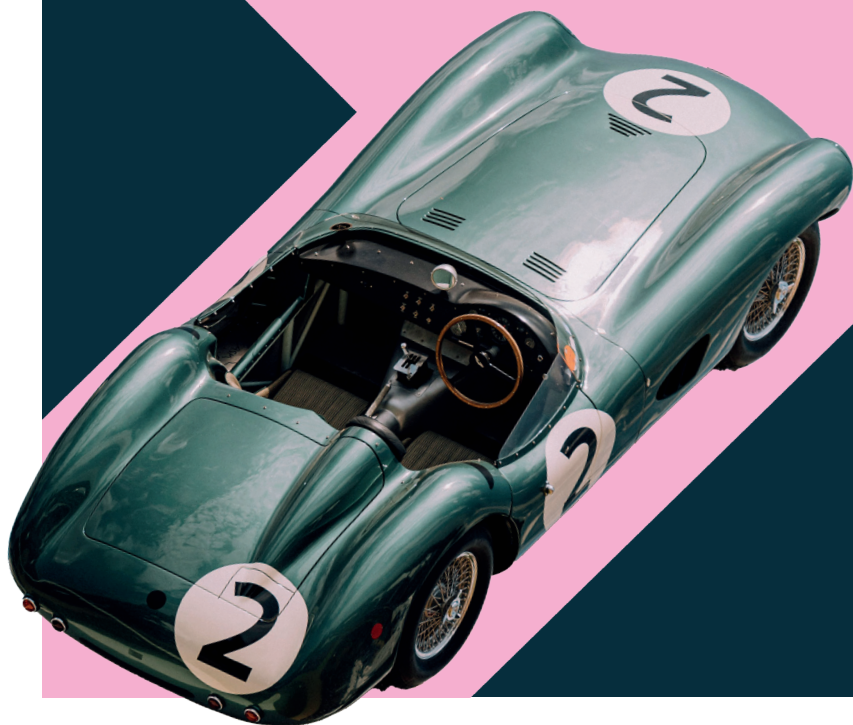


**DESIGN &
TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION**

**EXCELLENCE | 20
AWARDS | 24**



**Celebrating Excellence in
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Welcome



Bill Williams

Chair of the Board of Trustees,
The Design & Technology Association



On behalf of the Design & Technology Association, I warmly welcome you all! It is a great pleasure to celebrate the 24th Excellence Awards here at the British Motor Museum.

A special welcome goes to our esteemed award winners this evening. Each year, our panel of judges carefully evaluates an ever-growing pool of nominations to select our outstanding winners. Your nomination stood out in your category, and for that, congratulations!

As we all know, design and technology faces challenges and opportunities on a national scale. In these times, it is crucial to celebrate the outstanding achievements in our field.

Thank you to everyone who nominated a colleague for this

year's awards. I also extend my gratitude to the award winners for your commitment, dedication, and high standards. Your work highlights the importance of our field and its impact on developing young minds.

I would also like to thank our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their generosity, and a warm welcome to the Blueprint 1000 member organisations. It is heartening to see such prestigious institutions recognising the value of design and technology education.

This event is a tribute to the remarkable efforts of talented professionals in our field. I hope all winners and guests enjoy the evening to the fullest.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Bill Williams.

Order of Ceremony

18:30	Drinks Reception And Access To Museum
19:30	Welcome Tony Ryan And Jeff Coupe
19:40	Starter
20:10	Introduction To Awards Presentation Of Categories
20:30	Main Course
21:00	Presentation Of Categories
21:20	Dessert And Coffee
21:40	Presentation Of Categories
22:00	Keynote Speaker Navjot Sawhney
22:30	Closing Speech Bill Williams

Welcome



Tony Ryan

CEO of the Design &
Technology Association



This event is a joy because it brings award winners, friends, and allies together to celebrate outstanding achievements in design and technology education. With so many challenges in our subject, running an event filled with success and positivity is always one of the year's highlights.

Despite the subject's challenges, our award winners have pushed on and have successfully delivered work of the highest standards seen nationally; congratulations to everyone picking up an award this evening.

A new government always brings new hope and optimism for the future. Those of you who know me will know that I am one of life's optimists, and I firmly believe we are on the verge of a change that will once again see our subject grow and flourish in schools across the

country. The Curriculum Review, led by Professor Becky Francis, provides a once-in-a-decade or more opportunity for the D&T community to reshape its offer to students and their parents; it is one we need to grab with both hands.

But tonight, let's enjoy the surroundings, learn more about the fantastic work being carried out within our schools and celebrate the very best of the subject we love and believe in.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

We're thrilled to recognise these outstanding individuals for their well-deserved success!

The Autodesk Excellence Award for Outstanding Secondary Subject Leadership
Simon Hooker, The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School, Great Broughton, Chester

The Enginuity Excellence Award for Outstanding Primary Subject Leadership
Amanda Crawford, Shiremoor Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne

The James Dyson Foundation Excellence Award for Outstanding D&T Teacher
Jonathan Davies, Uppingham Community College, Rutland, Leicester

The Nook Pods Excellence Award for Inspirational Support Staff within D&T
Brian Reynolds, Simon Langton Boy's Grammar School, Canterbury, Kent

The Institution of Engineering and Technology Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to D&T (Awarded by the D&T Association Board of Trustees)
Barry McGregor, Independent Consultant, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

The Autodesk Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Teacher)
Amanda Moffat, Alderman Peel High School, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk

The OnePlanet Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Industry Partner)
Morgan Gore, Global Education & Outreach Lead, Jaguar Land Rover, Gaydon, Warwick

The Cenata Excellence Award for Outstanding Departmental Team
D&T Department at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, Swindon

The Local Supply Chain Excellence Award for the Bernard Brown Outstanding Pupil: Age 5-11
Iona Nicholson, Wardley Primary School, Wardley, Newcastle upon Tyne

The Royal Academy of Engineering Excellence Award for Outstanding Pupil: Age 12-16
Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram, Henrietta Barnett School, London

The WJEC CBAC Excellence Award for Outstanding Pupil: Age 16-18
Emily Jones, St Mary's College, Crosby, Liverpool



The Autodesk Excellence Award for Outstanding Secondary Subject Leadership

Simon Hooker

The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School,
Great Broughton, Chester

Simon Hooker has served as Head of Design at The Bishops' High School for seven years, where he has been pivotal in transforming the design and technology department and its curriculum. His leadership has crafted a modern, engaging curriculum that guides students through a comprehensive seven-year journey.

In his expanded role as a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE), Simon has extended his expertise to support and guide other departments in need. His passion for D&T led to the establishment of a STEM facility at a local primary school, regular support for staff with GCSEs and OCR Nationals, and consulting on D&T curricula for a multi-academy trust.

Simon's dedication to professional development is evident in his organisation of CPD sessions with a D&T Association consultant, which were featured in D&T Practice Magazine. His initiatives have revitalised the KS3 Curriculum post-Covid, integrating new technologies and innovative teaching methods.

He has also supported Chester University PGCE students, providing immersion days within his department,

allowing future D&T teachers to benefit from hands-on experience. Simon's leadership extended to hosting Health and Safety training for trainee teachers and contributing to various publications.

Simon's promotion of D&T through the Scalextric4Schools competition has engaged industry partners including Hornby, Boxford, and PDS Vision, culminating in a national competition at the Silverstone Museum. His use of social media to share resources and host online events has connected and supported over 1,200 teachers.

Simon's unwavering commitment to D&T education, even through personal health challenges, exemplifies his extraordinary passion and leadership in the field.





The Enginuity Excellence Award for Outstanding Primary Subject Leadership

Amanda Crawford

Shiremoor Primary School,
Newcastle upon Tyne

Amanda Crawford, who took over the design and technology department three years ago, has transformed it into a key part of the school's curriculum. Her efforts have led to a dynamic and engaging programme for students.

Amanda has worked with the Design & Technology Association and secondary schools to enhance her skills and provide staff training. She offers weekly support to teachers and regularly gathers feedback to refine the curriculum.

Recognising staff's initial lack of confidence, Amanda developed a tailored scheme of work and training videos to help teachers build the necessary skills. She conducts annual audits of resources and staff confidence to ensure effective teaching.

Amanda has also integrated D&T with other subjects, linking maths to the extensive cookery programme she introduced, which sees all year groups cooking each term. This includes outdoor cookery, promoting scientific understanding and well-being.

Her after-school Cookery Club is popular, and she provides students with D&T kits for family projects, with sewing being particularly well-received. Under her leadership, hands-on projects like the Goblin car programme and the Year 6 mini-enterprise initiative

have flourished, with students using tools such as 3D printers and Cricut machines. Amanda also collaborates with local secondary schools to connect D&T to career opportunities.

The improvements in the D&T curriculum from nursery to Year 6 have made a significant impact. Students are enthusiastic about their learning, and governors are impressed by the strong foundation Amanda has established for their future education.





The James Dyson Foundation Excellence Award for Outstanding D&T Teacher

Jonathan Davies

Uppingham Community College,
Rutland, Leicester

Jonathan Davies has transformed the design and technology department at Uppingham Community College with his unparalleled dedication and innovative teaching methods. His leadership has set a benchmark, with Ofsted praising his department as a model for others.

Jonathan's dynamic and hands-on approach to teaching D&T across years 7-11 ensures that students are deeply engaged and inspired. His classrooms are alive with energy, featuring emerging technologies and interactive demonstrations that captivate students. His philosophy encourages creativity, teaching students that design is a personal and evolving process, which fosters a supportive and innovative learning environment.

Over his 25 years of teaching, Jonathan has consistently adapted his methods to cater to all abilities, including SEN students. His one-on-one support and tailored materials have made D&T accessible and enjoyable for everyone, including Ukrainian students who have recently joined the school. He has established a safe, inclusive, and stimulating workshop environment that students eagerly return to, even during lunch and after school.

Jonathan's efforts during the pandemic were exceptional. He provided comprehensive online learning resources, maintaining a 97% pass rate

despite the challenges. His commitment ensured that students remained motivated and successful, showcasing his ability to adapt and excel under any circumstances.

His influence extends beyond the classroom. Jonathan organises design trips, nominates students for awards, and maintains strong connections with former students, many of whom continue their D&T studies in higher education. His impact is reflected in the high demand for his classes and the waiting list for D&T GCSE enrolment.

Jonathan's colleagues and students consistently recognise him as an inspirational figure. His ability to engage and excite even the most reluctant learners, combined with his innovative and caring approach, makes him a deserving recipient of this award. Jonathan Davies truly exemplifies excellence in design and technology education.





The Nook Pods Excellence Award for Inspirational Support Staff within D&T

Brian Reynolds

Simon Langton Boy's Grammar
School, Canterbury, Kent

Brian Reynolds has had a profound impact on the Design and technology (D&T) Department at Simon Langton Boys' Grammar School. His exceptional organisation and dedication have transformed the department into a model of efficiency and creativity.

Brian's meticulous attention to detail ensures that all tools, equipment, and materials are perfectly organised and readily available, significantly enhancing the learning environment. His commitment extends beyond his job description, as he supports both staff and students with unwavering dedication.

Under the leadership of Daniel Pledger, the Head of Department, Brian's contributions have elevated the department from good to outstanding. His support has heavily contributed to an Outstanding Ofsted report and to some of the highest grades and largest subject uptake at both GCSE and A-Level. Brian's exceptional one-to-one support has been instrumental in helping all students, particularly those with special education needs, achieve high outcomes.

Brian's involvement in extra-curricular projects, such as F1 in Schools and the Engineering Education Scheme, has further enriched the students' educational experience. His willingness to give extra time, including evenings

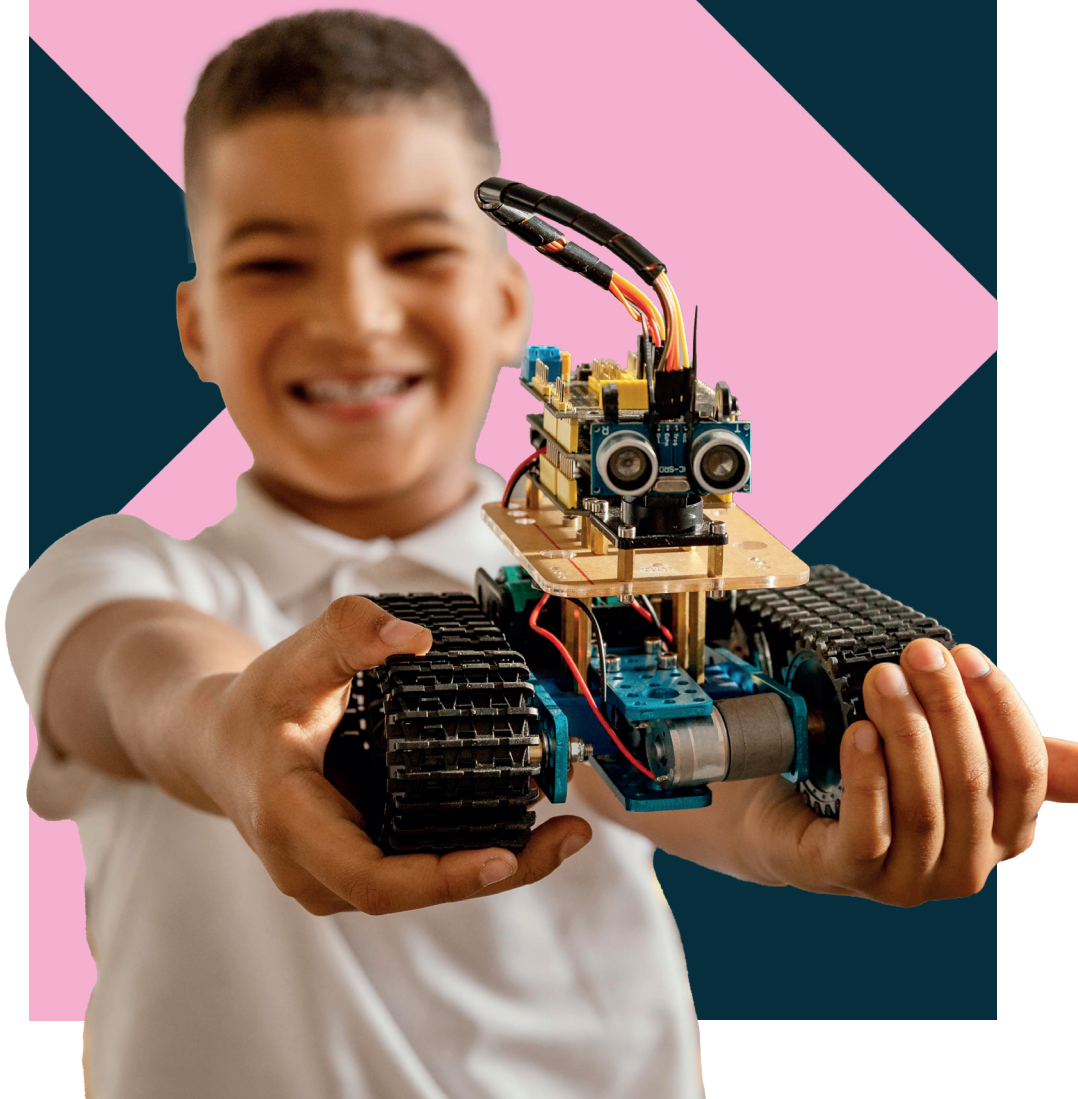
and weekends, ensures that students meet their deadlines and excel in their projects.

Brian's military background provides him with the drive and discipline to manage multiple projects while maintaining a safe and productive workshop environment. His quick thinking and industry-level support make him an invaluable asset to the department. He is not only a skilled technician but also a creative project initiator and a constant source of support for both teachers and students.

Brian Reynolds' extraordinary commitment and outstanding performance truly deserve recognition. His contributions have made a lasting impact on the D&T Department, creating an inspiring and efficient environment for all.



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The Institution of Engineering and Technology Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to D&T (Awarded by the D&T Association Board of Trustees)

Barry McGregor

Independent Consultant,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

Barry McGregor has made a remarkable impact on the field of Design and Technology (D&T) since 1996, particularly through his involvement with the CAD in Schools Initiative. Attending the first CAD/CAM in Schools conference at Warwick University in 2001, Barry was at the forefront of integrating ProDESKTOP software into schools worldwide.

As one of the first accredited trainers, Barry established his school, Walbottle Campus in Newcastle upon Tyne, as a CAD/CAM Support Centre for North East England. Under his guidance, the centre became highly successful, leading to the launch of the North East CAD/CAM Conferences, which ran for five years and featured workshops showcasing the impact of CAD/CAM in classrooms.

Barry's dedication extended to presenting at national conferences, including the D&T Association Conference in Reading in 2002, where he shared his expertise on managing and planning CAD/CAM activities. His contributions also led to involvement in the Tyneside-based Knowledge Campus project, aimed at creating a European Centre for Excellence for Rapid Product Development.

Despite challenges, Barry continued to drive innovation, participating in an Autodesk pilot project in 2005 that

introduced advanced CAD software to schools in the North East. His efforts in promoting CAD technology were further highlighted by Starchaser Industries' visit to Walbottle Campus as part of their nationwide roadshow.

As a machining centre for the F1 in Schools Project, Barry's school provided training and resources to help students design and produce F1 racing cars, utilising the ProDesktop software. His long-standing involvement with the D&T Association includes serving as a curriculum and health and safety consultant, reflecting his commitment to advancing D&T education.

Barry McGregor's dedication to integrating CAD/CAM into education has significantly advanced the D&T field, benefiting both students and teachers. His efforts have ensured that students achieve their best, and his work continues to inspire and transform the subject.





The Autodesk Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Teacher)

Amanda Moffat

Alderman Peel High School,
Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk

At Alderman Peel High School, Amanda Moffat has transformed the design and technology curriculum, addressing the local shortage of designers and engineers, particularly in North Norfolk's renewable energy sector. The school's motto, "*Ambition, Pride, Happiness, and Success*" reflects Amanda's vibrant and ambitious approach.

She has introduced extensive D&T and STEM opportunities through partnerships with businesses, industry providers, schools, and community groups. Students have participated in competitions, winning awards, and Amanda has organised numerous workshops, trips, and after-school clubs.

Amanda's collaboration with local employers, D&T teachers, and STEM organisations highlights her energy and vision. She worked with Ginger Whippet Films on a promotional video for Equinor and supported projects like Little Gillies Nursery. She also partnered with the Art Department to showcase student work at local galleries, such as the RNLI exhibition.

Her influence extends beyond the school, sharing her expertise through CPD sessions and partnerships with organisations like STEM Learning. Amanda has secured over £30,000 in grants and sponsorships for projects

like electric car kits and a primary STEM Club.

Her efforts have significantly increased student interest in D&T and STEM, leading to more students pursuing apprenticeships and college courses. Amanda's innovative curriculum, supported by local employers, has had a lasting impact on students, the school, and the community.





The OnePlanet Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Industry Partner)

Morgan Gore

Global Education & Outreach Lead,
Jaguar Land Rover, Gaydon, Warwick

Morgan Gore has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to enhancing learners' understanding of early career opportunities and supporting their goals.

In July 2023, Morgan organised for Year 10 students to attend the final free practice race of the Formula E season as VIP guests of the Jaguar TCS Racing Team. In October 2023, she invited KS4 and KS5 learners to the JLR HQ for the pre-season launch event of the new Formula E car at the JLR Design Studios in Gaydon. Learners had the chance to meet engineers, drivers Mitch Evans and Nick Cassidy, and team principal James Barclay.

In November 2023, Morgan worked with her colleagues from JLR's additive manufacturing and design team to support BTEC Engineering learners. They provided valuable feedback on students' designs, fostering true industry engagement.

During National Apprenticeship Week in February 2024, Morgan arranged for JLR's early careers team to visit both Coventry and Solihull academies. The team, including alumni now working at JLR, advised KS4 and KS5 students on cover letters, CVs, and interview techniques.

In March 2024, Morgan hosted JLR's first International Women's Day Conference at the National Automotive Innovation Centre, celebrating women in STEM careers. Inspiring stories from JLR apprentices left female learners energised and eager to pursue engineering careers.

In May 2024, Morgan organised a unique opportunity for three Year 12 learners to work with a film director and crew on a JLR sustainability video. They also discussed the circular economy with a leading JLR engineer and explored future careers with JLR graduates.

Morgan Gore's upcoming events with the JLR powertrain and Jaguar TCS Formula E teams offer valuable opportunities for students. Her passion for inspiring future engineers is exceptional, deserving national recognition.





The Cenata Excellence Award for Outstanding Departmental Team

D&T Department at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy

Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon

The design and technology department at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy exemplifies innovation, creativity, and excellence across multiple disciplines. The department's success is largely due to a diverse team with real-world experience in communications technology, industrial engineering, product design, theatre set design, and digital art design. Despite facing significant challenges, including frequent staffing changes and broader educational recruitment issues, the team has demonstrated remarkable resilience and dedication.

Over the past three years, the department has navigated long-term absences and increased workload, striving to maintain high standards. The period from January to June 2024 has marked the longest stable phase, underscoring the team's commitment to student success. The department's adaptability and continuous improvement approach are key to its achievements. Team members also engage with exam boards, enhancing their expertise and ensuring that student projects remain relevant and up-to-date.

Offering four GCSE options—Engineering, Food and Nutrition, Graphic Communication, and 3D Design—the department attracts over 64% of Year 10 students and more than 50% of the Year 11 cohort to design

and technology subjects. A structured curriculum introduces students to various material areas in Years 7 and 8, with pre-GCSE projects in Year 9 to build complexity. This approach has significantly improved student outcomes, notably achieving 100% pass rates in Engineering.

The department also emphasises extra-curricular opportunities and community engagement, including workshops, industry trips, and partnerships with local businesses. These initiatives enhance the curriculum and offer real-world applications. Key Stage 5 outcomes are exceptional, with many students advancing to degree apprenticeships and industry roles. The department's dedication ensures a top-tier educational experience, fostering creativity and innovation among students.



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The Local Supply Chain Excellence Award for the Bernard Brown Outstanding Pupil: Age 5-11

Iona Nicholson

Wardley Primary School, Wardley,
Newcastle upon Tyne

Iona has had an outstanding year in Design and Technology, marked by significant achievements and personal growth. As a key member of the VEX Robotics Team, she contributed to winning regional, national, and world awards. Her roles included coding, maintaining the Engineering Notebook, and driving the robot under competitive pressure.

Iona showcased her enthusiasm and expertise at the NEAA Expo in September 2024, where she helped staff the Wardley Robotics stand. She engaged with the public and industry representatives, demonstrating a simple robot and a partially built prototype.

Throughout the year, Iona consistently attended the Robotics Club, dedicating her Fridays from 3:20 to 5:00 PM to building and refining the robot. She also invested her breaktimes and lunchtimes to enhance her driving skills, which greatly contributed to her performance in competitions.

Her awards include:

- **VEX Robotics UK National Championships:** National Teamwork Champions, Impact Award, and Robot Skills Runners-up Award.
- **VEX Robotics World Championships, Dallas:** Judges Award for overall accomplishments.

In addition, Iona attended the VEX Robotics World Championships, in Dallas with the team winning a Judges Award in recognition of the accomplishments over the season. She also participated in the VEX Virtual Robot Coding event, with her team's score ranking in the top 80 globally.

Her dedication, enthusiasm, and resilience throughout the season have been exceptional, leading her team to achieve the highest standards. For her remarkable contributions and commitment, Iona truly deserves this recognition.

- **County Durham VEX Competition:** Teamwork Champions, Design Award, and Robot Skills Award.
- **North East Regional Award (Newcastle University):** Teamwork Champions and Impact Award.





The Royal Academy of Engineering Excellence Award for Outstanding Pupil: Age 12-16

Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram

Henrietta Barnett School,
North West London

Keerthana has made an exceptional impact on the VEX Robotics Club at Henrietta Barnett School. As a dedicated Year 10 student, she has been with the club since Year 8 and is a key role model for younger members. Known for her calm, sensible approach, Keerthana consistently addresses problems and supports her team with poise and intellect.

Her commitment extends beyond the club; she regularly attends the D&T studio during lunchtimes and after school, working diligently on the robot, engineering notebook, and coding. Her team, 'Spark', has been notably cohesive, largely due to Keerthana's positive attitude and mature approach. Their success includes winning the prestigious Excellence Award at the VEX Nationals in 2022, a testament to Keerthana's excellence in both engineering and presentation.

Keerthana has also played a crucial role in mentoring Year 8 students, significantly improving their engineering notebooks and coding skills. Her support has been instrumental in their success, as noted by judges who praised the high quality of their documentation.

Innovative and resourceful, Keerthana prefers to create original solutions rather than imitating others. Her unique approach to robot design

demonstrates her problem-solving skills and resilience, often leading her team through challenging situations.

In addition to her VEX achievements, Keerthana excels in her D&T coursework, showing proficiency in workshop skills and a high level of achievement in her year 10 for NEA. Her ability to balance these commitments with a positive and confident attitude highlights her as a standout student.

Keerthana's dedication and exceptional skills in both VEX Robotics and design and technology make her a deserving winner of this award.





The WJEC CBAC Excellence Award for Outstanding Pupil: Age 16-18

Emily Jones

St Mary's College, Crosby,
Liverpool

Emily Jones has excelled in A-Level Product Design since September 2022, demonstrating a remarkable work ethic and passion for solving design challenges. Her projects consistently push the boundaries of modern design while enhancing people's lives, a principle rooted in her GCSE work, which focused on helping others.

Emily also completed an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on architecture, specifically Brutalist design. Her research examined the impact of this style on tenants' mental health and the balance between form and function in design. Emily approached this project with a sense of responsibility, aiming to improve design for the greater good.

For her A-Level NEA project, Emily tackled disaster aid relief. She engaged with a real-world client to explore existing aid solutions and developed a fully functional product addressing this need. Her diligent research and commitment to creating a practical solution underscore her dedication to impactful design.

As a STEM ambassador at the College, Emily has inspired numerous students from GCSE to A-Level. She has volunteered at open events and supported the D&T department by:

- Guiding lower 6th pupils in applying mathematical concepts to design and technology.
- Assisting a physics group with CAD software and 3D printing for a national rocket competition.
- Tutoring GCSE pupils in science subjects.

Notably, Emily created a beautifully designed crib for the Nativity display at the College, blending modern and traditional elements. Her achievements have been widely recognised, especially for raising the profile of female students in STEM and inspiring future generations in design and technology.



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