

Emily wins science award for Craigmount High School

Emily Kelt, (16) an Edinburgh schoolgirl, was runner-up in a national competition run by the Institute of Physics. The win means that Craigmount High School, Craigs Road will be given £250 of equipment.

The competition was the first annual *Eurekas* with entries from students aged 11-16 from all over the UK and Ireland who took up the challenge to answer the question: What's the point of physics?

Producing a piece of digital art, Emily impressed the expert judges by delving into the physics of our universe, scoring top marks for originality and creativity, quality, relevance and spirit. The judging panel included journalist, broadcaster and physicist Shivani Dave, author and physicist Femi Fadugba and Rachel Youngman, Deputy Chief Executive at the IOP.

Whether arty, sporty, musical or into literature, languages or sciences, the judges were looking for submissions from students with a range of interests – not just those already interested in physics. *The Eurekas* is an initiative by Limit Less – an Institute of Physics campaign designed to broaden and diversify the range of young people going on to study physics after the age of 16 by getting students to see physics

differently.

Rachel Youngman, Deputy Chief Executive, Institute of Physics, said: “We were all incredibly impressed by the quality of entries submitted for this first year of *The Eureka*s. It was amazing to see how the young people tapped into their passions and produced such thoughtful work. We wanted this competition to be a celebration of creativity, culture, collaboration, diversity and activity – all underpinned by physics themes – and it has certainly achieved this. Our thanks go to every single young person that took part, and I’m already excited to see what next year’s competition brings!”

Shivani Dave said: “The standard of entries was incredibly high, it was wonderful to see so many people find their interpretation of the starting question ‘what’s the point of physics’ and really let their creativity flow. If these entries are anything to go by, the next generation of physicists are going to achieve some incredible things. I was so honoured to a judge, everyone should be incredibly proud of what they submitted.”

Femi Fadugba said: “The incredible quality of each submission made the selection process as painful as it was rewarding! Ambitious, imaginative, and beautiful, this stuff – the future of physics is bright.”

*The Eureka*s was launched after it was revealed parents who did not enjoy physics at school may be unwittingly putting their children off the subject and could be contributing to the diversity problem faced by the profession. 46% of parents describe physics at school as ‘complicated’, a third say it’s ‘difficult’ and only 17% say it’s ‘creative’, according to results of a survey* of 3,000 parents, commissioned by the Institute of Physics (IOP).

With nearly 9,000 physics-related job vacancies in the UK in mid-2021†, there are significant skills gaps at all levels.

Women are particularly underrepresented in the physics community – but their talent, insights and perspectives are badly needed if society is to solve the challenges facing healthcare, the environment and the economy.





Craigmount High School. Photo: Martin P. McAdam
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