

Talented Stockport School girl, aged 11, wins competition to design local company's Christmas Card.

Local Secondary school Student Izzy Perry has won a competition run by EB Education Services to design their company Christmas Card. Landing herself a £50 prize and winning £250 for Priestnall School's Art Department.

EB Education Services, a Greater Manchester based company, have hosted an art competition for students and schools in the Manchester and surrounding areas, enabling local up and coming talent to shine through. EB Education is owned and run by husband and wife team, Chris and Karen McGillicuddy. Chris and Karen are both former high school teachers who embarked on a new stage of their educational career, just over 2 years ago, when they founded EB Education Services. EB Education provide support, intervention and revision for students, both privately and working with schools directly to help them achieve even better.



Izzy Perry holding the winning Christmas Card Design presented to her by Karen and Chris McGillicuddy of EB Education Services with Mr Nokes, Curriculum leader for Art & Design for Priestnall School on the right.

In the run up to Christmas, EB Education decided to hold a competition to get some talented young artists, in the local area, to design their company Christmas Card, in support of the African Refugee Education Project charity instead of just sending standard, shop bought Christmas Cards as they wanted something unique. The competition was offered out to many local schools and students, giving the winning student the opportunity to create a piece of art, have it published as a Christmas Card, and win a prize of £50 as well as £250 for their school's art department, and of course copies of their own designed Christmas card.



Izzy Perry, in year 7 at Priestnall School has won the competition with a fantastic design of a very wintery scene. Chris, from EB Education, said "I really love this design, Izzy has done amazingly well. She is exceptionally talented and has really shown us that she has a real passion for art. It was great to be able to present Izzy with the award for designing our Christmas card in front of her peers".

Karen and Chris were fortunate enough to take part in the celebration assembly held for Priestnall School on the last day of term before the Christmas holidays in which they presented Izzy and the school with their prizes. Mr Nokes,

Curriculum Leader of Art and Design at Priestnall School said the students really enjoyed participating in the competition. He also had positive words to say about Izzy. "She's great. She's in my art class and is very keen on developing her artwork, I'm glad she is being recognised!" He went on to explain that he was very proud of Izzy's work

and very pleased to be able to benefit from the £250 that has been won for his department as it will help them purchase more art supplies. He personally thought that the competition was a great idea and said that he would be more than happy to get involved again with other projects that EB Education Services may run.

These beautifully designed Christmas cards are also available to buy from EB Education Services, with proceeds from the sale of it going to the African Refugee Education Project. Mr Nigel Lea-Wilson, Trustee of the AREP Charity, was pleased to have EB Education Services supporting the AREP project and the donations raised will help support the education of the refugee children who he works with.



There were different categories available for students to win; Primary school age, Secondary school age and Sixth Form. Karen McGillicuddy commented "Overall, the competition was a huge success as we have some beautiful Christmas cards to send to all our customers and tutors, with many more printed to sell to raise money for the AREP. I'm really pleased that schools wanted to get involved with it, as we thought that it was a nice idea to help give something back to the local community by awarding a prize fund to the school so that other students can benefit from the talent of one of their school members as well. Hopefully next year even more schools will want to get involved, to showcase, and hopefully celebrate, the amazing talent of their students."

The amazingly talented Izzy explained why she wanted to get involved and how she felt about winning the competition. She was delighted to have won and said "high school is great, there are so many opportunities to do different things in art at Priestnall". Izzy was pleased to have won the £250 for school as she was looking forward to benefiting from the additional funding for the art department. When asked what she was going to do with her personal winnings she said, "get more art supplies for home".



Chris and Karen with Nicola Cutts of Stockport Grammar School, holding her winning design for the 6th Form age competition category.

The winner of the 6th form category was Nicola Cutts from Stockport Grammar School. She painted a lovely image of a reindeer from nothing but dots using a stencilling technique. Mr Davies, Head of Art for Stockport Grammar School said "Pupils from SGS entered their designs into the Christmas card competition organised by EB Educational Services Ltd. There were some imaginative and skilful designs entered in both the year 7-11 category and the year 12 to 13 category. As well as having her design printed onto cards, she won a £50 Amazon voucher which was presented to her by Chris and Karen. The pupils enjoyed having the opportunity to take part."



If you would like to see a shortlist of the other designs then you can find them on www.ebeducationservices.co.uk or you could visit their social media channels such as www.facebook.com/ebeducationservices and see how many likes the cards received.



It's is good to see local people from local companies supporting the talent and ability in the local community, helping schools in the area further develop. Many businesses in the Heatons area of Stockport are proudly displaying the Christmas card designed by Izzy Perry,

such as Andrew and Marcus of Littlewoods the butchers and Tristan and Maya of FEED who have also made donations towards the AREP Charity. Why not see how many of Izzy's design you can spot over the festive period if you find yourself in the Heatons area in the next few days?



EB Education Services, run by Karen and Chris McGillicuddy, have many more plans of how they can support local students, either on a one to one basis with their studies, in small groups or through working with more local schools and they look forward to continuing to help everybody achieve even better.

If you would like to buy any of the Christmas Cards, in support of the AREP charity, you can find out more about how to, and EB Education Services themselves, by visiting www.ebeducationservices.co.uk