

# METRO COSM SCIENCE & DISCOVERY by BEN GILLILAND

'Space Camp was a great experience for me and I will miss it a lot. I had a great time; I met many great people and I will never forget all the amazing memories I had with everyone there' - Petar Gyurov

## It's blast-off for Cosm's winning

As any secondary school teacher will tell you, getting teenagers excited about the sciences is like trying to teach a snake to play football – challenging to say the least.

Last year, MetroCosm teamed up with privateer astronaut Richard Garriott, the British Nation Space Centre and Space Camp Turkey to attempt to rectify this a little.

The Richard In Space competition was open to primary school students (seven-11 years old) who were invited to design experiments for Richard to carry out on the International Space Station and to secondary school students (11-19 years old) who were asked come up with ideas on how to capitalise on the burgeoning private space sector.

In October last year, our primary school winners got to see their experiment designs carried by Richard to the ISS who, armed with a special space edition of Metro (which became the first newspaper in space), performed them while orbiting the Earth.



Above: Privateer astronaut Richard Garriott with the special edition of Metro that accompanied him to the International Space Station. Below: Winner Jenny Edwards gets to grips with the 'hamster wheel'



Cosm Space Campers (left to right): Jenny Edwards (13), Alice Brown (13), Liam Quinn (14), Lucy Brown (11),

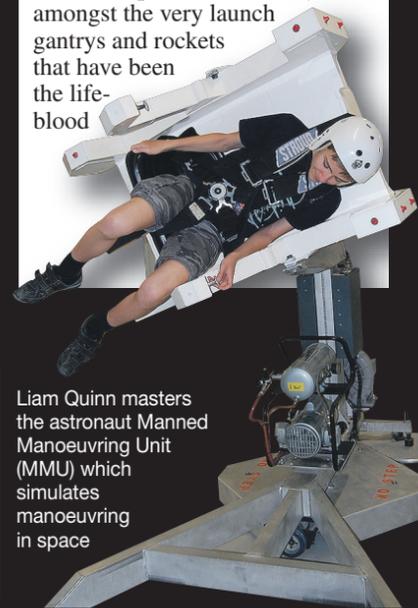
David Amison (15), Jasmine Gilliland (11), Nicholas Lucas (14), Petar Gyurov (15)

In July, this year, it was the turn of our secondary school winners to enjoy their prize – a trip to Space Camp in Turkey. As a clone of the far more famous US-based camps, Space Camp Turkey does what it says on the tin and does it very well indeed.

On the menu for the winners was astronaut training, including multi-axis and lunar walking trainers and the chance to fly and command a simulated space shuttle mission. They got to grips with subjects as diverse as hydroponics and rocket construction and learned all there

was to know about the history of space-flight.

Located in the Aegean Free-Zone near Izmir, Turkey, Space Camp Turkey doesn't enjoy the value-added aspects that its American cousins enjoy. Go to Space Camp Florida and you are in the area that has been the beating heart of space-flight since the 1950s. In Florida, students just have to step outside and they are amongst the very launch gantrys and rockets that have been the life-blood



Liam Quinn masters the astronaut Manned Manoeuvring Unit (MMU) which simulates manoeuvring in space



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