



## **PUPILS FULL OF ENERGY**

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July, ten students from Dowdales School, enjoyed a unique learning experience at Lancaster University. The students attended the course as a reward for their performance in a series of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) days carried out by The Smallpeice Trust earlier this year.

The group of 13 and 14 year old students spent four days on campus as they learnt about engineering through a series of presentations and practical 'design and make' workshops. Working in teams, they spent two days of the course tackling 'real-life' challenges on projects designed and facilitated by young engineers from BAE Systems, BMW and from academics at Lancaster University's Engineering Department. The projects included designing and building a car that will be tested for its speed and ability to climb an incline whilst carrying a load, a mini-submarine and a scrap heap challenge go-kart.

As well as working on the design, build and test elements of these projects, the 60 students developed life skills such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, time management, finance and presentation. Social activities included a sports contest, film evening and a formal dinner and disco.

Gemma Murphy, Head of Marketing and Development for The Smallpeice Trust commented, "Many of these students may never have been able to experience university life and get a worthwhile insight into the fascinating world of engineering. We seek to encourage more young people to do great things using engineering and help turn creative ideas to reality. All credit to the students on the course as they all embraced the opportunity and showed great commitment and enthusiasm to their projects and the course as a whole."

Brian Wood, Co-ordinator of the Barrow Engineering Project, was also very enthusiastic about the benefits to the young people. "A key focus of the project is to give our students hands-on engineering experiences and to open their eyes to the rich and varied progression routes available to them in the world of engineering and to local career opportunities. They have all learned a tremendous amount and really enjoyed every minute of their stay at the university."

The engineering course at Lancaster University is part of the Barrow Engineering Project which is sponsored by Aimhigher Cumbria, Barrow Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, the Royal Academy of Engineering and West Lakes Renaissance. The project aims to attract more young people into engineering and promote future careers in this sector and will involve 6 secondary schools and 2 colleges in the local area over a projected 5 year period.

The four day engineering experience is run by the independent educational charity, The Smallpeice Trust, as part of an ongoing programme of residential courses to help young people aged 13 to 18 learn and develop skills in engineering, design, technology and manufacturing. Through running 32 residential courses and STEM enrichment sessions, The Trust has reached out to around 16,000 students across the UK in the past year.

The new course timetable for 2010 will be launched in September. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. To find out more, visit [www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk), or telephone The Smallpeice Trust on 01926 333200.

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### **Notes to editors**

**Word count: 527**

#### **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.”

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.

Over the past year, The Smallpeice Trust has reached out to around 16,000 young people through 32 different subsidised 4-day residential courses and 1-day in-school curriculum enrichment masterclasses.

A strong interface is maintained with industry, education and professional bodies that help to support, promote and develop the courses. Through these relationships the Trust is also able to provide a number of tailored or specialised courses.

All courses are affiliated to the Royal Academy of Engineering *Best* Programme and are approved by the Learning Grid quality standard which provides independent assurance that a particular activity will be fit for its stated purpose and offers a benchmark that the activity meets the needs of industry, teachers and individual participants.

For more information about The Smallpeice Trust, visit [www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk)

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