While a lot of due attention was paid to the recent discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC, it should not be forgotten that discoveries at a hadron collider are not possible without building very solid foundations in terms of understanding the basicphysics processes, which constitute the backgrounds to signals for new particles, and in terms of understanding all aspects of the complex detectors and the measured data. As an example, in this presentation I will highlight the impressive experimental and theoretical progress in the tests of quantum chromodynamics, the theory of strong interactions, which lies at the heart of the physics of proton-proton collisions.