

PRESS RELEASE



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STUDENT ENGINEERS HAVE GOT IT COVERED!

A team of four Yeovil College students have successfully completed an educational project to design and build an improved engine exhaust cover for a Lynx Helicopter.

The project was part of the Engineering Education Scheme (EES), run by the Engineering Development Trust, a charity dedicated to encouraging young people to fulfil their potential through careers in science, engineering and technology.

Working with 702 Training Squadron of RNAS Yeovilton, Mary Rash (17) of Yeovil, Abinesh Mohan (17) of Yeovil, Frank Boyce (16) of Milborne Port and Robert Cooper (17) of Yeovil, had to design a suitable exhaust cover that could theoretically protect the helicopter's airframe from oil while it was in storage. It also had to protect the engine from dust and water. This is the second year that 702 Squadron have worked with the students.

Mary Rash (17) is studying A Levels in Physics, Maths, Geography and Art. The former Westfield Community School pupil said *"I really enjoyed the practical aspects of this project and working with 702 Squadron. I learnt a lot about the materials used and the mechanics of how the Mk 3 and 8 helicopters actually work. I really enjoyed working on this project."*

The students came up with a circular design to act as a cap over the exhaust. They made a wooden mould based upon their blueprint, then this was used to shape pre-impregnated fibreglass cloth. The structure was then placed in a vacuum bag and heated to 150°C using the College's composite laboratory ovens. The students then separated the cover from the mould and trimmed and shaped it to produce the final product.

Former Buckler's Mead Community School student Abinesh Mohan (17) said *"I really enjoyed making the prototype cover. We used a glass fibre composite because it's tough and light. Plastics aren't able to withstand the high oil temperatures so weren't at all suitable. We made the prototype in the composites laboratory in the College's Engineering department. We'd never done anything like it before, but the staff and technicians were very helpful."* Abinesh is studying A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computing.

After five months of hard work on the project, the students gave a presentation on the design to a panel of experts at the University of Bristol. Twenty other schools and colleges took part and the Yeovil team came top in their group of four institutions.

Science and Engineering lecturer Neil Gorton said *“It’s been another successful involvement in the Engineering Education Scheme. It really adds an extra dimension to the College experience and gives students from across the curriculum an opportunity to experience the real world of Engineering and the complications it can sometimes throw up. All four students were fantastic ambassadors for Yeovil College. The final product was very impressive and drew many positive comments from the judges and members of 702 Squadron. We’re hoping to work with them again next year.”*

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Notes to Editors

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