



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Innovation

Innovation Awards

Innovation Awards mark two decades of inspiring the next generation of creativity.



What does a prosthetic arm for disabled netball players, a community bike locking system and a party-inspired drinks can cooler all have in common? They are all examples of cutting-edge, creative ideas that have been brought to life by Welsh teenagers as part of the *Innovation Awards* over the last twenty years.

A joint initiative between Welsh Government and awarding organisation WJEC, the *Innovation Awards* has been encouraging young people to put the skills they've gained from their design and technology studies to good use by spotting gaps in the consumer market and inventing new products. The annual event, which enters its 20th year in 2018, has showcased more than 1,500 products and designs from budding inventors from across Wales and has helped instill an appreciation of both design and technology in creating new products and taking them to market.

The Awards support one of the key themes of the Welsh Government's *Innovation Wales* strategy, by promoting a culture of innovation across the country. Each year, 80 new ideas are



selected and put on display, with schools and colleges invited to bring students to view the chosen concepts, alongside their teachers and industry professionals. The most innovative projects being showcased then go forward to be judged in categories of GCSE, AS level and A level students, as well as individual categories for creativity, intellectual property and computer-aided design and manufacturing.

In recent years, the *Innovation Awards* has expanded to include seminars on design and innovation from leading industry and education experts for students and teachers, as well as an opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge by analyzing marked A-level past paper questions.

Some of the memorable designs over the years have included Oliver Stokes, overall winner in 2015 with his portable drinks carbonator dubbed the "Gas to Go" and 2016 A-level winner from Llanishen High School Cellan Cox, who created an illuminated mud-guard for mountain bikes.

The 2017 judges selected Monmouth School pupil Kyle Williams as overall winner for his public locking system, used by members of the public to secure their bikes using a one-pound coin. Kyle is one of five students selected to take his project forward to the 'Big Bang' Competition, organized as part of the 2018 UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair.

Steve Howells, subject officer for design and technology at WJEC, said: "With so many people having technology at their fingertips, events like the *Innovation Awards* help to inspire the next generation of inventors in Wales by encouraging young people to believe their ideas can become a reality. By giving them the tools to create their inventions, whether it's through coursework or competitions, we're devoting resources to a new generation of great innovators."



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