



## Media Release

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### **Hollie is Flying the Flag for the North East See picture "Winner" for winning design**

A CONTEST has flagged up some real artistic talent in the North East's schoolchildren. But only one design will be able to fly proudly from the QE2 as she docks in the region as part of her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour around the British Isles in September this year.

The lucky winner of the Fly the Flag for the North East competition is Hollie Bowens of Sandhill View School. Hollie, who is in Year 8, designed a stunning flag which bowled over the judges as it packed in details of the North East's landmarks, culture, history and industry.

Sunderland-based Education Business Connections ran the contest in partnership with regional development agency One NorthEast and Cunard. Hollie will now be visiting the famous ship and will be able to take nine classmates on a tour, as well as meet the captain and enjoy lunch on board on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Along with seeing her own design flown on the vessel, she will be given a signed copy to take back to school.

The winning design will be transformed from the paper version into a full sized flag by top British firm Flag GB Ltd, which is based in Northumberland. The company's previous work has included a flag which was sent into outer space on the Space Shuttle.

The judges were given a shortlist of designs out of the many entries received and the final decision was made by representatives of One NorthEast and Cunard. Hollie's winning design stood out for the sheer scope of what she captured in her flag: The Angel of the North, a bridge and river, representing the Tyne, Tees and Wear, a lantern to showcase the region's mining heritage, a castle representing all those scattered across the area from Bamburgh down to Barnard Castle and the famous liner itself.

Barbara McClennan, Chief Executive of EBC, said: "The competition was very well received by schools and we had a fantastic response. The results have exceeded our expectations and we have been really impressed by the creativity and flair shown by the participating students."

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. Its success means that now the team delivers innovative educational programmes to children across the region. To find out

more visit [www.ebdLtd.org.uk](http://www.ebdLtd.org.uk) You can view the shortlisted designs out of an entry of more than 150 designs on the website.

Programmes are funded from a variety of sources, including from the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Tyne & Wear Education Business Links Organisation (TWEBLO), but EBC's ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to [www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk](http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk)).

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