

The King's 'Team Rocket' is reaching for the stars.



A dedicated team of Year 10 students are embarking on a mission to explore the near reaches of space. As part of the **KMF Young Engineer of the Year competition**, six of our Year 10 students are attempting to carry out a Science experiment in our upper atmosphere.

They are in the process of designing and making a capsule which will be attached to a helium filled balloon (much like a weather balloon) and launched from RAF Cosford. The capsule will contain cameras, radio tracking equipment and the experiment.

The team have been to three events to learn more about the task at hand and to discover all they need to know in order to make a successful flight and retrieve their capsule ready to analyse and present their data.

A memorable moment in this quest is when one of our team, Fintan Spruce, was lucky enough to try on an actual space suit! He bravely volunteered to attempt this in front of 200 + competitors and their teachers. It was quite a battle to get into the suit but as you can see, he definitely looked the part – perhaps a sign of things to come?

The team also had a chance to test their capsule for suitability for launch at an event held at Britannia Stadium. The capsule was hoisted by Sky Bradford whilst the team looked on anxiously in case things went wrong. Happily, everything was perfect and we captured some interesting footage of the surrounding area.

The experiment the team are attempting is quite demanding from an engineering perspective and has required some innovative and complex solutions. However, things are looking good for the May 12th launch.

This is the fourth year for the competition and KMF, who are the motivation and organisation behind it, have specially funded the sponsorship for The King's School and we are very grateful to them for the opportunity to compete, learn and progress in such a positive and beneficial way.

The team are very much looking forward to launch day and are hopeful for a successful and incident free flight.

The Team: Sky Bradford, Kai Thomas, Ben Homer, Fintan Spruce, Sapphron Chambers and Owen Stanway.

