



MEDIA RELEASE FINAL

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LEADERS OF TOMORROW ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS OF LORD DRAYSON, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION AND SIR ANTHONY CLEAVER OF THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD

Eighteen boys and girls from across the country have interviewed Lord Drayson, Minister for Science and Innovation and Sir Anthony Cleaver, Chairman of the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB). The pupils were given the opportunity to grill Lord Drayson and Sir Anthony as part of The Primary, Secondary and Advanced Leaders Award for STEM. The award challenges pupils to interview scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians including Lord Drayson, Sir Anthony Cleaver and Daniel Jubb of Falcon Rockets; rocket scientist for Britain's 1,000 mph world land speed record car BLOODHOUND SSC. The pupils were then tasked with writing up their stories in true journalistic style for the www.leadersaward.com website, which launches in July.

The 10-14 year olds from Darwen Vale High School Engineering College, and Witton Park High School Business, Enterprise and Science College in Blackburn, Ribby with Wrea Primary School near Preston and Wilmington Grammar School for Boys in Kent, entered the 'Primary, Secondary and Advanced Leaders Award for STEM' created by Primary Engineer to encourage young science, technology, engineering and mathematical ambassadors in schools and to engage with professionals to understand their careers.

The aim of the challenge was to help pupils gather an understanding of what inspired and drove someone through an exceptionally diverse and high powered career.

Interviewing Sir Anthony Cleaver at the ETB, the pupils asked: 'What is the most important area of engineering?'; 'How can engineering help save the world?'; 'What is your favourite car?' And 'Who most inspires you?'

Interviewing Lord Drayson the pupils asked: 'What was your role at the Ministry of Defence?'; 'What was your most inspirational moment?', and even 'How did you nearly break a production line in a car factory?'

Daniel Jubb's interview with Marcus Tomlinson, a seven year old rocket enthusiast from North Yorkshire was professionally recorded for viewing on the www.leadersaward.com website in July.

All eighteen students and their peers will be invited to attend The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair, at Manchester Central in March 2010.

Lord Drayson said:

“The pupils who interviewed me were really clued up about science and engineering and had a natural passion and talent for it.

“I look forward to working more closely with organisations like Primary Engineer, the ETB, and all those that offer children and young adults the chance to see how exciting science and engineering is in practice.”

Sir Anthony Cleaver said:

“The young people involved in this project are not only excellent engineers, but fantastic journalists as well. I was particularly impressed with the wide range of questions they asked, as well as their overall engagement and enthusiasm for science and engineering. I can’t wait to read their articles. If these are the scientists and engineers of tomorrow, then the future is in safe hands.”

For more information, and to read the finished articles, visit:

www.leadersaward.com

For more information on The Big Bang, visit:

www.thebigbangfair.co.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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PRIMARY ENGINEER

Primary Engineer has been working nationally with primary and secondary schools to develop the skills knowledge understanding and enjoyment of engineering with primary pupils and teachers. The practical application of Science, Maths and ICT to Design Technology activities has been developed through sequential courses for teachers and comprehensive resources to support the classroom delivery of thematic projects. www.primaryengineer.com

Primary Engineer incorporates Secondary Engineer, The Leaders Award, Primary and Secondary BLOODHOUND SSC.

The Primary and Secondary Advanced Leaders Award for STEM is open to students from 5 – 19yrs – letters of application for the award are to be accompanied by an interview with a scientist, technologist, engineer, mathematician for more information about the schemes visit www.primaryengineer.com or www.leadersaward.com

THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD (ETB)

The ETB is an independent organisation that promotes the vital role of engineers, engineering and technology in our society. The ETB partners business and industry, government and the wider science and engineering community: producing evidence on the state of engineering, sharing knowledge within engineering and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering, matching employers' demand for skills. For more information about the ETB please visit www.eteachb.co.uk.

BLOODHOUND SSC

The BLOODHOUND Project is Britain's latest attempt on the World Land Speed Record, with a car capable of 1,000 mph. Our Mission? To inspire future generations to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics by showcasing these subjects in the most exciting way possible.

Richard Noble (project director) and Andy Green (driver) head the team for this exciting endeavour. These two trailblazers set the current record (763 mph) in 1997 with their car Thrust SSC and will attempt to beat their record with BLOODHOUND SSC (Super Sonic Car) in 2010 and then 2011.

Find out more at www.bloodhoundssc.com