

TEAM IGNITE BLAST TO VICTORY AND CROWNED 2012 F1 IN SCHOOLS UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

'Team Ignite', a team of students from Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, jumped onto the top step of the podium at today's F1 in Schools™ UK National Finals, taking the National Champions crown and with it a place at the F1 in Schools World Finals 2012.

The team were the well-deserved winners in the UK Formula One-linked educational initiative which takes place in over 40 countries across the world, with judges praising the high standards of work and the excellence of the engineering employed to create the team's scale-model Formula 1 car. The team won the Innovative Thinking Award and took first place in the Formula 1 Class of the competition, before capping their achievements with the ultimate prize, overall victory. The team were presented with an impressive glass trophy presented by Gareth James from the Institute of Engineering and Technology and tickets to the Formula 1 Santander British Grand Prix courtesy of Silverstone Circuit. Each team member also received a TW STEEL watch.

The F1 in Schools UK National Finals, held at The Big Bang Fair, NEC, Birmingham, brought together the top 32 teams from around the UK, who had won through from ten Regional Final events held earlier this year. The teams had taken up the challenge to design, build, test and race a miniature F1 car, with the last two days being spent having their entries judged in a number of categories including scrutineering, engineering, verbal presentation, pit presentation and display, as well as the car's speed being tested on the bespoke F1 in Schools test track, a 20 metres long drag strip, which the F1 in Schools F1 cars cover in just over a second.

Jon Perrett, Team Manager for Team Ignite, said of winning the UK National Finals, "It's amazing. We can't quite believe it. It's the perfect end to two very exciting and fun days. We worked really hard after the Regional Finals, as we knew we had to improve in some areas if we were to do well at the Nationals, but we really didn't expect to win.

"I think our car design was the main reason why we beat everyone today, as we had lots of innovative ideas and had done loads of research. In this competition it's not just the car design though, as you need to score well in all the other elements, so we put lots of effort into our presentation, portfolio and pit display.

James Linwood, Design Engineer for the team, said of winning a place at the F1 in Schools World Finals, "It is unbelievable. I think I'll be spending every waking hour developing our car design and turning it into a really fast car. We need to have a sub one second car for the World Finals. It's never been done before and it's really difficult to achieve with the tight rules and regulations, but it's the goal we now have."

The second placed team were Rush from Robert May's School, Odiham, Hampshire, a school with an impressive haul of three trophies, with the sister team of Adrenaline taking first place in the Bloodhound Class, which won them tickets to the Formula 1 Santander British Grand Prix, courtesy of Silverstone Circuit and the girls from this team were also

awarded the FIA Women in Motorsport Award, which includes a trip to Paris to present to the FIA Women in Motorsport Seminar.

In third place were DART from PETROC, Barnstaple, Devon, who also claimed the Fastest F1 Car Award with their car posting a time of 1.100 seconds. The team with the fastest Bloodhound car was Speedy Sixes from Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Llanelwy, North Wales. Their model car raced down the track in 0.662 seconds, to bring them the Fastest Bloodhound SSC Car Award and the team also took third place in the Bloodhound Class, with Team Oblivion from Devonport High School for Boys, Devonport being awarded second place.

First place in the rookie team category were Whittle Wonders from North Leamington School, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, who won tickets to the 2012 Formula 1 Santander British Grand Prix, with runners-up being Stretford Aces, Stretford High School, Manchester, who also won the Best Sponsorship and Marketing Award. The Rookie Team 3rd Place Award went to Adrenaline Rush, Trent Valley Academy, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Other award winners were Fast Lane from Ysgol Friars, Bangor, Gwynedd who were awarded the Best Engineered Car Award and the Best Use of Solid Works Award. Best Research and Development Award was won by Adactus from Lutterworth College, Lutterworth and the Perseverance in the Face of Adversity Award was presented to Pegasus, Gleniffer High School, Paisley. The Best Team Identity Award was taken by Motion Racing from Ysgol Dewi Sant & Monmouthshire Comprehensive, St. David's, Haverfordwest/Monmouth.

One of the most nail-biting elements at the National Finals is the knockout racing competition which always produces plenty of surprises and this year was no exception. One of the students from each team triggers their model car to race down the track against the drawn opposition and it was a test of nerves for all the teams, with DART from PETROC proving to have the best combination of speed and cool. The prize for their performance was tickets to see the 2012 Formula 1 Santander British Grand Prix, courtesy of Silverstone Circuit.

Andrew Denford, Chairman and Founder of F1 in Schools said of this year's event, "It has been very rewarding to see the standards achieved by the students competing in F1 in Schools. This year we have continued to see the ever-increasing standards of work presented by the teams. And this has been right across the board, from the engineering approach, the research and design employed, the quality of the written portfolio and pit display, as well as the team's verbal presentations given to the judging panel, which is probably one of the most nerve-wracking parts of the competition.

"The learning experience of F1 in Schools is almost unnoticed by the students as their enthusiasm and motivation to produce the best entry possible takes over. It is only when they reach this stage and reflect on their work that they realise how their skills have improved, whether that is confidence, 3D computer modelling expertise, leadership, time management, or knowledge and understanding of the STEM subjects which the programme is based around.

"My congratulations go to Team Ignite for securing a place to represent the UK at the F1 in Schools World Finals later this year and to all the teams, who are all winners in their own rights and should be proud of their achievements in this year's F1 in Schools programme."

F1 in Schools aims to help change perceptions of engineering, science and technology by creating a fun and exciting learning environment for young people to develop an informed view about careers in Mathematics, Engineering, Science and Technology. Students are given a brief to design a model compressed powered F1 Car of the future using CAD/CAM. Cars are then manufactured on a CNC machine. Each team of between three and six students, brings together their work to present to a judging panel with a verbal and written presentation to support their model car, which is raced on a specially designed test track. At the National Finals each team brought along a pit display, their cars and portfolio, as well as having prepared a presentation for the judges.

The cars race on a 20 metre track, with the F1 Class cars covering the distance in just over one second, a speed barrier which is yet to be broken by any student team since it was set by Team FUGA from Northern Ireland at the 2007 F1 in Schools World Finals, with a time of 1.020 seconds. Younger students design, build and race a Bloodhound car, linking with the upcoming British attempt on the World Land speed record, with the Bloodhound SSC project. The current record is held by Speeding Snails from Wilmington Grammar School, with a time of 0.620 seconds.

The F1 in Schools National Finals take place with the assistance of a host of sponsors and supporters. F1 in Schools thanks Denford Limited, Jaguar, Institution of Engineering and Technology, Silverstone Circuit, The Big Bang Fair, Bloodhound SSC, TW Steel Watches, Dassault Systèmes Solidworks, City University London, Autosport International, Ferrari Europe, FIA Women in Motorsport, Engineering UK and Tomorrow's Engineers.

Full list of winners:

National Champions	Ignite, Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire
F1 1st Place	Ignite, Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire
F1 2nd Place	Rush, Robert May's School, Odiham, Hampshire
F1 3rd Place	DART, PETROC, Barnstaple, Devon
Rookie 1st Place	Whittle Wonders, North Leamington School, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
Rookie 2nd Place	Stretford Aces, Stretford High School, Manchester
Rookie 3rd Place	Adrenaline Rush, Trent Valley Academy, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
Bloodhound 1st Place	Adrenaline, Robert May's School, Odiham, Hampshire
Bloodhound 2nd Place	Team Oblivion, Devonport High School for Boys, Plymouth
Bloodhound 3rd Place	Speedy Sixes, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Llanelwy, St.Asaph, Denbighshire
Fastest F1 Car	DART, PETROC, Barnstaple, Devon
Fastest Bloodhound Car	Speedy Sixes, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Llanelwy, St.Asaph, Denbighshire
Jaguar Best Engineered Car	Fast Lane, Ysgol Friars, Bangor, Gwynedd

Best Use of Solid Works	Fast Lane, Ysgol Friars, Bangor, Gwynedd
Best Research and Development Award	Adactus, Lutterworth College, Lutterworth
Perseverance in the Face of Adversity Award	Pegasus, Gleniffer High School, Paisley
Sponsorship & Marketing Award	Stretford Aces, Stretford High School, Manchester
Innovative Thinking Award	Ignite, Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire
Best Team Identity - The Chairman's Award	Motion Racing, Ysgol Dewi Sant & Monmouthshire Comprehensive, St. David's, Haverfordwest/Monmouth
FIA Women in Motorsport Award	Girls from Adrenaline, Robert May's School, Odiham, Hampshire

About F1 in Schools

F1 in Schools is the only global multi-disciplinary challenge for students aged 9 to 19. The founding constitution of F1 in Schools stipulates that it shall remain a not-for-profit organisation. Based in London and supported by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, funds are raised through sponsorship and invested in administering, developing and expanding the challenge. The competition inspires students to use IT to learn about engineering, physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacturing, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership, teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, and apply them in a practical, imaginative and exciting way.

F1 in Schools challenges students to use software to design, build and race a miniature Formula 1 car made from balsa wood and powered by a single compressed air cylinder. Participating teams all receive a starter kit that includes all basic materials, including a block of balsa wood from which their car will be fabricated. They write a business plan, prepare a budget and raise sponsorship through cooperation with the business community. Using CAD (Computer Aided Design) technology, the teams design a Formula 1 car before analysing its efficiency in a virtual reality wind tunnel.

The cars are then manufactured with the use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) software before being tested in wind and smoke tunnels. The final part of the challenge is the race, with teams competing along a special 20-metre straight track. The cars must cover the distance as quickly as possible – the current record is just 1.020 seconds! Each school finds its own winning team and they then move to regional, national and international competition at the F1 in Schools World Finals. The World Champions will receive the Bernie Ecclestone F1 in Schools World Champions trophy at the world Finals. All members of the winning team will also receive a four-year university scholarship at City University, London.