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Students gear up for eco race

By *Joanna Glover*

ENGINEERING buffs at West Somerset Community School are gearing up for the regional heats of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Greenpower School Electric Car Races on Sunday.

The event aims to encourage pupils into engineering and offers pupils an insight into careers as they design and build their own eco-race cars.



Students built their eco car in conjunction with BBC's Blue Peter, with the help of host Andy Akinwolere.

The first of this year's Formula 24 regional heats takes place in Chippenham where students across the west will be battling it out on the track to win a place at the final.

Schools either design and build their own cars or use customised kits to compete in regional endurance heats using standard motors and batteries.

John Ling, IMechE transport programme manager, 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."

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 to dwindling energy sources.

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.

Pictured, from left, is Sam Barrett working on the school's eco car with presenter Andy Akinwolere, Kieron Boulton and Anthony Bartlett.

12:26pm Wednesday 18th June 2008

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