

# Rolls-Royce Schools Prize for SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**2019/2020  
WINNERS**

**PARKSIDE SCHOOL  
BRADFORD**



### **What made you enter the Rolls-Royce Schools Prize for Science and Technology?**

The decision was made to enter the Rolls-Royce Schools Prize because it was such an amazing opportunity and we wanted to grab it with both hands. The objectives of the Schools Prize match the values of Parkside School in many ways and we thought it was a great way to showcase our STEM interests and push these further.

### **What were your commitments and expectations as a Finalist?**

Being a finalist was a real honour and it was good to be accountable for our project over the two years. We were sent a video camera which used to record video diary entries or clips from our journey. We also needed to submit monthly diary entries and keep track of our expenditure over the course of the project. Working together as a team was vital to the success of our project and making sure that not everything was put onto one member and the work was shared out equally - this was something we did with ease as it is our natural way of working at Parkside and really allowed for us to be successful.

### **What was your project journey like?**

Our project had humble beginnings as a 3D printing club for students but became so much bigger - once the ball got rolling it was amazing how big it actually became and how many new links we made. Our initial thoughts about running a small competition ended up morphing into a Science and Technology-wide action plan enabling all students who come through our doors to be able to understand and connect with the new and emerging technology we were working with. The lasting impact of our project is huge, with students who have now taken subjects like Design and Technology or Engineering when they previously wouldn't have considered it - and students who retain their keen interest in the subject areas even after leaving school.

### **What support did you receive from your Rolls-Royce Mentor?**

We were lucky enough to be provided with outstanding mentor support from Neil Chattle. We had monthly calls to discuss any project updates and it was good not only to be able to catch up about the project but also to be able to bounce ideas off him. Neil came into our school to meet with our students and gave inspirational talks not only to students directly involved with the "Skills for the Future" project but also to aspiring engineers, looking to have a career in the field. It was great for the students to be able to meet him and ask him questions about his life and his career journey.

### **What were the key benefits?**

Without the initial investment and interest from Rolls-Royce, we would've never been able to do what we have done with our students. We benefitted hugely just from knowing that an external agency was invested in our project and believed in what we were doing. Sometimes it was hard to find a solution to a problem (especially the number of problems we encountered during the pandemic etc.) but it helped to know that somebody was there to support and guide throughout. Being associated with Rolls-Royce was also what led CREATE Education to approach us and now we are part of the CREATE Education hub - able to make links with other local schools and really drive forward the passion, skills and knowledge of our teachers and learners using this support.

### **How was the creation of the video and evaluation report?**

Writing the evaluation of our project was something I really enjoyed doing because it allowed me to really understand quite how far our project had come and understand what had gone well and the things we needed to continue with. I did find it difficult to keep videoing progress during the project - and wish I had captured much more on film than I managed to in the end.

### **Did you attend the awards ceremony?**

Unfortunately we did not get to attend the final awards ceremony in London for the year we were Finalists - however, we had attended the previous year as an introduction to the prize and to understand the journeys of the previous winners. It is a fantastic event which allows lots of connections to be made between Rolls-Royce, schools and industries and something I am really proud to have attended in the past. It would've been fantastic to have been able to share in an awards ceremony for our year but sadly, it was not to be! Our awards ceremony took place virtually - the benefit of which was that a number of our students could attend and view from our school theatre - hearing that we'd won was such a brilliant moment and one I will not forget.

### **What does winning mean for your school and students?**

Being a winner of the Rolls-Royce Schools Prize for Science and Technology has been marvellous. The lasting impact the funding and connections with Rolls-Royce will have on our school will be felt for years to come, and I am really pleased to be in the position of calling ourselves winners. The students and staff at Parkside are really proud of what we have achieved over such a short space of time and we are all really looking forward to seeing where it will take us in the future.

**Lorna Windle - Parkside School, Bradford**

