

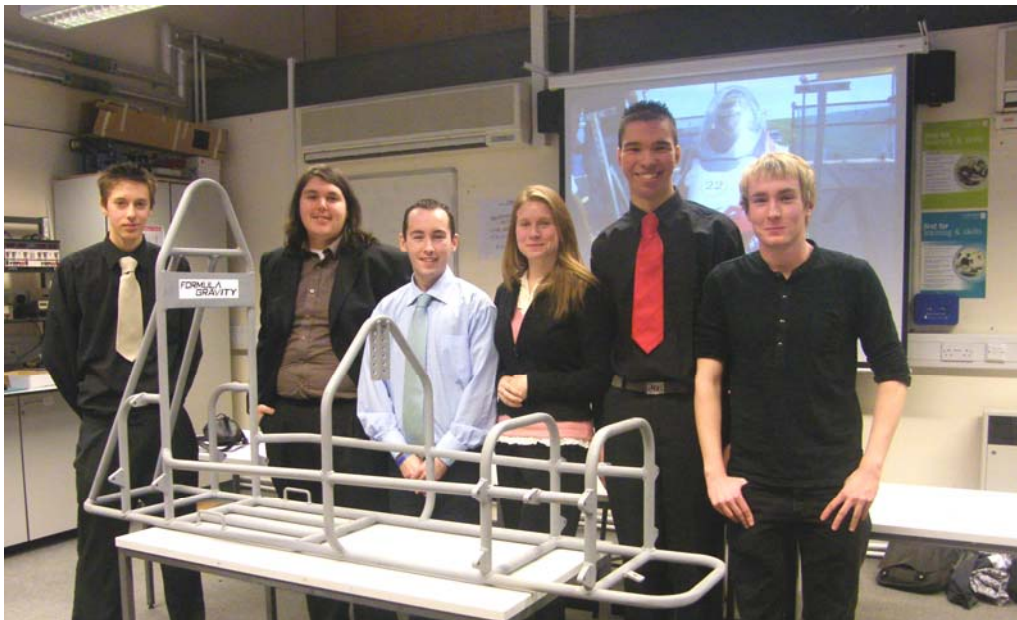
**PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!**

## **TEAM CRC PLAN TO RACE TO SUCCESS**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**A team of Engineering students at Cambridge Regional College (CRC) have launched a project which involves building, and hopefully racing a Formula Gravity Race Car.**

As part of the BTEC National Diploma in Automotive Engineering, students are required to undertake a practical Vehicle Technology Project. A group of eight students recently presented their business plan to College staff and fellow students, in order to explain the project, introduce the team members and discuss sponsorship issues.



***Team CRC - David Jolley, Richard Weidman, Henry Foster, Saffron Richards, Michael Aldridge and James Oakley***

Their aim is to completely design, build and ultimately race a Formula Gravity racing car, which is essentially a race car with no engine, relying on weight and aerodynamics to gain speed on a downhill course. The group aims to complete the car by the end of March this year, with the first race likely to be mid-July.

Students can work on their project during allocated sessions in the academic week, but the majority is done in their own time. Along with engineering practice in areas such as braking and suspension systems, aerodynamics and bodywork, they will be completing a series of required key skill elements such as holding a professional presentation and working with others.

The students have organised themselves into a formally structured team, with an IT Coordinator, Research and Development Specialists, Bursar, Design Director, Resources Officer and Communications & Public Relations Officer. Henry Foster, Project Director, commented "I really could not have wished for a better team of students: it is vital each member of the team knows exactly what their task is and what they are to do, as this project is serious business where finances are involved. The main reason I feel that we have been successful is that the team, as it stands now, have gelled forming one big family".

Formula Gravity was designed as an enrichment activity for education establishments to promote engineering in the automotive industry. Many major automotive companies, such as Lotus endorse their own gravity racer, putting vast amounts of funding into research and development. The team started their project with no raw materials and must source all components themselves through sponsorship and funding. "Team CRC" has already received some sponsorship from the College and various other suppliers in terms of investment, parts and team uniform.

Assistant Head of Academy for Engineering, Anthony Scott added "This group of learners have been an inspiration to their peers and have shown real drive and determination to move this project forward. Within the Academy we are fully in support of the Gravity

Racer project and we look forward to seeing the team competing at the end of the Academic Year”.

**- ENDS -**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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