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Cracking the Code of Further Mathematics

Michael Manfredi has been named as the first winner of the Further Mathematics Network student poster competition. Michael designed a poster on the topic of codes and encryption that will help pupils in over 2,000 schools and colleges gain a better understanding of the importance of this fascinating subject and the mathematics it depends upon.



The competition challenges university undergraduates to produce a poster explaining a mathematical topic they have studied as part of their degree course in a way that is accessible and inspiring for A-level Mathematics students.

Michael's poster outlines the mathematics of codes and encryption, from their first origins in ancient times, to the modern techniques that make secure financial transactions over the internet possible.

Charlie Stripp of the Further Mathematics Network presented Michael with his prize at the Roll-Royce Learning and Career Development Centre in Derby on 12 September. Michael was introduced to Rolls-Royce mathematicians and engineers, and given a tour of the facility that highlighted the vital importance of mathematics within modern engineering companies.

Charlie Stripp said: *"Michael's poster explains the mathematics behind codes and encryption in a very clear and accessible way. A-level students will be able learn some new mathematics from it and they will also see how commerce over the internet depends entirely on some very clever mathematics. The tour of Rolls-Royce has shown just how important mathematics is within an engineering company, not just in engineering design, but also as a vital tool in managing effective quality-control and marketing."*

The winning poster will be distributed to around 2,000 schools and colleges across the UK to help inspire more young people to take up mathematics and related subjects at university. Michael is an undergraduate mathematics student at the University of Warwick and a resident of Sheffield.

The competition is sponsored by Rolls-Royce. As a world class engineering company, Rolls-Royce is keen to emphasise the importance of mathematics to Britain's commercial future. Erica Tyson, Talent Development Consultant, said; *"It is vital that young people are properly*

aware of the key role of mathematics in science and engineering. We are delighted to support the Further Mathematics Network in its mission to promote the take-up of A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics in schools and colleges.”

For further information and accompanying images, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

1. The Further Mathematics Network (FMN) is a government-funded initiative. It is managed by MEI, an independent educational charity (<http://www.mei.org.uk>)
2. The FMN has 46 FMN Centres, covering the whole of England. Each FMN Centre has a local manager who works with local schools and colleges to support and promote the study of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics and to arrange Further Mathematics tuition for students when their schools and colleges cannot provide it themselves. (<http://www.fmnetwork.org.uk>)
3. Rolls-Royce, a world-leading provider of power systems and services for use on land, at sea and in the air, has established a strong position in global markets - civil aerospace, defence aerospace, marine and energy. (www.rolls-royce.com)
4. The Group has a broad customer base comprising more than 600 airlines, 4,000 corporate and utility aircraft and helicopter operators, 160 armed forces, more than 2,000 marine customers, including 70 navies, and energy customers in nearly 120 countries. It employs around 38,800 people worldwide in offices, manufacturing and service facilities in 50 countries and has businesses headquartered in the UK, US, Canada, Germany, Scandinavia and China. This global presence allows the Group to access long-term international growth opportunities with its technology, presence, partnerships and people.