

## Year 9 Engineering Dave Kennedy



Our 9.1 Engineering class have been busy this term. Students were divided into teams of four and challenged to build 3D mechanical puzzles.

3D puzzles are great for learning how gear transmission work and how potential energy is created and converted into kinetic energy. The puzzles are very challenging for both adults and children and therefore a great example of engineering for students. They are not just puzzles, they are fantastic pieces of kinetic art.

Xavier Wilson, Riley Williamson, Sam Fairall and Matthew Smit were first to complete their Marble Run Waterwheel Coaster taking just three weeks to finish it.

The 3D puzzles are made from mostly birch wood with cogs and a small amount of metal. The team found it very fun and challenging to make. "The main challenge was to try not to bend or break any of the pieces or lose the wax which makes the marble run smoothly" said Xavier. He said he has made several different puzzles, but highly recommends this particular one.

It is a good challenge for beginners and great fun for anyone with experience of these kinds of puzzles.

