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SLIDESHOW: Students from Cambridge Regional College, Sawtry Community College, Netherhall and Bottisham Village College demonstrate the art of science

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Why teenagers need a lie-in and the benefits of prolonging adolescence were among the themes explored by young Cambridgeshire artists.

Scientists at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology organise the Imagining the Brain event every year to try and get the county's teenagers interested in neuroscience through art.

This year's exhibition, called The Changing Brain, looked at the development of the teenage brain.

The Year 10-13 students also looked at neurotechnology, the interface between medical technology and the nervous system, to diagnose and treat trauma or disease.

Layla Barnes, 18, from Sawtry Community College, won first prize worth £120 with a "remarkable" work depicting the social isolation that many teenagers experience.

Four Cambridge Regional College students, all aged 17, scooped the remainder of the prizes with "some very powerful artwork", according to the judges.

Lewis Stipiç took Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man as inspiration to communicate neurotechnology and Jasmine Parker also explored the same topic with her "delightful" Techno Hood, designed to allow digital interface with the environment in a way that Google is still only dreaming of. Both were awarded second prize.

Kornelija Bulaityte produced a "beautiful, humorous and optimistic piece" that spoke about what is happening inside the brain of a teenager and also the attempts of science to understand it.

Gülsah Kaya chose to look at the consequences of risk taking in adolescence with her "powerful and compassionate piece" exploring teen pregnancy.

Dozens of young artists from Netherhall School and Bottisham Village College also contributed to the exhibition.

The village college's art department was given the 2013 KPMG Schools Science Communication Award and £500 to buy art equipment.

Dr Nachiket Kashikar, one of the judges at the MRC awards, said the overall quality of the artwork presented this year was "impressive".

He said: "All students certainly put in a lot of effort trying to get the thematic message across that appealed to them the most.

"This was evident from the supporting material that the some of the students presented, wherein they tried to understand the scientific notion behind the topics given.

"The topic "teenage brain" appeared to be very attractive to the students for reasons well understood.

"We hope that this exercise of participating in Imagining the Brain makes students much more interested in science; and neuroscience, in particular and encourages them to pursue their artistic talents. We would like to specially congratulate and thank the young students of Bottisham Village College. The enthusiasm, understanding of the topic, and skill of presenting their work was exceptional."

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