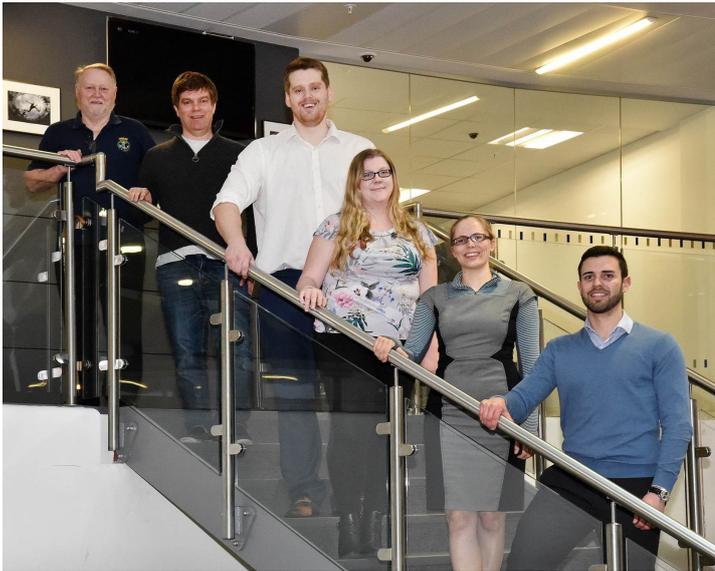




# Physics Celebrated in Trafford

Physics is cool, Physics is creative and Physics students are in short supply was the message of some of the region's leading exponents when they talked to aspiring scientists at a special conference at St. Ambrose College.

Hundreds of GCSE students from secondary schools across Trafford contemplating the choices to be made before the next stage of their education listened intently to a series of experts now using their physics qualifications to improve society.



Pictured at St. Ambrose before the Conference are from left to right: Peter Greenhalgh, Andrew Marwick, Andrew Thomson, Emily Richardson, Harriet Windebank from Costain and Pedro Henriques from Mott Macdonald.

Organised by The Ogden Trust, which was established in 1999 by the Rochdale born scientist and entrepreneur Sir Peter Ogden, with the aim is restore Britain's reputation as global centre for innovation, the event examined both the intellectual challenge of studying the largest and smallest aspects of the Universe and the practical impact physicists makes on our daily routines.

From learning about state of the art audio and acoustics technology to examining the safety issues around our nuclear defence, from understanding how power will be transferred from a generator via cable to the planned new breed of electric trains to finding out about the principles of modern meteorology, the young men and women were given a blow by blow of what life is like on the edge of technology.

Andrew Thomson, who is a design engineer for railway systems manufacturer, Mott-McDonald, said: "Get involved. Physics is cool and there are endless possibilities for creative roles in society."

Andrew Marwick, a lecturer in Astrophysics at Manchester University, attached to Jodrell Bank, said: "I was always looking up at the stars and was fascinated by the fact that I could never go there, but then I discovered you could find out what was there by looking at them and examining the chemical molecules in outer space."

He added: "Who knows what advances future generations will make and one day we might be able to inhabit other parts of the universe."

Peter Greenhalgh, an Oceanographer and Meteorologist with the Royal Navy Reserve, said: "The advances in technology in our field have been astonishing and something I said with conviction 20 years I would discount now, so who knows how far the next generation will take us."

Emily Richardson who is a Health and Safety expert in the nuclear industry said: "I wanted to study Medicine but then I did a Smallpeice scholarship at Lancaster University and in that week my life changed as I discovered I could find out how things work and design new applications and I had to go back and rewrite my university application overnight,"

St. Ambrose Physics Teacher Sabiyah Qadir, who helped to organise the event with Melissa Lord of the Ogden Trust, said: "Teachers need role models to help inspire young scientists from beyond the classroom. We have just lost one of our greatest role models in Sir Stephen Hawking, but believe more and more of our best young people will take up the challenge to discover more about the world around them, and in so doing provide practical solutions to our very real problems."