



**A keen eye** Lauren impressed judges with her project

## Pupils test big bang theories for contest

Two James Hamilton students have made it to the final of the UK-wide 'The Big Bang' competition.

Sixth form pupils Janice To, 17 and Lauren Park, 17, have impressed the judges at 'The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition' at the regional heats with two individual projects taking them to the final.

The competition is open to 11 to 18-year-olds, and gives participants the chance to compete for top prizes such as international experiences worth over £50,000.

The winners could also be the recipient of prestigious awards such as GSK Young Scientist and UK Young Engineer of the Year.

56 pupil Janice was shortlisted for her work in investigating the thermal processing procedures performed at Rolls-Royce.

As well as this, she developed an understanding of how to reduce the amount of excess waste material on

site at production plants. Friend and peer Lauren impressed by finding that certain, naturally occurring microbes can be used for biological wastewater treatment, helping to improve sanitation standards across the globe.

Teacher Laura Haxton from James Hamilton Academy said: "Having the opportunity to put theory into practice has been great fun and has given the girls an idea of just how interesting a career in the sciences could be.

"To be through to the national final is the icing on the cake - they can't wait to show off their projects again and hope to come back from the UK finals in March with an award."

The Kilmamock pair will now go head-to-head with over 200 other project teams from across the UK in the finals, which take place during a science and engineering fair at the Birmingham NEC this March.



**Hot and bothered** Janice operates a furnace during her project for the competition