



York pupils' technology skills challenged

York district secondary school pupils are being challenged to show their design, practical engineering and construction skills in a Technology Tournament jointly organised by York city's three Rotary Clubs. In 2019 the event is being held on Tuesday, February 19 (9.00am until 3.15pm) and entries from schools are presently being accepted. Entrance to the event is limited to pupils, staff, judges and organisers.

Rotary in York consists of: York Rotary Club, Rotary York Ainsty and York Vikings Rotary Club.

Technology tournaments such as this one are run by Rotary clubs throughout the UK and are formulated to test students' design and technology skills engaged as a team. They work in teams of four in three age sectors: foundation, intermediate and advanced.

Bringing their own tools, which they would use in their normal school technology lessons, they are given a brief on the day to design and build a 'construction' in a set time (usually four hours) and, after this, demonstrate the workings of the item to the judges.

Marks are awarded on the success of their 'construction' and also on a 'script' which they compile during the project detailing how they approached the task, the design and how they built it. Certificates are awarded to the top teams in each age sector. VIPs from Rotary, schools and the York City Civic Party are due to attend.

Thanks to the generosity of Portakabin, the York area tournament is held at its International head office in Huntington. The event requires no prior preparation by school staff or students and is free to enter. All materials and running costs are borne by York's three Rotary Clubs.

For more details e-mail the York Rotary Technology Tournament at tinfo@yorkrotary.co.uk

So far, teams have registered to take part in the tournament, representing:

- All Saints RC School,
- Archbishop Holgate,
- The Mount School,
- Millthorpe School.

The importance of this competition in the curriculum is empathised by the following comments from Brenda Anglim head of design and technology at Ampleforth Collage. Unfortunately, Ampleforth can not take part this year due to a clash of half-term breaks.

"All the students really enjoyed our first attempt at the competition last year and we have since changed our KS3 and GCSE schemes of work to suit both the tournament but also the new GCSE format. Rotary really has identified an excellent format for testing the STEM capability of students and we are very sorry not to be able to take part this year."

Further details and an application form can be found on the York City Rotary Club web site (web address: <http://www.yorkrotary.co.uk/technology-tournament/4589151258>) and schools are encouraged to enter ASAP or contact Trevor Woodward, York Rotary Technology Tournament chair - tinfo@yorkrotary.co.uk