

Michael's designs on success!



One of Links' service users, Michael Johnson, has recently been entered into and enjoyed great success in three local design competitions.

At present, Michael is completing his A-levels in Maths, Physics and Product Design Technology at the Queen Elizabeth High School. As part of his coursework module, Michael designed a bike trailer and was subsequently entered into three consecutive competitions.

Firstly, Michael was placed as a semi-finalist in the 'Young Designer of the Year' Competition at Durham Cricket Club. Secondly, he was entered into the North Region Science and Engineering Fair held in Teeside where he was placed second. Finally, Michael went on to wow judges at Newcastle's Discovery Museum, where he gained first place in his category and was awarded the title of 'Northumberland Young Designer and Technologist of the Year'.

Michael's winning design was for a bike trailer. He explained; "I built the trailer as part of my A-level coursework. I had always been interested in bikes and so I decided to research and investigate existing bike trailer designs. I started to look at the problems with each of the designs and build my own trailer from scratch to overcome such faults. I used the latest manufacturing techniques to build the trailer, including a CNC miller at the High School." Michael also had help from Links' staff in constructing his design and commented that he was "lucky to be able to take advantage of Links' Trades Training workshop and staff support."

Michael is hoping to start at Northumbria University in September, where he will study for a Degree in Product Design and Technology.