAM IN HOTLY CONTESTED ENDURANCE RACES

LEVEL 2 and 3 Engineering Students from Chelmsford College, supported by their two tutors recently competed at Goodwood.

Following soaring temperatures, the Chelmsford College team raced their self-built eco-electric single seater racing car in 60-minute endurance races.

The competition is run by Greenpower Formula 24+ in order to boost and promote interest and career opportunities for engineering students. It helps build students' confidence, self-esteem and team work, bringing together drivers and teams from all over the country, from colleges to well-known motor vehicle manufacturers.

The winner is the team which achieves the furthest distance in the time limit. Greenpower vehicles average speeds of 30-35mph by using two batteries and a motor from a mobility scooter. The cars have zero emissions and are hugely energy efficient, running at the equivalent of around 2,500mpg.

Up to 100 teams take part in the design and build of their car. Chelmsford College proudly came fifth out of 25 teams.

This was the college's first ever race at Goodwood.

Mirelle Rixon, curriculum area manager for engineering and electrical, said: "I'm immensely proud of my engineering department; both students and tutors, the students



Chelmsford College racing during the Greenpower competition

represented themselves and the college in a mature, professional, yet enthusiastic manner, maintaining high energy and positivity levels throughout the day.

"They helped develop, build and drive the Greenpower vehicle up to speeds of 35mph against 24 other teams, comprised of FE, HE and Industry apprentices, seeing off the likes of JLR and Perkins Diesels.

"We were the only team to have two female drivers and were also the only team to change driver during the race, finishing in a staggering fifth place for our first completion. One super proud manager."

Andy Sparks, principal of Chelmsford College, said: "Chelmsford College are delighted to take part in the Greenpower project. We are proud of our student's achievements and

thrilled we came fifth. The Greenpower project provides an exciting and fun way for students to experience engineering, develop their technical skills and innovate in a green way."

Engineering employs 5.6 million people in the UK. There's an annual shortfall of up to 59,000 engineering graduates and technicians to fill core engineering roles and it's predicted

that 203,000 people with Level 3 and above skills will be needed each year to meet demand through to 2024.

Chelmsford College is committed to promoting and delivering STEM subjects and Engineering. Last year the college taught 320 engineering students and offers a number of courses and apprenticeships to help train the next generation of engineers.