

Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University

During our recent visit to the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University, we had the opportunity to take part in a day of Physics enrichment. The programme was designed to be as interactive and engaging as possible, with a variety of talks and activities showcasing how Physics is applied in the real world and highlighting different career paths.

The speakers presented complex ideas in clear and engaging ways, showing how Physics extends far beyond the classroom and into cutting-edge research and industry.

One of the first sessions was on nanophotonics, where we learnt how light interacts with tiny structures. The speaker demonstrated this with the “fruit in a microwave” experiment, showing how energy can be trapped to create a plasma spark — a simple yet striking example of Physics in action.

Another highlight was the session with the National Space Academy, which quickly became a favourite. Using marshmallows and syringes to demonstrate pressure, launching a mini rocket, and showing cameras that simulated the James Webb and Hubble telescopes, the speaker made space science feel exciting and accessible. To top it off, one of my friends even got to try on a genuine space helmet, which brought the whole talk to life!

In the astrophysics session, we explored the power of different telescopes and experimented with computer simulations to model stars and galaxies. It was a hands-on way of showing how Physics helps us understand the universe on the largest scales.

Overall, the trip gave us a chance to see Physics beyond textbooks: from the smallest scales of nanoscience to the vastness of space, it made the subject feel much more alive, relevant, and exciting!

Medha (11C)

