

Young engineers awarded for putting skills to the test

YOUNG people from Woking have been recognised for their dedication and passion for engineering at an awards ceremony held at the McLaren headquarters.

Tasbiya Khan, a Year 9 pupil at Bishop David Brown School, was lauded as 'outstanding' for her performance on the GASP course, a programme designed to get young people interested in engineering by teaching them practical skills.

She was presented with the Outstanding Work with Industry Award at the ceremony on Thursday October 8, when GASP chief executive Andy Finch, said: "It can obviously be challenging to thrust young people into an unknown environment, but Tasbiya really showed she could cope.

"She was outstanding throughout the course. Always interested and keen to learn more, whether it be at the GASP workshop or at Stanhope-Seta, Tasbiya was



Tasbiya Khan, left, with Gill Verity, one of the sponsors of the GASP awards, held at McLaren's Woking headquarters.

totally engaged in whatever task was put in front of her.

"She has gained a terrific insight into the world of work, which will hopefully stand her in good stead."

As part of the scheme, Tasbiya and other pupils learnt motor mechanics skills at the GASP workshop in Albury every other week, and then precision engineer-

ing tasks at Chertsey-based Stanhope-Seta during the intervening weeks.

Tasbiya said: "I really enjoyed it.

"I was working on engines and we made a battery holder with connecting wires and other things."

GASP Motor Project worked with more than 170 young people during the

2013/14 academic year, with the best performing students singled out for awards.

Ricky Marques, a pupil at the Pyrford Centre, was also honoured, winning the Perseverance Award, which was presented by Peter Stayner, of McLaren.

Mr Finch said: "Not everyone is a natural mechanic from a standing start and it is fair to say that, at the start of his course, Ricky possibly fell into that category.

"When something is challenging giving up can often seem the easiest thing to do, but Ricky was undoubtedly keen to learn.

"He always responded well to instruction, undertaking all the tasks that were set and learning from them. He never gave up.

"His knowledge, understanding and confidence grew session by session, and over the time he has spent at GASP I am delighted to say he has become a competent mechanic."