

Whiskin Precision Engineering & STEAM Education inspire the next generation of engineers in Co. Down.

WHISKIN PRECISION ENGINEERING STAFF BRING ENGINEERING TO LIFE FOR THE YOUTH OF MONEYREA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the last few months the P6 students of Moneyrea Primary School in Co. Down have been surrounded by levers, paper towers, and cardboard prosthetic arms. These are just three of the practical projects taught to them through their partnership with Whiskin Precision Engineering and STEAM Education's 'Engineering-in-a-Box' programme.



For 1 hour a week, over the course of ten consecutive weeks, engineers James Megarry and Stephen Smyth of Whiskin Precision Engineering, a high-precision engineering company in Belfast, have volunteered their expertise and time to lead the 26 students through a hands-on apprenticeship-style programme, with the aim of inspiring a new generation of engineers. The 'Engineering-in-a-Box' programme explores how humans, and particularly engineers, continue to address challenges in our lives such as the need to create better forms of shelter for families, and designing

more efficient and sustainable energy systems. In the classroom this translates to children working on projects where they construct lollipop stick structures using triangulation, discover load distribution with paper towers, and design water and wind turbines. The programme also incorporates team building and self-directed learning projects, giving the kids an opportunity to devise solutions to challenges, to build them, test them, and learn from any mistakes and rectify their models or designs.

Stephen Smyth, Whiskin Precision Engineering, Operations Manager said that "We are delighted to have shared this learning experience with the children of Moneyrea. We feel that the educational system is a critical component in the sustainability of manufacturing in Ireland. STEAM Education provided us a platform to share our experience and knowledge, hopefully inspiring the next generation of engineers".

The Year 6 pupils, Kaya, Tara and Layla at Moneyrea Primary School concurred with that sentiment saying, "I really enjoyed our STEAM project. I learned a lot from all the challenges and now I want to be an engineer when I'm older". (Kaya). "I enjoyed the engineering project, because the challenges were great fun and I learned lots of new skills" (Tara). "I loved our work as young



engineers. I learned a lot of new things and it encouraged me to believe in myself no matter what” (Layla).

To round off the programme, teacher Ms. Goudy and her class of 26 ‘mini engineers’ have been invited to Whiskin Precision Engineering’s site in Belfast for a tour of their facility and experience the operation which manufactures high quality precision engineered, milled, and turned components from specialist parts to batch production.

Managing Director of STEAM Education, Alice D’Arcy, highlights the benefit of this partnership and explains that current research indicates that the optimum age for engagement with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) subjects is between 9 and 13 years. “There is a natural fascination with what makes their world turn and how everyday things work. This, coupled with a limitless imagination, can lead them into an exciting world of discovery and learning. Through this exciting partnership between primary schools, industry and STEAM Education, Whiskin Precision Engineering will surely inspire the next generation”.

Whiskin Precision Engineering
is delighted to be working with
STEAM Education Ltd to deliver
Engineering-in-a-Box
in **Moneyrea Primary School** in
Moneyreagh, NI !

steam
Engineering-in-a-Box
www.steam-ed.ie

WHISKIN PRECISION ENGINEERING

ABOUT WHISKIN PRECISION ENGINEERING

Whiskin Precision Engineering launched in January 2001 and now operates from premises in Belfast, Co Antrim. With over 150 years of combined Engineering experience, the business manufactures high quality precision engineered milled and turned components from specialist parts to batch production.

They work with local and global businesses alike in the Aerospace, Pharmaceutical, Defence, Security and Automotive Sectors. They can design and manufacture from a wide range of materials; low carbon mild steel, aluminum, brass, stainless steel and tool steel and can provide a complete solution from design to manufacture.

www.whiskinprecision.com

ABOUT STEAM EDUCATION

STEAM Education Ltd is an educational company focused on inspiring the next generation of young people to love science, technology, engineering, arts and maths. They work with STEAM companies and primary schools to inspire kids using a co-teaching model. They train real-life scientists/engineers/others to work with primary school teachers and the kids over a ten-week period. All programs are hands-on, activity led, challenging introductions to the varied fields involved. STEAM currently work with thousands of children around Ireland, supported by STEAM companies, such as Alexion, supporting the education system as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

www.steam-ed.ie

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