



Engineer Ben Evans: Designing the World's Fastest Car

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Mae'r peiriannydd Dr Ben Evans yn gweithio ar ddylunio y Bloodhound SSC, sy'n mynd i dorri'r Record Cyflymder Tir. Penwythnos diwethaf caeth y car ei ail brawfyrro cyhoeddus, a ges i sgwrs bach gyda fe i ffeindio mas mwy amdano fe...

Dr Ben Evans works on designing the Bloodhound SSC, which is going to break the World Land Speed Record. Last weekend the car had its second public test drive, and I had a short chat with him to find out more about it...

Ben, rwyd ti'n gweithio fel peiriannydd ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe ac rwyd ti'n aelod allweddol o'r tîm sy'n dylunio'r Bloodhound SSC hefyd. Rhaid ei fod e'n gyffrous iawn i helpu dyn a pheiriant teithio dros 1,000mya?

Mae'r gwaith ar y prosiect Bloodhound wedi bod yn brofiad anhygoel. Dw i'n gweithio gyda pheirianwyr eraill sy'n ysbyrdoledig, ac ar un o'r heriau peirianneg mwyaf yn y byd. Mae e wedi bod yn waith caled ond yn fuddiol iawn. Nawr dyn ni'n profi'r car, dyn ni'n mynd i ddechrau

Ben, you work as an engineer in Swansea University and you are a key member of the design team that is designing the Bloodhound SSC as well. It must be very exciting to help a man and a machine travel at more than 1,000mph?

The work on the Bloodhound project has been an amazing experience. I work with other engineers who are inspiring, and on one of the biggest engineering challenges in the world. It has been hard work but very rewarding. Now we are testing the car, we are

ffeindio mas pa mor dda mae ein cynllunio ni wedi bod!

going to find out how well our planning has been!

Ond, nid ti fydd y gyrrwr, yn anfoddus?

Nage yn anfoddus! Dw i ddim yn gymwys neu yn ddigon dewr i yrru Bloodhound. Mae'r gyrrwr, Andy Green, yn berffaith am y swydd- mae e'n beilot ymladdol yn yr RAF.

Dyna siom. Mae'r car yn mynd i dorri'r World Land Speed Record- pa gyfraniadau dych chi wedi wneud?

Dw i wedi bod yn gweithio yng Ngholeg Peirianneg, Prifysgol Abertawe, ar aerodynamics y car. Dyn ni wedi bod yn defnyddio dull 'Computational Fluid Dynamics' i fodelu sut mae'r awyr yn llifo dros y car ac wedyn yn defnyddio hwn i helpu dylunio'r car. Siâp y car yw fy nghyfrifoldeb fi.

However, you won't be the driver, unfortunately?

Unfortunately not! I'm not qualified or confident enough to drive Bloodhound. The driver, Andy Green, is perfect for the job- he is a fighter pilot in the RAF.

Tu hwnt i geir cyflyn, beth wnaeth eich denu chi i astudio Peirianneg?

Ers i fi fod yn ifanc, mae diddordeb mewn mathemateg a ffiseg gyda fi. Cyn peirianneg, ro'n i'n moyn bod yn beilot, felly dewisais i astudio peirianneg aerospace. Ar ôl astudio peirianneg ym Mhrifysgol Caergrawnt gwnes i sylweddoli mod i'n moyn dylunio awyren, nid eu hedfan nhw!

That's a shame. The car is going to break the World Land Speed Record- what contributions have you made to this?

I've been working in the College of Engineering, Swansea University, on the aerodynamics of the car. We have been using the Computational Fluid Dynamics to model how the air flows over the car and then use this to help design the car. The shape of the car is my responsibility.

Yn ychwanegol, dych chi wedi bod dysgu Cymraeg fel oedolyn, a nawr dych chi'n rhugl. Pa les dych chi wedi ennill trwy wneud hyn?

Wel, sa i'n holol rhugl eto! Mae lot o ddysgu dal i'w wneud. Ond mae e wedi bod yn brofiad buddiol iawn. Dw i wedi cwrdd â llawer o bobl hyfryd yn y dosbarth. Mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn ffenest i fyd newydd!

Beyond fast cars, what attracted you to studying Engineering?

Since I was young, I've had an interest in maths and physics. Before engineering, I wanted to be a pilot, so I chose to study aerospace engineering. After studying engineering in Cambridge University I realised that I wanted to design aeroplanes, not fly them!

Arbennig o dda. I gloi, pa gyngor dych chi'n gallu rhoi i bobl sy'n brysur a dysgu Cymraeg, ac i bobl ifanc sy'n meddwl am astudio Peirianneg?

Fy mhrif gyngor i bob dysgwr ydy 'Dal ati, dal ati, dal ati... ac ffeindio cyfleoedd i ddefnyddio'r iaith gymaint â phosib'. Mae'n waith caled ond mae'n ei werth e! Ac mae peirianneg yn rhoi llawer o gyfleoedd i chi- mae'n agor llawer o ddrysau- felly 'ewch amdani'!

In addition, you have been studying Welsh as an adult, and now you are fluent. What benefit have you gained through doing this?

Well, I'm not fluent yet! There is much learning to be done. But it has been a rewarding experience. I have met lots of lovely people yn the classroom. The Welsh language is a window to a new world!

Wow. To close, what advice can you give to people who are busy and learning Welsh, and to young people who are thinking of studying Engineering?

My main advice to every learner is 'Keep going, keep going, keep going... and find opportunities to use the language as much as possible'. It's hard work but it is worth it! And engineering gives you lots of opportunities- it opens lots of doors- so 'go for it'!