

## **Year 9 Olympic Project Competition**

Since 2014 the School of Physics and Astronomy has been running a competition that aims to test and evaluate the practical skills of year 9 high school students.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 groups of students from four local schools arrived at the University of Birmingham to compete in some not-so-easy physics experiments that require the understanding of new topics and the use of unfamiliar apparatus. Examples of experiments include line spectra, simple harmonic motion and momentum calculations, all of which are topics first seen in GCSE and A level physics!

Students received support and help from our undergraduate ambassadors throughout the day. At the end of the day students presented their findings to a panel of ambassador judges and demonstrated the progression of their understanding through experimentation.

This year the students really impressed us showing us resilience and focus. They thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the experience of working in a real University laboratory.

All winners were highly commended for their outstanding presentations, clear explanations and skilled approach in conducting the experiments. We are hoping to continue this event for years to come.