Chipping Sodbury School achieves National Success in the Greenpower Challenge

On the 16th October four of Chipping Sodbury's Greenpower cars took part in the national final of Greenpower at Goodwood motor circuit having earned their place taking part in races around the country. Greenpower is a national electric car racing competition in which over 200 schools, around the country, take part in. There are three competitions in total: Goblins, Formula 24 and Formula 24+. 'Goblins' are for primary school students, 'Formula 24' is for secondary school students and 'Formula 24+' is for 6th formers and college students . The idea of Greenpower is for students to design, build and race their own electric powered cars at top race circuits around the country with the help of their sponsors. This promotes engineering within the school community.

As a technology school, Chipping Sodbury has done very well with this Greenpower challenge. There are four teams within the school with five cars in total – The Pod movement (with R-PodS and BY-Pod), Rotary Racer, Chain Reaction and Alderly Express. The first four of these cars took part in the race last weekend. R-PodS took part in the Formula 24+ race where they managed to take 2nd place with a total of 50 miles in the 90 minute race. Matthew Hunter drove this car, and the victory on this day meant that R-PodS took 1st place for the national championship of Formula 24+ beating teams from Jaguar Landrover and Bentley Motors amongst others.

BY-Pod managed to clench 4th place in the Formula 24 race completing 108 miles in the 4 hour endurance race. This team was in 2nd for most of the race but unfortunately dropped down to 4th in the last few seconds of the race. The team members for the Pod movement were Matthew Hunter, Felix King, Louis King, Isabelle King, Aaron Holbrook and Harry Elliot. Chain Reaction also sped around the course managing to climb from 49th to 21st – an excellent achievement by Aengus Braithwaite, Conor Powell, Jason Blue, Oscar Nelson, Mary-Jayne Powell, Adam Blue, Jack Lovell and Alex. Due to this, Chain Reaction managed an excellent mileage of 91.2 miles.

Finally, last, but by no means least, Rotary Racer managed to clench the 1st place victory in the Formula 24 race completing a total of 120 miles! Their drivers were Dan Dando, Gareth Barnaby, Ben Miller, Thomas Allington and Dawn Barnaby. Steph Dando, Louise Barnaby, Michael Lockyer and Jacob Lucas were the pit crew for the day, doing a fantastic job of getting the car pitted in 42 seconds at times.

This fantastic achievement is a huge credit to the school and community. Chipping Sodbury School is now the home to the top two Greenpower cars in the country having competed against over 200 schools that take part nationally. Now the teams are looking to the future with ideas for new cars and designs. Hopefully this success will be repeated in the years to come.

Many thanks to all of our sponsors that helped us achieve this success. Please visit the Rotary Racer website at www.greenpower.beamweb.co.uk/RotaryRacer, The official Greenpower website at

www.greenpower.co.uk, the Pod movement's website at www.thepodmovement.blogspot.com and another Pod movement website at www.picasaweb.google.com/thepodmovement. Short video at: http://youtu.be/Kh1C4KDBQg0
By Dawn Barnaby ☺

The Greenpower Challenge

Greenpowers mission is:

- - To change current views about engineering, presenting it as a fascinating, relevant and dynamic career choice for any young person.
- - To demonstrate the importance of engineering, and associated STEM subjects, to solve the problems faced by societies today particularly in the areas of sustainability.
- - To link education, industry and community through inspirational engineering projects.

The Greenpower challenge provides a different, challenging and inspiring learning environment working alongside the national curriculum. It focuses on engineering, science and maths, providing pupils with a real insight as to what engineering is all about and inspiring them to take up this discipline which is much needed in this country and the world today.