

PRESS RELEASE

November 2011

PUPILS HARNESS WIND POWER

Independent educational charity, The Smallpeice Trust has joined forces with National Grid, the UK's largest utility company, to give 500 students the opportunity to participate in free Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) days in secondary schools.

Claremont High School students put their design, technology, engineering and maths talents to the test in a unique one-day Wind Turbine challenge. The 14 and 15 year old students had to design and construct a wind turbine to produce the greatest amount of electricity. The turbine had to be free-standing and structurally robust to support heavy components and moving parts. The training day was designed to enhance their understanding of engineering with the winning teams being judged on aesthetics, cost, power generated, team-working and stability.

A select number of outstanding individuals from the STEM Day received a free place on one of two National Grid Work Experience Weeks run together with The Smallpeice Trust where the students will get to explore the energy world of generation, transmission and distribution through a jam-packed timetable of interactive workshops, demonstrations and fun activities.

The school's STEM Coordinator, Tina Patel said "We were delighted to have experienced this refreshing opportunity. It will encourage our pupils to connect the taught elements of maths, science, design and technology to what happens in engineering in the real world. By taking part in this STEM day, we are hoping to put the spark back into these subjects and demonstrate to pupils that they are worthwhile and fun."

Head of Marketing and Development, Gemma Murphy commented: "Congratulations to the pupils who have been involved in the STEM day. Their lateral thinking and problem solving skills



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were really put to the test as they tackled the tasks in hand. We hope these students will now be inspired to consider engineering when looking to choose future study options.”

National Grid’s Education & Skills Manager, Richard Earp, added: “There is a tremendous opportunity open to today’s young people in science and engineering. The move toward low-carbon energy and a more sustainable way of living will require engineering investment and technological change. Most of this will be high-skill work though, so it’s vital that young people are enthused about science and engineering and go on to obtain the skills and qualifications that will be needed. We are delighted to work with The Smallpeice Trust to help explain this to school students and bring a new dimension to their science and maths learning”.

STEM Days form part of a highly respected and professionally executed programme of tiered schemes offered by The Smallpeice Trust to young people aged 10 to 18. Through running over 30 residential courses and STEM enrichment session, The Trust has reached out to 17,677 students across the UK in the past year. The Trust also provides Teacher Training Days to enhance the delivery of STEM in the classroom.

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Notes to editors

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About The Smallpeice Trust

The Smallpeice Trust is an independent charitable trust which promotes engineering as a career, primarily through the provision of residential courses for young people aged 13 to 18.

The Smallpeice Trust was founded in 1966 by Dr Cosby Smallpeice, a pioneering engineer and inventor of the Smallpeice Lathe. Following the stock market flotation of his company Martonair, Dr Smallpeice invested his energy and part of his personal fortune to set up the Trust to ensure that British industry could continuously benefit from his proven design and engineering philosophies: “Simplicity in design, economy in production.”



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The Trust is now governed by an eminent board of non-executive trustees and members from a diverse range of engineering, industry, educational and professional bodies.

In 2009/10, The Smallpeice Trust ran 30 residential courses for 1,700 school-aged students at universities across the country, with girls accounting for 38%. In addition, 15,977 students attended a Smallpeice in-school STEM masterclass.

A strong interface is maintained with industry, education and professional bodies that help to support, promote and develop the courses

For more information about The Smallpeice Trust and the training they provide, please visit

www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk

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