

Proud Second Place at Formula 1 Regional Finals

In Primary 6, we have been taking part in the Jaguar F1 Primary School Challenge. This has involved designing, manufacturing and racing a 2D Formula 1 car made from card and cut using a silhouette studio cutter. We also had to allocate team jobs including Team Manager, Manufacturing engineer, Design engineer and Graphic designer.

After weeks of planning, team work, adjusting and manufacturing our team, team 'Red Bull', was selected to take part in the Regional Final in Ballymena.

Along with team 'Banter Bears' and 'Speed Breakers' from Mrs Graham and Mr Doran's classes, we headed off to Ballymena. On our arrival, we put our pit stop up as a group and checked everything was good. Then we set our car up for display and snooped around the other pit stops. Soon after, one of the judges came up to our stand and said we had to get our car weighed. We went up to the scrutineering table and walked away proudly presenting a 29g car. About an hour later we were called in for our verbal presentation. We were called into a tiny room with a projector and a laptop. The presentation took around 5 minutes and we were congratulated by the judges. We trotted back to our pit-stop for the scrutineering.

After our success in the scrutineering, we were ready to race. We brought our car up to the race track and took our positions. Ted would be pressing the 'START' button as he was the driver; Ibraheem would be bringing the car back along the track after the race, then Isaac and I (Naoise) were there to cheer them on.

There were 5 lights. The lights came on, one by one, and when they all blinked a solid green, Ted would press the button. We were all watching when the lights went green. Ted hit the button and our car shot off.

We could barely see it as it whizzed along the track and skidded into the fabric, claiming first place with a faint 'Poof'. Ibraheem wheeled the car back and we raced again, this time losing to the other team.

We were walking back to the pit-stop looking all depressed when we were told that the judges only took the average time into account, meaning we had

won with an average of 1.81 seconds. After that, we trotted back to our pit-stop jumping with joy, while our opponents were sulking and arguing.

For the next hour we simply walked around the hall looking at other team's pit-stops and just doing all the general things that you would do if you were at the NI Regional F1 in Schools Challenge. We admired our magnificent outfits provided by our brilliant sponsors, CAT. Soon after that we were all arranged into a circle and were given boxes of K-nex. Nobody knew what was happening. But then we were told to make the best not-planned-for fairground ride! Our team got straight to work. Immediately, we agreed on a Ferris wheel then we argued for a bit and decided on a Merry-Go-round. We used the motors and then used the K-nex to make a Ferris wheel like no other. It had everything. It had dangly bits, horribly dangerous balance, and at one stage got so tangled that we had to dismantle the main frame of it. Then we were given judging sheets and were told to pick three teams who we thought had the best fairground rides. Our first and best choice was by 'Charging Cheetahs'

We cleared up all the K-nex and were called to sit down and watch the Award Ceremony. We were sitting down while the ceremony was going on, and just as the 2nd place prize was being handed out, we saw the team name, 'RED BULL' flicker onto the board. I'm pretty sure everyone in our team would have exploded! But thankfully that didn't happen; otherwise it would've been very messy and would have ruined the moment!

A lot of people in our school were proud of us.

We owe a big thanks to CAT for being such amazing sponsors. They provided us with baseball caps, T-Shirts and yellow protective goggles as well as stickers all of which definitely made us look the part and played a big part in helping us come second overall.

So that was the end of our F1 Regional Finals in Ballymena, and we can all say for sure we loved every minute of it.

By Naoise and Ibraheem

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