



26 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Subject Heathrow Lego Mindstorm Challenge (HLMC)

This is a letter to inform you of an exciting WRL (Work Related Learning) event that will be taking place at Vyners School for year 8 students on the 25 & 26 April 2018. We are delighted to be hosting the Heathrow Lego Mindstorm Challenge (HLMC) for which your daughter/son will be attending. Now in its 9th year, the Challenge is an exciting activity that supports the skill of programming, an increasingly important area of the curriculum that will underpin careers of the future.

What is the Heathrow Lego Mindstorm Challenge?

The HLMC is a workshop for Year 8 students delivered in schools in the boroughs of Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Slough and Spelthorne. The programme is provided by Heathrow and the sessions are run by a team of two people from Learning to Work, a not-for-profit organisation working for the benefit of local young people, schools, colleges and businesses to deliver educational activities in schools. The programme is designed to:

- Encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths study and careers.
- Introduce students to the Heathrow Apprenticeship scheme, and understand the skills and knowledge required to work at the airport.
- Develop skills for the world of work including: communications, team working and confidence building.

The workshop will be run by the Learning to Work Team supported by up to five Heathrow Managers who will volunteer to support the activity and supervised by Vyners School staff.

What will my daughter/son be doing on the day?

- Working in small groups, students will build a 'Pod' - our Personal Rapid Transport system that provides transport between car parks and Terminal 5. Students will use coding to programme their Pod to travel a certain route - finishing with an exciting race off with other teams.

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- The 21 driverless Pods can carry up to four passengers and their luggage. The Pods are helping manage Heathrow's air quality impact and meet sustainability goals by eliminating more than 50,000 bus journeys annually.
- This is a fun and exciting way for students to learn about Heathrow and be inspired by careers in science and technology.

The challenge is a really worthwhile activity and one that last year's cohort seemed to really enjoy. The challenge involved learning how to code robots to move around a track. There was a lot of trial and error in programming the robot, testing it on the track and altering the code as needed to complete the course. We were really impressed with the attitude of the year 8s and how they were able to develop their team work, resilience and problem solving skills.

If you have any questions about the event please contact the WRL team.

Kind Regards

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss Leather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss Leather
Assistant WRL coordinator
Subject Leader of Psychology