

Media release

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For immediate release

Winning students inspire interest in Mathematics

Three university students have been named as winners of the 2010 Further Mathematics Support Programme student poster competition. Anne Bergmann, Jacqueline Train and Rachel Neal, all first year students at the University of Plymouth, won a prize with their poster about fractals.

Copies of the winning poster will help pupils in schools and colleges throughout England to gain a better understanding of the importance of this fascinating subject and the mathematics it depends upon.

The competition challenges university undergraduates to produce a poster explaining a mathematical topic they have studied as part of their degree course in a way that is accessible and inspiring for A level Mathematics students.

The winning poster will be distributed to free of charge to schools and colleges across England to help inspire more young people to take up mathematics and related subjects at university.

Rolls-Royce, the sponsors of the competition, hosted the presentation of the awards by Richard Browne of the Further Mathematics Support Programme at the Rolls-Royce Whittle Conference Centre in Bristol on 8th June. Prize winner, Anne Bergmann, representing her fellow entrants, was given a tour of the facility that highlighted the vital importance of mathematics within modern engineering companies.

Richard Browne said: *"This poster explains university level mathematics in a very clear and accessible way. A level students will be able to learn some new mathematics from it. The tour of Rolls-Royce has shown just how important mathematics is within an engineering company, not just in engineering design, but also as a vital tool in managing effective quality-control and marketing."*

Erica Tyson, Resourcing & Deployment Consultant at Rolls-Royce, said; *'It is vital that young people develop the mathematical skills that are needed in today's society. We are delighted to support the Further Mathematics Support Programme in its mission to promote the take-up of Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A level and to make students aware of the key role mathematics plays in science and engineering.'*

Images of the presentation to the winner accompany this release (see below). For further information please contact:

Janice Richards

Further Mathematics Support Programme

janicerichards@furthermaths.org.uk

Notes to Editors

1. The Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) is a government-funded initiative. It is managed by MEI, an independent educational charity (<http://www.mei.org.uk>)
2. The FMSP has 20 Area Coordinators covering the whole of England. Area Coordinators work with local schools and colleges to support and promote the study of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics and to arrange Further Mathematics tuition for students when their schools and colleges cannot provide it themselves. (<http://www.furthermaths.org.uk>)



Richard Browne and Anne Bergmann



Richard Browne, Anne Bergmann and Erica Tyson