



Year 4 really enjoyed a morning at the Head of Steam museum. We had to get our thinking caps on and use our forensic skills to solve a mystery! The museum had discovered a long-lost suitcase and it was up to Year 4 to find its owner with the help of some forensic science.

We started the day by putting on our lab coats and safety goggles. This made us feel like real scientists! We were challenged to find answers by carrying out three investigations.

We carried out a chromatography experiment (wow). We used water to separate ink and reduce it to its original colours. This helped us to narrow down the potential owners of the suitcase.

We used magnifying glasses to examine insects that had been found in the case. We identified and classified the insects and studied their habitats to see which suspect might have been in contact with them. This limited our potential owners to only a few candidates and so the race was on to find the owner of the suitcase!

Lastly, we examined finger prints to see who had been handling the case. Finally, after this experiment, our minds were made up and we discovered the owner of the case! The children also had the opportunity to examine their own finger prints using ink and magnifying glasses. It was messy but very fun! Did you know everybody has a unique set of finger prints? Also, finger prints can be one of three designs, a loop, an arch or a whorl. We found this fascinating.

Overall, this trip has enlightened us to the world of forensic science and has really motivated and inspired us as young scientists. Some of us would really like to pursue science as a career and this was a small taste of what adult life might be like for us!

