

# Finmeccanica school partnership recognised with council award

**C**raigroyston High School in Edinburgh recently received a Best in Class award in the Innovating, Creating and Inspiring category for its partnership with Finmeccanica, which has sought to support young adults in the workplace.

The prize was presented at the Edinburgh Council Children and Families Annual Achievements award ceremony, held at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh.

This follows years of partnership between Finmeccanica and the local school on initiatives such as the Formula 1 in Schools Challenge and the recent apprentice quadcopter building competition, as well as ongoing mentorship from Selex ES employees, graduates and apprentices.

## Pre-apprenticeship placements

Currently Craigroyston High School pupils Grant Chappell and Lee McAlinden are spending two afternoons per week working in pre-apprenticeship placements in the radar manufacturing area of the business, to gain first-hand work experience within industry. If successful, the students may be admitted to the company's award winning apprentice programme.

Derek McLelland, Manufacturing and Supply Chain Manager, Radar, is mentoring

the students and has already seen a rapid transformation in their performance.

"They've done exceptionally well. They are currently working with one of our more experienced craft technicians, David McNiven, and he is showing them the tools and techniques of lower level assemblies and how we go about building radars. The two of them are punctual, committed and enthusiastic," he says.

## Supporting the local community

"This approach is a good idea, as we have a lot of kids in the local community who don't apply to us for whatever reason, even though they meet the academic criteria. They don't realise that there could be a career for them behind the walls of our business."

"Our business has deep roots in the local community, so it is important that we do as much as we can to support

young people who need a bit of encouragement to find a place for their talents in industry," adds Allan Colquhoun, Emerging Technologies and University Liaison Manager at Finmeccanica.

"This sort of pre-apprenticeship pilot gives us the chance to give something back, building young people's confidence so that they see career paths they may not have considered before."



L-R: Manufacturing Team Lead Radar Peter Love, students Grant Chappell and Lee McAlinden, and Derek McLelland, Manufacturing and Supply Chain Manager, Radar.