



**TEAMWORK:** Jack O'Rourke, Kyal Rafter, Reece Appleby, Kyle Smullen and Nathan Byrne.

# Leading the h green transfo Cherry Orchard Youth Service race

CHERRY Orchard Youth Service has won the inaugural Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP), which took place at the National Arena.

Organised by Kinia, the 3.5-hour endurance race was won by the 'Handbrakers' having completed 366 laps to claim the victory. The event was the culmination of an education STEM programme where students designed, built and raced hydrogen-powered remote-control cars.

The winning team on the day consisted of: Jack O'Rourke, Kyan Rafter, Reece Appleby, Kyle Smullen and Nathan Byrne.

Five teams from across the country qualified for the national finals after winning 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 & 3rd), Innovation Award and Team Spirit Award.

The Cherry Orchard-based group also claimed the best 'Pitstop Award' which recognises how quickly and efficiently teams refuel and get their car back on track. The team will now represent Ireland at the World Final, due to take place in Switzerland in June.

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 Cherry Orchard Youth Service team, they did their youth service proud. The teamwork, collaboration, ingenuity and problem solving on display was very impressive and a huge amount of credit is due to the teacher/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.

Ireland's first national hydrogen final took place today and the winners now represent this country at the world final in Switzerland. 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 Green transition, they'll lead it."



# Hydrogen and Innovation . . .

... go to the top in inaugural Grand Prix

