



STAR PUPIL MATTHEW ENGINEERS A RETURN TO HIS OLD SCHOOL...

ROLE reversal was the order of the day when a former Whitehaven School sixth former went back to his old school to present the head teacher with an award.

Earlier this year Matthew Harrison, 20, of Alexandra Terrace, Bransty - who is now studying for an engineering degree at the University of Manchester - won a £1000 bursary from the REACT Foundation.

The charity - formed by REACT Engineering Ltd - helps students to pursue careers in engineering.

To acknowledge Whitehaven School's commitment to the teaching of engineering-related subjects, Matthew presented head teacher Malcolm Smith with a special trophy.

The local panel of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) also donated £100 to school funds.

Pete Woolaghan, a Director of REACT and Chairman of the REACT Foundation, praised Whitehaven School.

"We rely on our local schools to encourage pupils to study subjects that develop their interest in engineering, a profession that is vital for the future of the West Cumbrian economy," he said.

"I know Matthew received a very good education at Whitehaven School and I want to pay tribute to their teachers today."

Chris George, Chairman of IMechE West Cumbria, said that his organisation was delighted to acknowledge the "great work" of Whitehaven School in producing such an excellent engineering student as Matthew Harrison.

"We hope that Matthew serves as an inspiration for others to follow a path into an exciting engineering career.

"West Cumbria is also fortunate to have the support of the React Foundation in this aim. Remember - nothing moves without mechanical engineers!"

Malcolm Smith thanked Matthew for the trophy and spoke warmly about his former student.

"Matthew was always a very capable and ambitious pupil and we were extremely proud when he won the REACT Foundation bursary earlier this year," he said.

"As a school we strive to give our pupils access to the subjects that help to steer them towards their chosen careers. I am very pleased to accept this award on behalf of the school."

Matthew Harrison explained that he had settled in very well to university life.

“Obviously Manchester is a much bigger place than Whitehaven and you meet people from many different walks of life,” he said.

“I’m coping with workload pretty well, I’ve managed to get into the university’s fourth football team and the shopping in Manchester is awesome!

“I was really pleased to go back to my old school - it was great to meet up with some very familiar faces.”

Ends

Notes to editors:

- The REACT Foundation’s trustees are REACT Engineering directors Pete Woolaghan, Steve Knight and Trevor Craig; Terry Ponting, Chief Executive of Whitehaven Development Company; Rosie Mathisen, Nuclear Opportunities Manager at West Lakes Renaissance, Grahame Smith, former Head of Sellafield Site and John Knox of Westcroft Consulting Ltd.
- *REACT Engineering Ltd of Westlakes undertakes decommissioning work for BNFL at Sellafield and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Dounreay in Scotland. The company was formed in 1994 and currently employs 25 people.*



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Chris George (left) IMechE West Cumbria Chairman 2005, congratulates Matthew Harrison watched by Pete Woolaghan (right), a Director of REACT and Chairman of the REACT Foundation and Malcolm Smith (back), Head Teacher at Whitehaven School

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