

*Team Trancellular
Winners of the ICT Youth Challenge 2006 award for ICT innovation
MIT Boston Visit*



***Ready for Action!** (from left to right), *Brian Weaver* - Highlands and Islands Enterprise, *Bryan Fraser* - ICT Youth Challenge, *Ben Bartlett*, *Douglas Mackenzie*, *Charlie Broughton*, *David Scott* - Team Trancellular, *Jamie Kean* – Plockton High School.*

Sunday, 10th September

On Sunday we left the hotel at about 10am. We then walked through the town seeing amazing views of that giant city. We saw the John Hancock building that contains 10,344 panes of glass, it was a massive skyscraper. We kept walking with our jaws hitting the ground as we saw some amazing things including a Lamborghini Gallardo in the street.

We eventually got to the museum of science where we bought tickets to go on a duck tour. For those of you who don't know what a duck is it is a vehicle that was made during the Second World War. It goes on land and water and it is very interesting, the tour guide was crazy and very entertaining.

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We saw the USS Constitution which is the oldest battle ship still sailing. We were told about the Boston tea party which was when the Boston citizens were sick of British influence and as a consequence they threw 2 thousand pounds worth of tea into the sea.

After the tour we made our way to a place called Quincy's market for lunch. It is a huge long building full of takeaway restaurants from Indian to French and of course the good old American junk food. Afterwards we went looking for a mall but Bryan's navigation skills led us astray, instead we went into little market shops which were just as good. Soon the day was over and we headed back for the hotel for a good night's rest for the day that lay ahead of us.

Monday, September 11, 2006

After a day of relaxed sightseeing we were looking forward to the tour of media lab, one of the main reasons we had come. When we woke up we had no time loose, within half an hour we had, had our breakfast and we felt ready to go and present our idea to a group of media lab students. The MIT media lab is one of the most advanced centres of scientific research in the world focusing on topics like human interaction and the future of entertainment such as music systems and worldwide game play. The four of us couldn't help but feel a little intimidated as we walked into the large building worrying about how the experts would view our idea. Despite our worries we were warmly greeted and given a brief tour of the lab by Laura Nichols and Jon Gips, both media lab students. We couldn't help but be amazed by some of the projects we saw such as a picture frame that interacted with the people around it and a paint brush which remembered images such as your eye and allowed you to paint them again and again.



We then went into a large room they called the cube and to our delight there were hundreds of boxes of Lego lining the walls. Instantly we knew we wanted to teach here when we were older. Just when things couldn't get any better we were told that we were going to spend the morning making Lego models and using a program the had invented called 'Crickets' we could program motors and sensors to create an interactive model. Our project was a crane that only functioned during daylight. This project kept us entertained for well over an hour. As we were working we couldn't help but notice that a large number of men in black suits with shoulder holsters were filling the room. As you can imagine we were a little nervous but then one of the more friendly looking men came and informed us that the previous president of Iran would be touring Media Lab that day. He also advised us to continue as normal and to not make any sudden movements. When the President had left the room we all started



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breathing again and continued our models.

Now came the moment that we were fearing, lunch. It may not sound scary to you but we knew that this meant that we would soon be giving our presentations. After a rushed ham sandwich we were asked to begin. For what seemed a week we went through the various aspects of our creation censoring it as we went along, for instance every mention of mobile phones became cell phone and every time we planned to say 999 it became 911.

We managed to get out of the presentation alive and successfully answered all of their questions to our great relief. After this we visited a robotics group who were working on a robot designed to interact with humans and an incredibly complex level we saw the robot "Leonardo" reach for his favourite toys and cower away from those he didn't like.



We polished off the day with a visit to a classic American Mall and after two hours of shopping we left poor but happy. We had seen some unbelievable technology and felt inspired to follow in their steps and develop our product further. The trip also left us determined to take part in the next ICT Youth Challenge.



Team Trancellular enjoy a sightseeing trip around Boston

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Tuesday, 12th September

At around 9am we walked out the hotel lobby and met with Marie-Teresa Vander Sande on the third floor of the MIT bookshop. The group sat down and waited for her arrival, when she entered the room, she appeared to be the bearer of gifts; MIT bags for all of us and to top it off, a massive folder filled with information on who we'd be meeting over the next three days and all other kinds of goodies.

So, we left the building around half nine-ish, the whole group walked to the MIT Stata building to meet a Mr Thomas Greene, a professor in computer science and artificial intelligence. The Stata building was awesome; the architecture looked like it had been picked out of a Lego box and randomly stuck together by some seriously imaginative architects. The Different buildings were so incredibly out of place that you couldn't help but stop and take a picture. We met Mr Greene in the Main foyer of the building, at this part half the group left with Marie-Teresa. So there was Charlie, Davis, Douglas, Mr Kean, Bryan and myself left with Boston born and bred Thomas Greene. The Lecturer gave us a half an hour-long tour of the building, telling us the facts of it and also gave us a thirty-minute presentation on the work done by the students and teachers and the projects worked on.

At 11:15 Marie-Teresa picked us up and gave us an 'informal' tour of the Campus. This was basically a long walk to the student centre, which is where we had our lunch (if anyone reading this goes to Boston through the competition, don't have the sushi!!). The student centre is a social meeting place for the MIT students; it is complete with shops, take-aways and even a games arcade!

At 1:00pm we walked into a large Roman looking building and were taken into a corridor that was name "The Infinite Corridor". Exiting this building, we walked to the Science Museum. Here we looked through the museum seeing many amazing sights, one of which was the original Vander-Graff generator, which was 60 feet high! This was followed by free ice cream and a tour of the computer clubhouse. This was a youth club like no other. The kids there had the best of the best computers to create their own art on, make movies and do other such activities including music mixing. Once this had ended we walked back to the hotel to get ready for the meeting at the e-club (entrepreneurs-club). There we were given a presentation by two students who pitched to us (and a group of business men) their business idea, it was a faster Internet download system for students on campus. After they had finished and also a session of question and answer, Charlie and Ben were asked to give a quick two-minute pitch of our idea. We were told it went well.



Stata Building MIT.

Wednesday, 13th September

On Wednesday morning we went to meet up with our tour guide, Marie-Teresa Vander Sande. She then took us all to the MIT Museum where we looked around for an hour and a half. Some of the key features we noticed were where they combined old and new technology to show how things have improved over the past few years.

When we finished looking over the MIT Museum, we went to lunch at Pizzeria, where we had pizza and salad. We then had some time to spare so the rest of the team and myself went and looked in the MIT shop, where we bought some souvenirs for our families. Some of the teachers decided to go to the Mall, which was ten minutes away. While they did that, we went to a games room where we played pool and air hockey. Charlie and Douglas had a very tense rivalry on the air hockey table, where we drew 2-2.

After lunch, Marie-Teresa showed us to the MIT Department of Mechanical Engineering, where we met Professor Alexander Slocum, Director of the Experimental Study Group, on the topic - Experimental Study Group and other novel teaching methods. After he explained his job and what he does to help the students in his class, he asked if we could demonstrate our invention. When we showed him, he gave us

some tips on how to market our product. Prof. Slocum earned his Ph.D from MIT while simultaneously working at the National Bureau of Standards. He is also a very good standup comedian, as he showed us in his presentation.

We then met Louis Goldish and Vicky Wu. Louis is the senior building advisor at the MIT office of the Provost and Vicky is an MIT venture mentoring service volunteer. They spoke about how we should sell our product and how we should approach mobile companies such as Sony Erickson, T-Mobile etc around the world. We then discussed how we were going to present our product to the mobile companies. They came up with some tactics on how to approach mobile companies and how to sell our product to our three main market groups, which are Worried Parents, People who pursue in outdoor activities e.g. mountaineers, mountain bikers and the Disabled.

After we had discussed our product, we found out about another product that was produced by two students from MIT, who were David Lin and Forrest Liau. Their product, which was a glove which you could use for hand signals in a battle zone. This product was aimed at the Army. They showed us that no matter how young you are you can do anything you put your mind to and still come up with millions in return!!

We then all set off for the airport for our long journey back to the UK, which lasted six and a half hours, but was still a very enjoyable trip and I hope to do it again some day.

It was a fascinating experience for us all.



"Only got until December to come up with our 2007 ICT Youth Challenge Idea and submit it online [here!](#)"

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