

During the Easter Half Term I visited Askham Byran College, York for an experience into Engineering. Overall there were 100 Students aged 13-14 (Year 9) from around the Country stretching from South-West London to The Netherlands. On the first day we met our teams and got to know each other. The teams were split up into 5 students and a Smallpeice trust supervisors. Our first challenge was to build a car which was fast and Aesthetically good looking. We had 6 hours to Design Build and test our design. On this Challenge most teams did well with a few exceptions overall the challenge was enjoyable and a good way to start off the course.

But, this wasn't our main challenge. Real-life Engineers from Jaguar/Land Rover, Morgan Est and Rolls-Royce came to set us a challenge. Groups were split into the different companies. My group, Group 5 were with Jaguar/ Land Rover. We had to create a 4x4 which could be used as an emergency vehicle in a flood scenario. For this challenge we had 2 Days to Create a Design, Make it, Test it and Present it to the other groups. Dominic and Ben from Jaguar/Land Rover were on hand to answer our queries and help create our vehicle. After the first day we had created a vehicle which worked and was full functional. But half way through day 2 we saw the course we had to complete, this was when our problems started. After having a test run on the track we found that our car wouldn't be able to manoeuvre the first hump on the course so we had to find a way of switching our small motors to Large motors. We managed to work together to overcome this problem. But after talking to Dominic we found our Cog Alignment was very bad. I think this is what lost us the challenge as after a day of trying to overcome the problem we failed... Even so this challenge was very enjoyable and it took a lot of brain power! Even though our design failed the track we had our heads held high!

In the evening's of our stay at Askham Bryan college we had events all of which were brilliant fun and were really enjoyable! The food was great and the Rooms were good (1 Room per person!) The members from Smallpeice staff were really friendly and were very approachable!

Thank you Smallpeice for giving me this once in a lifetime experience! Also thanks to the guys from Jaguar/Land Rover!

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