

## Year 9 & 10 Attend Science Live!

On Friday 3rd March, the Science Department took 40, Y10 students to the Dominion Theatre for GCSE Science Live, an inspiring event which aims to promote greater enthusiasm for science and its real-life applications.

**Cara Church, Chemistry Teacher**

The day was an extremely valuable experience for me. It's encouraged me to follow a career in science, preferably physics and hopefully to become a woman in STEM! All the speakers and scientists were really engaging and you could tell how passionate they were about their subjects. The event started off with Professor Jim Al-Khalili, who discussed the possibility of time travel. It was so interesting and he explained in a manner which was humorous and informative. This lecture was probably my favourite out of the four we listened to that day.



We also heard talks from Professor Steve Jones who spoke about human evolution. Professor Alice Roberts who spoke about the study of anthropology and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock who gave us a whistle-stop tour of space exploration and answered questions such as 'am I made of star dust?' There was also a session with a chief GCSE examiner. He gave a lot of useful information in regards to how to revise; the typical command words in the question; how to get the maximum number of marks, especially in longer answer questions, which was very useful. My experience of GCSE Science Live was really positive and I hope to see something like this again!

**Saraah (10E)**

Studying nuclear fusion as a potential solution to the growing energy crisis. Using computer science to help neuroscientists study the brain. Developing smart materials that could change how we live. They could all have sounded like science fiction 20 years ago. But thanks to the fantastic 'KS3 Science Live!' event, these are now realistic career prospects for the 60, Y9 students we took to this exciting morning of talks. Engaging scientists working in cutting-edge fields explained how inter-disciplinary science is allowing us to make new breakthroughs, and emphasised the importance of asking questions and making connections. Culminating in a memorable Q&A session from the world-renowned fertility expert Professor Robert Winston, and an inspiring talk from space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, this was a fantastic opportunity to develop awareness of the incredible range of science careers available to our

students. Dr Aderin-Pocock left many students quite frankly starstruck (no pun intended!) following her regular appearances on children's television, with one Y9 student leaving the auditorium clutching Dr Aderin-Pocock's autograph and declaring this was the best day of her life!

If your daughter attended this trip, I would like to pass on the compliments from the staff of TFL & the venue, both of whom mentioned how well behaved and respectful the group were. Well done Y9 & 10!

**Jennifer Peters, Physics Teacher**