



Example press release



Project a stratospheric success



■ All set for the balloon launch, at Mosser, near Cockermouth

AFTER months of hard work, four Cockermouth students launched a balloon into the stratosphere and were jubilant when it reached 36,000m - recording lots of data along the way.

Joe Moore, Jack Scott, Natasha Stannett and Poppy Watson, all aged 16, have spent the past 12 weeks working on the project. After unstable weather delayed their launch, they were finally able to test out their creation on Monday.

"We're over the moon that we managed to launch the balloon successfully," said Jack.

"It has been months to plan for this day, and then the weather delayed our launch date too.

"The launch day wasn't without its challenges, but we did it! The balloon managed to reach

a height of 36,000m before it popped, which far exceeded our expectations."

Joe was in the 'chase car' which followed the balloon. "Fortunately, it fell pretty much where we predicted," said Jack.

"It was a bit of trek up a hill near Richmond in the Yorkshire Dales, but it had a soft landing thankfully so all the cameras and sensors are still intact. We're really looking forward to analysing the data."

During its flight the balloon's radio transmissions were picked up by radio enthusiasts as far away as Belgium and France. The students have recorded 5,000 separate data readings.

The four year 11 students, who were being supervised by Jonathan Moore, hope to achieve

a British Science Association's CREST gold award as a result of their work.

Following its success, they decided that they will set up a grant-giving fund to be called the John Dalton Science Fund.

"We have had an amazing experience and learnt so much about science, planning and teamwork," said Poppy.

"We believe that this type of project should be available to more young people in the UK.

"We were lucky because our project was sponsored, but others may struggle to raise the necessary funds. We would like to try to raise £1,000 to donate to other science projects."

To donate, go to: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/johndaltonsciencefund



■ Fantastic footage from the balloon



■ Lakes life recorded by the balloon



■ Joe Moore prepares to launch the balloon



■ Project team Joe Moore, Jack Scott, Natasha Stannett and Poppy Watson

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