



Sixth-form quintet are flavour of the month



Enterprise winners (from left, back) Sukhraj Chohan, Luke Antrobus, Tashan Elliott-Smith, Shakiel Reid, Ebnul Ahmed (all Hamstead Hall) From left, front, Sally Arkley (WBDA), Julie Bain (Ernst and Young), Angela Maxwell (AWM) and Lorraine Cookson (Birmingham City Council)

Five students got the better of Birmingham's Dragon's Den when they walked off with the main prize at the first West Midlands Enterprise Laboratory 'Eureka Rocket Challenge'.

'Ice Cream' – the brainchild of Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre sixth-form pupils Sukhraj Chohan, Luke Anthrobus, Tashan Elliott-Smith, Shakiel Reid, Ebnul Ahmed – impressed judges from the private sector with its ability to create a social enterprise that would help boost the skills of young people.

The idea focuses on providing a host of workshops during half-term week where local DJs, musicians and dancers come and pass on their knowledge to pupils.

At the end of the week, all of this learning will be channelled into a spectacular

concert that can be used to raise funds for the school.

The event was organised by the Women's Business Development Agency (WBDA), Ernst and Young and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.

"For the West Midlands to be successful, we need to encourage enterprise at every level and giving young people the chance to take part and learn about the world of business is essential," explained Sally Arkley, Director of WBDA.

"We had six different social enterprises from Hamstead Hall and Holyhead School take part and there were some excellent examples of entrepreneurial skills, creativity and good commercial acumen.

"Ice Cream had an exciting concept based on a sound business model, they

all presented the proposition well and answered with confidence questions posed by the judges. The fact that they were also looking to raise the skills agenda was also a big plus point."

The Eureka Rocket Challenge asked the 16 to 18 year-olds to find solution to a problem by researching, planning and organising an event through the launch of a sustainable social enterprise.

They had to work together to develop the idea, test it out, draw up the financial forecasts and then present to a judging panel that also featured Juliet Bain, Ernst and Young, Angela Maxwell of Advantage West Midlands Enterprise Board and Lorraine Cookson, Birmingham City Council.

Ice Cream picked up a cheque for £250 for winning the main prize, which will

be used by the school to promote enterprise activities across Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre in Handsworth Wood.

"We are delighted to work with Ernst and Young and WBDA on this fantastic event and it was great to see so many talented young people with a good social conscience," added Angela.

"Developing young people is a priority for the Enterprise Board and, through the Young People Enterprise Centre of Expertise, we are engaging with more budding entrepreneurs than ever before."

For more information about the 'Eureka Rocket Challenge' or about the Women's Business Development Agency (WBDA), please call 024 76 236 111 or email admin@wbda.co.uk

Adam on his bike for Tracy

Bidford Gliding Club member Adam Huttleston has swapped his glider for a racing bike to raise money for The Tracy Sallis Leukaemia Trust after riding from John O'Groats to Lands End.

The 28-year-old pledged his support for the very special trust after attending school with Tracy Sallis at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham. He did a gruelling ride of 100 miles every day for the last ten days – which led him to complete his challenge in 64 hours.

Adam, who has just returned to his preferred mode of transport at Bidford in Warwickshire, has raised £2,500 for the Evesham-based charity, an independent one which aims to promote and assist in the prevention and relief of sickness, suffering and distress of those afflicted with leukaemia. It was launched by Sue Sallis in tribute to her only daughter Tracy.

Adam said: "Tracy was just 15 years old when diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. Her only way of overcoming the disease was to have a bone marrow transplant and the odds of finding a suitable donor for her were put at 50,000 to one. But one was found and she underwent her transplant in August 1994. It however became apparent that it had been rejected and, after a brave fight, Tracy lost her battle on February 21 1995.

"After attending school with Tracy Sallis and being very familiar with the Trust and the vital work it undertakes I decided I wanted to do something to help."



Adam Huttleston and Sue Sallis, Founder of the Tracy Sallis Leukaemia Trust and mother of the late Tracy Sallis.

Kids boosted by trip funds

A grant awarded by the Birmingham Community Foundation has provided a day trip for more than 100 local disadvantaged children from the Birmingham-based Keepmoat 10 project.

Keepmoat 10 provides holidays and day trips for children who are suffering from a severe illness, disability, either mentally or physically, and children who have been the victims of sexual or physical abuse.

Derek Inman, Chief Executive of the Birmingham Community Foundation said; "Thanks to the additional funding, the group was able to visit Hatton Country World. It was a great experience for them to share in an outing as a group in a safe format in a new environment.

"The trip helped to improve the self esteem of the children."

Airport drive to help community become mobile with windfall

Birmingham International Airport has underlined its neighbourly credentials once again with a grant to a community group, offering transport for those who need it the most in Solihull.

The £3,000 grant, awarded through the airport's Community Trust Fund, has enabled Community Transport Solihull, based in Marston Green, to grow its operations, helping to fund the purchase of a new minibus.

The charity group offers an often invaluable service to those who use it, varying from day centres, children's

groups and those who are facing barriers to participate in their chosen activity. Operating a fleet of five minibuses, plus an exhibition vehicle and a van for their used furniture operation in Kingshurst, the not-for-profit organisation offers low cost transport for people with no access to a car or public transport.

David Peplow, general manager, Community Transport Solihull, said, "This grant from Birmingham airport's Community Trust Fund has helped us purchase a new minibus, which is helping us reach even more people throughout

the borough. We are a charitable organisation and are always thankful to those who make pledges to support the work we are doing, and the benefit of this award will be felt far and wide out in the local community."

John Morris, the airport's head of corporate affairs, said: "Once again the fund is helping the people who need it the most. Community Transport Solihull offers a much-needed service to those who haven't got access to transport and I'm delighted that we have been able to help them in the purchase of a

new minibus. I know that the vehicle will make a big difference to service users and we hope this helps the organisation go from strength to strength."

BIA's Community Trust Fund, which was set up a decade ago to help local causes, has already handed grants to over 450 projects, totalling over £950,000, with recipients varying from dance clubs to Scout groups.

Twice a year, groups can apply for a Community Trust Fund award of up to £3,000 to help finance community or environmentally-focused projects.