



Tullamore girls' model hydrogen car wins award

Tribune Reporter

THE Sacred Heart School Tullamore competed in the inaugural Kinia Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP) and claimed the Innovation Award, at the National Arena on Thursday last, April 23.

Organised by Kinia, the 3.5-hour endurance race involved five teams, including the Sacred Heart entry, 'Mystery Machine'.

The seven-member team was awarded the prize based on their creative and technical advancements in the hydrogen car design and presentation.

The event was the culmination of an education STEM programme where students designed, built and raced hydrogen-powered remote-control cars.

Five teams from across the country competed for the national finals after qualifying from their regional H2GP Sprint race.

This was the culmination of an educational STEM programme where students designed, built and raced a hydrogen-powered remote-control car.

Six prizes were awarded after the race including the Endurance winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd),

Innovation, Team Spirit and Pit Stop Awards.

The H2GP is a global racing series and empowers the next generation of engineers, problem-solvers and clean energy champions.

Through hands-on, project-based learning students get to enjoy the buzz of designing, building and racing hydrogen-powered cars while also gaining real-world experience in renewable energy technologies.

Speaking about the event, Marianne Checkley, CEO Kinia said: "Today was a great success and we want to commend all the teams and their teachers. An incredible amount of time was put in from each team and they should all be very proud of their achievement of being involved in the first ever H2GP PRO national final.

"Massive congratulations to the Sacred Heart Tullamore team, they did their school and county proud!

"The teamwork, collaboration, ingenuity and problem solving on display was very impressive and a huge amount of credit is due to the teachers, STEM officer and our Education team at

Kinia, who provided support to each team right up to the final.

"We are very grateful to the Department of Transport for hosting us at the Logistics and Supply Chain Skills event.

"A year ago, most of these young people had never heard of a fuel cell.

"Today, they are Ireland's clean energy ambassadors. Congratulations to all the young participants who built and raced Hydrogen powered cars today.

"They won't just be witnessing a digital and gGreen transition, they'll lead it."

Kinia acknowledged their partners Research Ireland, SSE, Laois, Longford, Offaly, and Westmeath County Councils, and the Department of Education and Youth for their continued support, and would welcome interest from others who would like to get involved or sponsor a team in the next competition.

For more information on the H2GP, visit www.Kinia.ie

Meanwhile, the Sacred Heart School Tullamore Vex Robotics team has set off to St Louis, Missouri, United States to compete in the World Championship.

The school has wished the

best of luck to Freya, Lucy and Emily, along with Ms Meleady and Ms Burke.

Lucy Ann Marsden, coder, driver, builder and designer, plays a central role in the engineering and development of the Phoenix robot.

She leads the mechanical design process, testing and refining key systems such as the claw and alignment mechanisms to improve speed and accuracy.

As both a driver and coder, she also helps translate engineering ideas into reliable robot performance during matches.

Elsewhere, the Sacred Heart students who are on the trip to Arizona, US, were present for a beautiful Mass which was celebrated in support of the girls on their Seton, Arizona exchange.

The Mass was described as a truly joyous occasion, shared with the Tullamore students' wonderful American host families.

Also, the school's annual Golf Classic, hosted by the parents' council, will take place on Friday, May 8 at Esker Hills Golf Club.



Team Mystery Machine from Sacred Heart School Tullamore pictured at the inaugural Kinia Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP). Pictures: Andres Poveda