



22.03.2017

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Please see the letter below from the engineering department at the University of Southampton. If your child would like to enter this competition we would be happy to send the entry off for you. I'm sorry for the very late notice but we would prefer for any pupils who are interested to have a go rather than miss out. This is not compulsory homework and there is no expectation that people enter the competition if they do not want to! We hope to have a tame engineer in school next week for the pupils to chat to about their ideas.

The Primary/Secondary Engineer Leaders Award is open to all school pupils from aged 5 to 19 and, to participate, we ask them to answer the question;

"If you were an engineer in the South of England what would you do?"

They achieve this by identifying a problem and devising a solution to that problem – the problem they identify can be absolutely anything – getting out of bed in the morning, climate change, their homework, aspects of disability – whatever they perceive as a problem. Their solutions need not rely on current technologies – if an invention is feasibly possible at some point in the future (in the opinion of the engineer judges) then it is valid. But, of course, we do receive inventions from pupils that have a magical element and, whilst we love them all, these will not normally achieve the higher grades that could lead to trophies or display.

Once the children have devised their solution, we ask that they illustrate the invention and write a letter pitching their work – what problem the invention solves, how it works, who benefits, etc. – plus adding some details about themselves (perhaps their involvement in other STEM projects?) and a little about the engineer they interviewed, but all in a formal letter format. There is also a Pupil Entry Form for them to fill-in which serves as an identifier for the completed submission.

The deadline for entries is **29th March, 2017**. Every participating pupil who sends an entry receives a certificate. At least 2 entries per year group will be shortlisted to win a trophy and 2 inventions per year group from across all participating schools will be selected as trophy winners plus a minimum of 2 entries per school will be on display at a public exhibition.

Pupils 8 years of age or below have no minimum word count requirement, they would write as much as they are able; Primary school pupils of 9 years old or over a minimum of 100 words and Secondary school pupils a minimum of 350 words.

The Awards Event will be held at The University of Southampton on 15th June 2017, followed by a public exhibition on 16th +17th June 2017. If you take a look at the website it will provide you with information on the programs we offer and the resources available :<https://universeofengineering.com/resources>)

If you have any issues or questions, I am happy to help.

Kind Regards

Elizabeth Radcliffe

Administrator

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