

Primary school children build electric racing cars with help from WMG Warwick

Primary school children from three local schools will each design, build and race an electric kit car with help from WMG, University of Warwick.

The three schools, Richard Crosse C of E Primary, Kings Bromley, St Mary's C of E Primary, Colton, and The Howard Primary, Elford, are all members of The Small Schools Multi Academy Trust.

This builds on the successful launch of a Greenpower team at Richard Crosse Primary with WMG support in 2018, following a successful competition entry to win the car. Richard Crosse were one of 8 national winners.

This year, each school is running a Greenpower Formula Goblin Team and will race their cars against other schools at a national Greenpower event day in June 2019.

The project engages children with science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a practical way, creating a positive image of these subjects as inspiration for their future career choices.

The children, aged 9-11, began assembling their cars from a kit of parts received back in January. When the kit is complete, they will design and construct bespoke bodywork for their cars before moving on to driver training in the school playgrounds to ensure they are fully prepared for race day in the summer term.

The project embodies key practical engineering skills, working together as a team, and writing up their progress in their individual project

portfolios to earn Greenpower STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) awards from the AQA examination board.

Each school team also produces regular video diary updates to share their progress online with peers, siblings, parents and the wider community. Their Twitter handles are @StMarysRacing, @TheHowardRacing and @RCrosseRacing.

Formula Goblin is one of a series of age-graded motor-racing challenges set up by the [Greenpower Education Trust](#) to address the skills gap that is growing in the UK



automotive industry. It is designed to engage students with maths, science and design technology, at early age and promoting equality and team working regardless of economic background or gender. The project aims to raise pupils' awareness and enjoyment of STEM subjects and inspire them to consider STEM careers in their future.

This year TSSMAT wanted to expand the project across more of their schools to create a larger local community of budding young engineers. The project is funded by the UK Advanced Propulsion Centre, a government body established to support and promote the development of next generation automotive technology here in the UK.



Direct support for the schools is delivered by WMG at The University of Warwick who are a member of the APC's higher-education spoke community.

[Dr Antony Allen](#) from WMG who will be working closely with the schools comments:

“It’s fantastic to expand this project to two more schools within TSSMAT. One of the best aspects of my role here at WMG is the wonderful experience of working with future engineers of all ages, from my post-graduate Warwick automotive students through to excited year 5 and 6 pupils at our local primary schools. It’s a very rewarding experience for everyone involved”

Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, Mr Paul Lovern, comments:

“I am thrilled that once again, The Small Schools Multi Academy Trust is involved in the Greenpower initiative.

“The children at all three schools have been inspired to take part and develop their engineering skills. This project embraces so many areas of the curriculum and demonstrates a curriculum that is enriching, at its best! I hope that from the ‘green shoots’ that are emerging, the children are inspired to become engineers of the future.

“I look forward to Race Day, however I will have to remain very neutral with regards to who becomes the overall winning school!”

ENDS

11 FEBRUARY 2019

NOTES TO EDITORS

High-res images available at:

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/communications/medialibrary/images/february2019/st_marys_.jpg

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/communications/medialibrary/images/february2019/the_howard.jpg

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/communications/medialibrary/images/february2019/building_2.jpg

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/communications/medialibrary/images/february2019/building.jpg>

ABOUT THE SMALL SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

The Small Schools Multi Academy Trust is comprised of The Richard Crosse C of E Primary, St Mary's C of E Primary, and The Howard Primary. All 3 are small rural schools, with an emphasis on enriching the curriculum for our students. All our schools are rated Good or Outstanding.

www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk

www.richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk

www.st-marys-colton.staffs.sch.uk

www.howard.staffs.sch.uk

ABOUT WMG:

WMG is a world leading research and education group and an academic department of the University of Warwick, established by Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya in 1980 in order to reinvigorate UK manufacturing through the application of cutting edge research and effective knowledge transfer.

WMG has pioneered an international model for working with industry, commerce and public sectors and holds a unique position between academia and industry. The Group's strength is to provide companies with the opportunity to gain a competitive edge by understanding a company's strategy and working in partnership with them to create, through multidisciplinary research, ground-breaking products, processes and services.

Every year WMG provides education and training to schoolchildren through to senior executives. There is a growing part-time undergraduate programme for apprentices, as well as full-time undergraduates. The postgraduate programmes have over 2,000 students, in the UK and through centres in China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Cyprus

For more information visit www.wmg.warwick.ac.uk

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