

DATE

ongoing

SCHOOL

Aston Fields Middle School

DISTRICT

Bromsgrove

EVENT/ACTIVITY NAME

Engineering Rotation – Learning for Life

NUMBERS ATTENDED

150 over the year

WRITE UP

Year 8 pupils took part in the ‘Squashed Tomatoes’ challenge which looks at solving a problem to help others in another country. The challenge asks the pupils to solve the issue of transporting tomatoes from their growing lands at the top of a mountain, to the bottom, in order for them to be taken to market and sold. The current method involves people walking for miles down steep slopes with a huge, heavy container on their backs.

They set about the challenge by drawing a model of their idea, thinking about how to transport lots of tomatoes at once, without them becoming damaged on the way.

Once they had an idea, the next task was to collect the most suitable equipment from the selection of recycling, sellotape, string and marbles for testing.

The pupils enjoyed making a model and often found, that their original plans changed and developed along the way. Perhaps prompted by the teacher or their own discussions.

The most successful models included a solid surface for a container to move down and the use of string as a pulley to enable slow movement down the steep slopes.

PHOTOS



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