

Schools race to win engineering challenge

THE first of this year's Formula 24 regional heats takes place at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford on Sunday, June 22 where school pupils from across Northern Scotland will be battling it out on the track to win a place at the final, held at Goodwood circuit.

Through this event students are getting a taste of the many exciting forms of engineering in which they could find future careers.

For the race, schools either design and build their own cars or use customised kits to compete in regional endurance heats using standard motors and batteries.

IMechE are supporting the challenge and transport programme manager John Ling 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.

"As a future energy crisis looms on the horizon it will be up to engineers to solve the problems.

"By getting pupils hooked on engineering while they're still at school the Institution hopes that it will inspire the next generation to develop solutions."

As part of IMechE's partnership, the Institution has launched

a scheme to enable its members to act as mentors to help schools enter the competition and pass on valuable engineering knowledge.

The event provides an early step into automotive engineering, which IMechE continues to influence through its support of Formula Student, the university level racing challenge that is an advanced development of this school-level competition.

The thrilling final endurance race around the Goodwood track lasts for four hours, testing student's design and driving capabilities to their highest.

With almost 100 finalists last year this year's teams will be looking to secure their place on the grid.

The full list of school entrants: Arbroath Academy, Banchory Academy, Banff Academy, Bankhead Academy, Carnoustie High School, Cordyce School, Dollar Academy, Elgin Academy, Forfar Academy, Grampian Transport Museum Young Engineers Club, St John's RC High School, The Gordon Schools, Thurso High School and Wick High School.

For more information contact the Museum on ☎ (01975) 562 292 or visit www.gtm.org.uk

