Archie Griffiths, a year 9 student at Castle School gives his thoughts on working with Premium Partners.

Archie has been involved with Essilor UK, a lens manufacturer that works primarily with independent opticians. Essilor, partners since June 2014, wanted to develop a project that would motivate and stretch the students. With staff, it was agreed that the students would design the lenses for a telescope through which they could see the moon!

Archie’s experience was very positive. ‘We have been able to work with Premium Partners by taking us out of school every two weeks for five months to design and build a telescope with the help of expert teaching in maths and physics.’ It has affected Archie’s experience of school, as ‘the project has made me want to work harder so I can have a better choice of career.’ The project has also enabled Archie to gain new skills ‘I met a lot of new people, it’s boosted my confidence and improved my people skills.’

The contact Jamie has had with Premium Partners has ‘improved my maths and science.’ He also feels that the experience could be useful for his personal statement in the future because ‘it shows I have worked with members of the community.’ He also liked working with the Partners, as ‘we saw life after school in our local community and it has taught me to work better with others.’

Overall, Jamie enjoyed being involved with the project and recommends anyone who can to get involved because ‘it was a great hands on experience.’