

Case Study: Harwood Meadows Primary School, Bolton, Lancashire.

Harwood Meadows Primary School is the first regional training centre based in a primary setting.

“I have found that Primary Engineer projects have really driven the children’s learning and created a genuine purpose and focus for their work. Although the work has definite design and technology links, it does allow pupils real opportunities to apply knowledge from other subjects, especially maths, science and literacy: one of the children was quite affronted when she realised that she’d been ‘doing science’ during a vehicle and mass distribution investigation – truly teaching “STEM by stealth!”

“I have been really impressed in the way that all of the children have become much more self-aware, developing their ability to work as part of a team with perseverance to solve problems. Many of our year 6 class benefitted from the practical opportunity to use and apply their knowledge from science and maths in the controllable vehicles project. I feel that this allowed the children’s knowledge and understanding to become deeper and more meaningful. There is a real buzz throughout the school about the Bloodhound SSC land speed record attempt, our engineering club has even organised a family Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) day, to fund both their engineering adventure and so that they could sponsor Bloodhound SSC, it was so successful another is planned for next year. Several children have discussed their futures and for most their horizons have been broadened, from footballers to pilots, and beauticians to chemical engineers!”

Samantha Brown

Design Technology, Science & Creative Curriculum Subject Leader for Harwood Meadows Primary School and Lead Teacher for Design & Technology in Bolton Metro Local Authority.