



Young pupils learn a university lesson in the science of happiness

YEAR six school pupils have learned how to make a happy school during an event organised and run by psychologists at the University of Kent.

The How To Make a Happy School event involved children from Gillingham's Skinner Street Primary School and Brompton-Westbrook Primary School.

Pupils received training to become 'Young Scientists' and conduct their own investigation into what makes their school a

happy place. Artist Tracey Falcon and Kent-based arts organisation People United worked on the programme with the university's psychology team.

The pupils visited the university's Canterbury campus, where they learned about the science of happiness, explored what makes people happy and how happiness is a 'superpower'.

They then created their own survey to find out what makes people in their school happy. Back at the school, they con-

ducted their own research, questioning other children and teachers across the school.

In one school the '5 Fs' were clear frontrunners for happiness: fish and chips; Fridays, friends; family; and fun. The pupils then got creative and made their own happiness superhero.

Child development specialist at the university Dr Lindsey Cameron said: "We need to find out what makes young people happy, and who better to investigate this than young people themselves."

Mechanics brushing up on their car computer knowledge



MOTOR mechanics revved up their knowledge of the diesel engine at a free event held at MidKent College's Maidstone Campus.

Garages and other motoring firms from across the county were represented at the event, which was organised by the west Kent member association of the Institute of the Motor Industry.

Held in one of the campus' purpose-built motor vehicle workshops, the event included a demonstration by James Dillon of the diagnostics training body Technical Topics.

He said: "It's critical that mechanics constantly seek to update their knowledge. The type of technology used in the design of cars is advancing at a rapid pace, so you can't just rely on the things you learned when you first started out."

"The industry has gone from having no computers in cars in the 1980s to about 70 today. It's phenomenal."

Included in Mr Dillon's demonstration was information on how to get the best from an oscilloscope – a form of diagnostic equip-

DEMO: Technical Topics director James Dillon

ment used to detect engine faults.

West Kent IMI chairman and former MidKent College tutor Fred Holmes said the Maidstone campus's workshops were ideal for hosting such events.

He added: "They're very useful because they have all the equipment we need and are a great place to give practical demonstrations."

"We're always keen to run events like this for our members because it's vital for their continued professional development."

Turner Contemporary art gallery head wins top education award

THE head of learning at Turner Contemporary in Margate has won a prestigious education award.

Karen Esley won one of four inaugural Marsh Awards for Excellence in Gallery Education, presented at a special evening event run by engage, the National Association for Gallery Education.

Turner Contemporary says learning is at the heart of its work, and it runs a Learning Programme that encompasses

schools, community group projects and family activities.

Karen has been working closely with local people for more than 10 years in the run up to the opening of the gallery in April 2011.

She said: "My role has been to ensure that local people feel involved in the development of the gallery, and see it as a valuable resource."

More 690,000 people were involved in the work of Turner Contemporary before the gal-

lery opened, and over 14,000 people have taken part in its learning programme.

Karen added: "I am really proud to have won a Marsh Award for Excellence in Gallery Education."

"It is a privilege to work for Turner Contemporary, and to develop projects with the local community. We know we have a positive impact on people's lives, and working with artists and people of all ages is endlessly interesting and rewarding."

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