

**Closing the gap project on increasing awareness of engineering as a future career particularly for girls****Background to the 'Closing the gap' project'**

The [latest figures](#) from the Office for National Statistics show that women make up around just **8%** of engineers in the UK.

One suggestion is to completely rebrand it and say, 'How would you feel about a career being a **problem solver?**'

Year 2 Maths Mastery involves reasoning skills which some of higher achievers lack.

**Relevant research**

Primary engineering training event at Ford. Demonstration of how to make moving vehicles with a shoe box and a more advanced balsa wood model with a motor. Introduced a national engineering award.

**Activities**

Whole School assembly 30th Jan- A parent who works at Ford introduced chn to how he works as an engineer solving problems. Further assembly interviewing one of our teachers who used to be an engineer.

Each year group were given a problem to solve. Reception made marble runs from cardboard boxes and children had hands on opportunities of problem solving.

The children were shown a PowerPoint that showed examples of problems and how children had designed a product to solve it. The children were asked the question— 'If you were an engineer what would you do?' Every child in the school attempted to solve a problem of their own choosing. We sent in 359 entries to the competition.

Our engineer returned to help in the summer term and worked with four girls to make a moving car.

**Impact**

Children becoming more interested in solving problems. After our first assembly a child in Reception was having a problem with construction in the outside area and said 'We need an engineer!'

During a Governor's Pupil Perception with reception children, several of them said their favourite activity of the year was making the marble run in class.

Two overall winners for their year from the whole of the Eastern region of England. 5 others shortlisted and highly commended. Of these seven 6 of them were girls!

The girls who made the car were bursting to tell their friends of their exciting morning and were looking forward to future projects.

**Future impact**

To increase the number of girls sustaining interest in engineering. Passing on the project to another colleague for future progression. Mastery in Maths flourishing for all learners whether 'Fast Graspers' or 'Slow Learners'.