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NEWS

Teenagers race to
be tech champions

TECHNOLOGY

Janine Griffiths

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OVER 100 teenagers from Leeds are gearing up to become the city's answer to Steve Jobs as part of a race to create the 'wearable technology' of the future.

The Wearable Tech competition is the brainchild of Premier Farnell in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and has seen 150 pupils compete to be crowned Yorkshire's digital champion. Ten schools across Yorkshire are involved in the project, which aims to inspire youngsters to take more of an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Nick Cope, associate dean for enterprise and employability at Leeds Beckett University, said: "Leeds Beckett University is delighted to be involved in this exciting project. Projects such as this open young people's eyes to the opportunities available to them in the important areas of innovative design, technology and engineering for their future studies and careers."

To help them get started, the participants were given five CodeBug development boards - a wearable piece of technology designed to introduce programming and electronics concepts to young-



TECH TALENT: Schoolchildren at the launch of the Wearable Tech competition.

er age groups. Participating schools in Leeds include the John Smeaton Academy, Guiseley School, Leeds West Academy, Cockburn High, and Roundhay School.

Stewart Cooke, technology teacher and director of Year 11

at Cockburn High said: "We selected kids that are following our expectations and values and are looking at developing their skills as a whole."

Anne Powley, head of employer engagement at Roundhay School added that the

scheme helps pupils to develop more confidence.

She said: "This kind of employer engagement is invaluable and offers our students the opportunity to develop their creativity, learn more about the world of work."

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