

## Cars Maths in Motion – The 2015 World Finals

After progressing through regional and national heats, we were very proud to state we were world finalists in the Jaguar Maths in Motion Challenge for Schools. 90,000 pupils in eleven countries had taken part in the Maths in Motion Challenge, but by the final that was narrowed down to 30 teams in a mixed, primary and secondary school race.

Our team consisted of James Murray, Ted Jeffery, William McLaughlin and Oscar Timms; all of us proud to represent our school. After an hour long trip to the National Heritage Motor Museum in Warwick, we were all anxious for the event to start, including Mr Sutton as it was his first time at the finals after competing for 15 years.

We began in the Conference Room as we were talked to by various sponsors, trying to convince us that we should become engineers when we grow up. While there, we saw the Australian team, who had flown in from Kingston Primary School in Perth as well as a secondary school from Beijing. We were then taken into a room by ourselves, away from the teachers to programme our car. We worked quickly and effectively, not wasting much time at all. After what felt like a very brief hour and a half we were told to stop working; in the end we were sixth on the grid, the second of the primary schools.

We had a very nice buffet lunch which followed all of the tension of the morning. I tried “Dim sum” for the first time and it was very good. We wandered around the Museum before the race, seeing the DeLorien from ‘Back to the Future’ and some extremely old cars. As we entered the Conference Room again we knew it was time for the race. First was the Teacher’s Race and Mr Sutton crashed on lap 14, but I won’t mention that any more! Eventually it was time for THE race, and the 20 minutes that followed felt like hours at the time.

We held our position of 6<sup>th</sup> for a while before slowly moving up the Leaderboard, and then we were back in 6<sup>th</sup> before we rose up again. It was an extremely close and tense race, but before we knew it we were in second place. Suddenly we felt that we might have a chance. It was just Aylesbury Grammar in front of us, and then with just ten laps to go we overtook them, we just needed to hold on. On lap 56, just 3 laps from the end we saw the low in fuel message, surely we can’t run out now. After great tension and with hearts pounding, we crossed the finish line 12 seconds in front of Aylesbury Grammar School. We jumped from our seats in triumph, we were World Champions and I could hardly believe it!

We were presented with trophies and a load of prizes that included a Toshiba tablet each. We also won a unique Jaguar ‘Leaper’ for the school and were photographed a lot. We were all still buzzing on the journey back, but best of all was when we were rewarded with a Burger King from Mr Sutton!

By William McLaughlin  
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