

“Explorers – Inspiring the Next Generation – Ask an Astronaut”

Kemnay Academy June 2022

60 Pupils and their Teachers from Kemnay Academy had the unique opportunity to hear first-hand experiences of Astronaut Bob Cenker’s Space Shuttle Columbia STS-61-C mission as a Payload Specialist conducting experiments and observing the deployment of the RCA Satcom Ku-1 Satellite. In follow up sessions the pupils (and teachers) were also able to then ask Bob about life in space.

Chris Dunhill, Lead Business & Community Support Officer at Kemnay Academy thanked Colin Black, Carjon-NRG Ltd, SPE Aberdeen SCG Committee Chair & EI AHI Committee member for organising the engagement between their S3 Physics classes and Astronaut Bob Cenker.

Cameron MacKenzie, Principal Teacher of Curriculum and Teacher of Physics, commented, “This has been an incredibly engaging start to our 'Space' topic for our third year Physics pupils and the opportunity for our pupils to put their questions directly to Bob after his presentation has been particularly special - thank you! We believe that splitting the presentation and QA into two separate sessions to allow time in between has enabled our pupils to reflect on Bob's presentation before developing their questions. This was really valuable.

We understand the importance of celebrating and sharing these engagements, so please find a photo attached that shows one of our pupils asking Bob *'How did you feel about looking out the window and seeing the blackness of space'*. This photo can be shared with wider audiences.

Thank you again for this brilliant opportunity, we appreciate your support, and we look forward to next academic year with SPE Aberdeen & EI AHI volunteers and where appropriate, the NASA Team”.

Astronaut, Bob Cenker was impressed by the pupils and teachers’ responses to his presentation and closed with these inspirational words, “Whether you choose a career in Energy or Space, we are all problem solvers and explorers, go Explore”.

