

LEGO Battling

On Saturday 20th January, nine Year 7 children, Mr Cooper and Heather from Sunderland University travelled down to Teesside University to “battle” in our very first LEGO League. Since October, we had been building lots of models out of Lego and programming a Lego robot know as a “brick” to move these obstacles around a playing field. Today was the day that we battled against 10 other North East schools.

It was scary when we first arrived, as it was all new to us, and most other schools had been doing this for quite a few years. Our robot was quite puny in comparison to some of the others, but be prepared for a bigger and better robot next year, everyone!

We had to perform in three 2½ minute rounds against the other teams. However, disaster struck in round one! The judge told us that one of the robot’s wires was hanging over the playing area. We quickly made an adjustment but (unfortunately), the wire was caught between the wheels, and the robot wouldn’t move properly. We weren’t put off, and refused to give up. We went back to base and made some adjustments.

Our second attempt was an immediate success. We conquered our first obstacle in less than 20 seconds. We didn’t want to get any penalties, so we decided to just stop there. 30 points in the bag!

Our last attempt came in the afternoon. Again, we did the first obstacle easily, but we failed to clear the second one, since we couldn’t quite get the controls right. But that didn’t matter. We had tried our best and got some points. We will definitely improve, and redesign for next year.

That wasn’t all the day was about. We had to do a project based on the water cycle. That was probably the scariest part as we had to perform in front of judges and answer their questions.

So how did we do compared to other schools? Those who had been doing this for years, obviously had more ideas, so were placed above us. However, out of the four first timers, we received an award for “Best Newcomer”. We can’t get that next year, but we now know what to expect and we’ll spend more time practicing to program “the brick”. This was a great day, scary at times, but satisfying as well.

