



# Leaders Award 2020

A STEM programme from Primary Engineer®

## Writing the letter

Pupils should write a letter that is focussed on persuading engineers **why** they should build **their** invention. As part of the programme engineering students will choose the best invention to build.

Engineers will be reading all of the pupils' letters and looking for:

- A description of the invention
- Where the idea came from
- Who inspired the idea
- Who would use the invention and why
- Why should engineers build it

We will of course consider the various ages of the pupils, from Early Years through to S6/Yr12. Letters should only cover one side of an A4 piece of paper.

Every year a selection of entries are chosen to be built by engineers. This letter helps the engineers in their choice.

\*We do not want to limit children's creativity so the prototype built may be a working machine (if technically possible) or a non-working, scale model (design not limited by current technologies).

## The letter **must** tell us...

- What problem does the invention solve?
  - Why did they think it is a problem?
  - How does the solution work?
  - Who or what benefits from the invention?
  - Why should their invention be built as a prototype?
  - Why is their solution special?
  - Who or what was their inspiration to invent this solution?
  - Which area of engineering did they utilise? Mechanical, civil, aeronautical, etc?
- (requirement for 9 years old and above entries only)



The letter *could* tell us things like...

- Did interviewing an engineer help them to think of the solution?
- Did they enjoy inventing and illustrating the solution?
- Did they enjoy interviewing an engineer?
- What would they like to be when they leave school?
- What STEM projects/activities are they involved with at school and/or outside of school?

All of this information should be included within the framework of a normal letter in standard format, i.e., name, date, school address, salutation, introduction, body text and signature.

Creation of the letter by pupils (along with the research and artistic elements of the programme) have been mapped against the '**Literacy and English**' component of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence where the exercise scores 'High' at all key stages.