

Workshops at the Royal Institution April 2026

Our eighth *Skateboards to Starships* workshops were delivered on 7 and 8 April 2026.

John I Davies

We were back again at the RI to talk to secondary school students (high school to those across the pond). This is just a quick note to record our most recent workshop. Much more in our account of last year in *Workshops at the Royal Institution August 2025*

(Principium 51 November 2025 page 27 <https://i4is.org/principium-51/>).

This year Rob Swinney and John I Davies of i4is were ably assisted by Aditi Singh, KCL Space, a first year physics student at Kings College London. We had a 12-14 year age group on the first day and a 15-18 year age group on the second day.

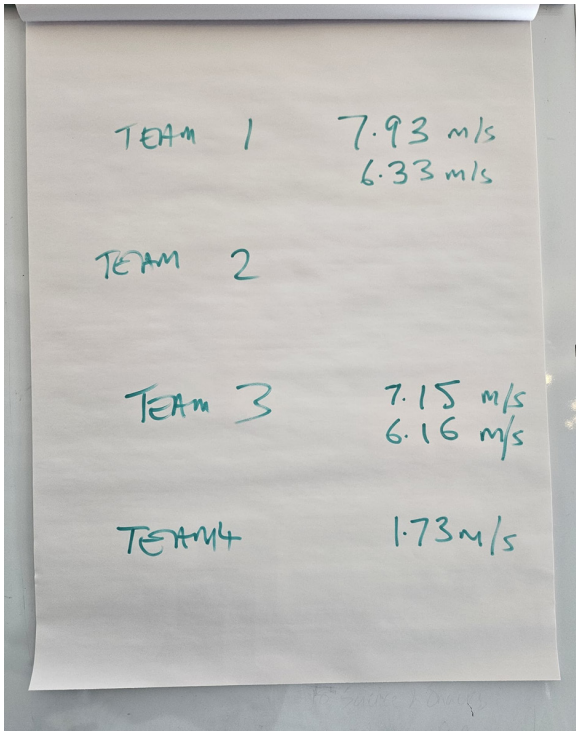
Here's the team on the second day:



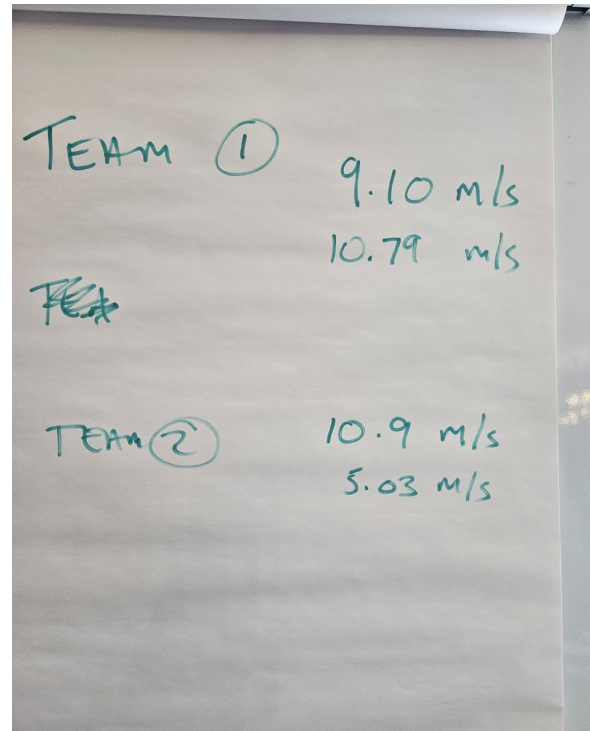
Richard Marshall, our Royal Institution organiser, with Aditi Singh, Rob Swinney and John Davies.

NEWS FEATURE

Here are the results of our famous "balloon exhaust velocity" experiment for the two days:



We had four teams in the 12-14 years age group and teams 1, 2 and 4 produced results.



We had fewer students in the 15-18 years age group so just two teams. Team 2 had some complications with their second balloon run!



Rob telling the two 15-18 teams about the laser fusion experiment at the US National Ignition Facility. This year we delivered our workshops in the beautiful RI Library.

It was great to be back at the RI again. As always the staff were very helpful. i4is has been delivering workshops for school students *Skateboards to Starships* since 2018. We hope to be invited back for the August Summer Schools this year and for many more years to come!