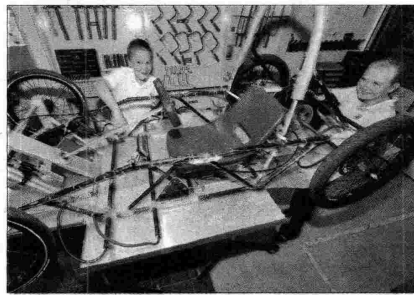


Students' electrifying experience



■ Pupils 12 year-old Ashley Pile and 11-year-old Jess Perkiss working on the car

Picture: Barry Goodwin pd1436983

YOUNG engineers at the Abbey School are living in the fast lane thanks to an inter-schools car race due to take place today (Thursday).

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower were due to hold the first regional heat in the contest between electric cars made by schoolchildren at Bayford Meadows karting circuit in Sittingbourne.

The final is to be held at Goodwood.

Gary Parsons, team manager for the Abbey School, Faversham, said: "Anything safe that we think the kids can do, we let them. So far they've done all the brazing, soldering

and poly-resin. They love it!

"We had one or two scares with our first drive, but now we've fixed the problems and are looking forward to the big event," he continued. "The kids are getting a great experience of engineering through this."

John Ling, IMechE transport programme manager said he hoped the competition would encourage more pupils to consider engineering as a career.

He said: "Building and racing an electric car is not only an exciting way for young people to gain an insight into engineering, but it also makes them aware of the energy issues that we all face."

