



Two Year 9 Science classes were given a big treat on Tuesday (13 Jun 17) when David Parlane from Otumoetai Optometry came to help with their Cow's Eye Dissection. The students have been studying light and how the eye works. David presented captivating information and great anecdotes from his work and study as an Optometrist. Sharing his knowledge of studying and working with eyes for thirty years, David explained the similarities and differences of cow eyes and human eyes. Some of



the key learning points were how tough the white outside of the eye (Sclera) is, how the pupils work, how the colour in the human iris forms after birth, the lenses, and as you get older that your lenses don't work so well. The students were fascinated by how light enters the cones and rods of the



retina which detect colours and brightness, sending signals to your brain down the optic nerve. Key differences were that cows can see 310 degrees, their eyes work mostly independently, and they see very well at night. This is so they can avoid predators. Humans can see about 180 degrees with the eyes working together, or bifocal, giving depth perception so they can catch their prey. Another key learning point according to several students was that Science teachers might be cool, but Optometrists are way cooler. A great big "Thanks" to David Parlane for giving up his morning to help these 55 Students (and a few slightly less cool Science teachers).

