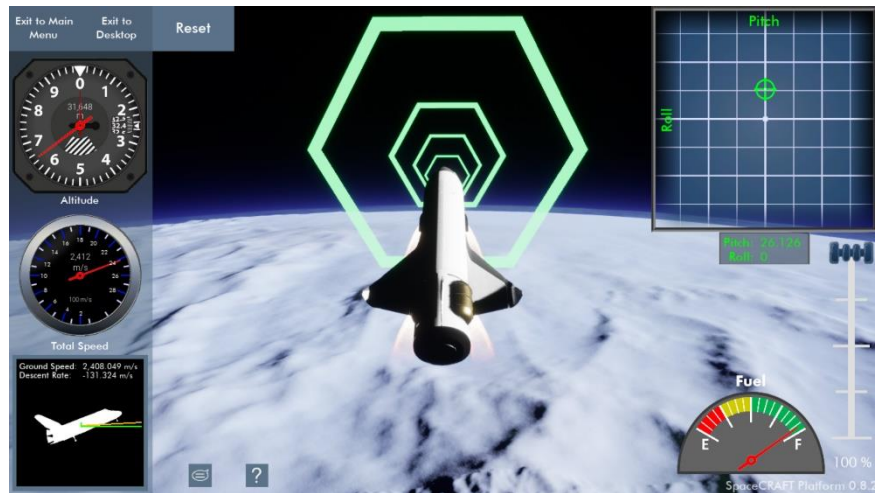


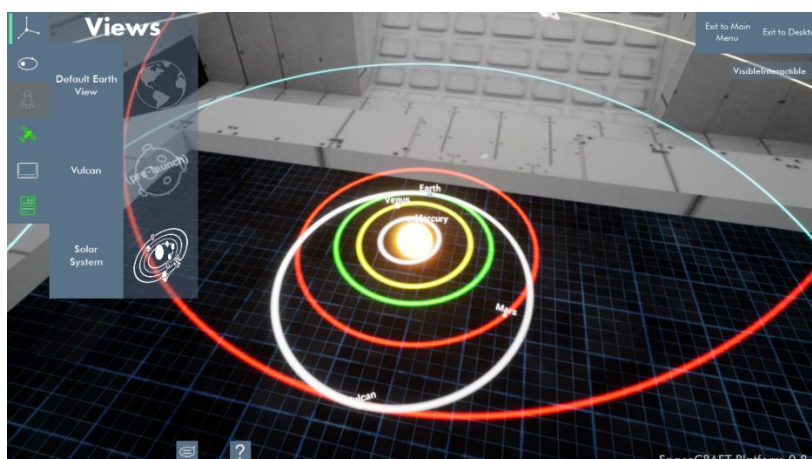


Wiley Park Girls High School gives students a boost as they reach for the stars!

Whilst Term has finished, and most students are enjoying well-earned downtime several students from Wiley Park Girls High School and the local community worked together alongside NASA Astronauts and other space exploration experts in a 6-day international Spacecraft Exploration challenge. Over the course of 6 days, students attended live broadcasts from a panel of experienced space explorers covering a range of topics including spacecraft



design, resource management and survival, orbital mechanics, and spacecraft trajectory, establishing bases on celestial bodies such as asteroids, planets and moons, robotics as well as planetary movement and properties, exoplanets, and other solar systems and what it takes to get involved in the space exploration industry.



There were exciting opportunities to ask questions directly from the experts on all these aspects, all the while attempting their own space exploration mission on a specially designed 3D immersive platform designed by former NASA Astronaut Prof [Gregory Chamitoff](#) and his team. Students designed and built their own virtual spacecraft with considerations such as fuel, food, water, and other resources to survive and explored the

mechanics of leaving earth's orbit to rendezvous with a remote rogue planet moving through our solar system. Once there, the teams were able to utilise the resources they had brought with them to build a habitat and conduct surface operations to gather the needed supplies to establish a viable scientific research base.

Tasfia, a Year 9 student taking part with her team 'The Planeteeers' said, "I was excited to learn more about not just what you need to fly a spacecraft but also all the other considerations to ensure the long-term survival of the crew".

Mr Henstock, Head Teacher Science at Wiley Park Girls High School said "I am very proud of the students who were able to work through the 6-day program logging in and participating in the challenges by working together and supporting each other, especially those who, due to circumstance, working individually. Programs such as this provide opportunities for our students to develop their creative thinking and problem-solving skills whilst gaining real-world exposure and industry insight into an exciting burgeoning field in Australia allowing them to see what could be possible with perseverance, drive, and determination to succeed".



With special thanks to [One Giant Leap Australia Foundation](#) and the [Department of Industry, Science and Resources](#) who provided the opportunity and funding... these opportunities would not be possible without you.

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