

## **Local student wins coveted technology award**

**Siemens Mobility, Traffic Solutions based in Poole, Dorset presented the company's annual Sir William Siemens Medal to 16-year-old Luke Angwin, a technology student at Ashdown Technology College last week (Tuesday 24 November 2009).**

The Siemens Medal is awarded to year 11 pupils who submitted GCSE course work in Product design and systems/control. The award was presented to the winner and two runners up, Kelly O'Connor and Loretta Grant at Ashdown's annual certificate presentation evening by Dr Andrew Robinson, the company's Engineering Director.

Commenting on behalf of Siemens, Dr Andrew Robinson said: 'The company has been supporting Ashdown over a number of years and the award of the Sir William Siemens Medal helps raise the profile of science and technology amongst young people, encouraging more of today's students to take up engineering as a career.'

All Ashdown College Year 11 pupils who submitted a GCSE Technology project were eligible for the award. Teachers from the technology department select a shortlist of approximately ten students who have shown outstanding commitment to realising their design ideas. These are given to the representatives from Siemens, who ultimately pick the winners and runners up. According to Curriculum Leader, Christian Davidson the standard is extremely high each year. 'The three finalists this year were no exception, having completed very in-depth design and build projects, often working in an extra curricular setting. The support from Siemens undoubtedly enriches the technology experience for our pupils, and was a strong factor in the school being awarded Specialist Technology College status,' he said.

Siemens launched the Sir William Siemens Medal programme in 1993 to a selected number of schools, colleges and universities throughout the UK. The medals are awarded in recognition of academic excellence in science or technology, although the precise rules governing the awards are determined by the individual schools and universities.

The medal awarded is a close replica of the original Sir William Siemens Medal, first awarded by London University's Imperial College in 1883 to commemorate the achievements of the founder of Siemens in the UK, who came to Britain in 1843. Struck by the Royal Mint using one of the original dies, the two inch bronze medal has the head of Sir William on one side and the engraved name of the winner on the reverse.

The medal programme has been promoted to schools which are close to Siemens' major locations in the UK, and with whom the company already has close contact. To help ensure that the award remains prestigious, no more than 50 medals are awarded in any one year.

#### **About The Sir William Siemens Medal Programme at Ashdown School**

The national Sir William Siemens Medal Programme was launched in 1993, the year in which Siemens celebrated its 150th anniversary in the UK. The original Sir William Siemens Medal was awarded by London University's Imperial College in 1883.

#### **What is the aim of the programme?**

It is one of the ways in which Siemens hopes to encourage more young people to have an interest in science and technology. It also helps the company put something back into the communities in which it operates.

#### **Who can take part?**

All Ashdown College Year 11 pupils who submit projects linked to GCSE coursework in Product design and systems/control are eligible for the award.

### **How are the medals awarded?**

- Projects must show a **high level** of practical ability and confidence in designing, making and modifying a **quality** product for an identified purpose, selecting and using resources effectively. The emphasis will be on the final product with a supporting design folio.
- Pupils must display an understanding of the manufacturing implications involved in the production of their product, and **apply** this knowledge to their own design development.
- The design and make activity must show planning leading to an **innovative** and **relevant** final marketable product.

### **What does the award winner receive?**

The winner receives a medal, a certificate and a £200 book token. The two inch bronze medals are struck by the Royal Mint, and cast from the same die used to produce the original Sir William Siemens medal. On one side is the head of Sir William, and on the other the engraved name of the medal winner. A wall plaque engraved with the name of the medal winner will also be mounted in the school.

### **Notes to editors:**

Photograph shows Dr Andrew Robinson, Engineering Director, Siemens with the winner of the Sir William Siemens medal Luke Angwin and runners-up Kelly O'Connor and Loretta Grant.

### **About Siemens**

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 166 years ago and now employs 18,402 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £3.7 billion. As a leading global engineering and technology services company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key sectors of energy, industry and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit [www.siemens.co.uk](http://www.siemens.co.uk)

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