



## in Schools

### Mary Aldersley

#### KEY FACTS

**Current role:** Coordinator,  
Transmission and Component Assembly

**Company:** McLaren Formula 1

**Country:** F1® in Schools UK

**Years competing:** 2013 - 2014

**School:** Lytham St Annes High School

Now working for McLaren Formula 1 as a Coordinator in the Transmission and Component Assembly team, Mary Aldersley has embarked on a dream career within F1®, the roots of which began with F1® in Schools when she was 16 years old. In this case study, Mary talks us through her journey from classroom to competition, and beyond.

## GETTING STARTED

"I got involved with F1® in Schools in 2013 through my Engineering class at school. We all had the chance to make a car but then when my team realised we really enjoyed it, and that we could develop the car further outside of class times and maybe even take it to a competition, we jumped at the chance. I have always loved challenging myself and have been interested in engineering since I was young, so F1® in Schools was the perfect challenge."

## REGIONALS TO NATIONALS

"My team, Mary's Angels, competed in the Northwest Regional Finals in 2013, and ended up winning, which really ignited the fire for us. After that, we competed in the National Finals, and did the same again in 2014. It was one of the best experiences I had in my entire time in high school, and throughout those two years I made my decision to pursue Motorsport Engineering at university."

## NEXT STEPS

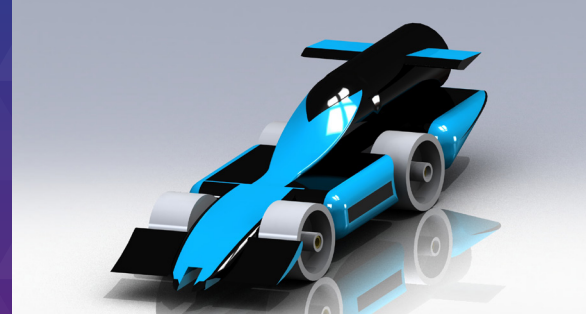
"I found out about Formula Student – a university challenge which sees students design and build a single-seat racing car - through F1® in Schools, and I knew that I would have to be involved as much as I could. From starting university with only my F1® in Schools' knowledge I became the Powertrain Team Leader for Oxford Brookes Racing for two years running, and then took on the role of Chief Mechanic for my final year. The combination of the two programmes led to my job at McLaren Formula 1 team, where I have worked for four years."

## LESSONS LEARNED

"F1® in Schools taught me so many things but, for me, the most important ones were non engineering related tasks. It taught me about time management and how to stick to a plan so that we had everything ready in time to go to competition. It also taught me people management skills and how to lead a team under pressure, which was such a valuable opportunity. These skills have translated into my current job at McLaren, where I put them into practice every day."



National Finals 2014



Mary's Angels Car Render



Coordinating an F1® in Schools Event

**"My main piece of F1® in Schools advice would just be to give it a go! It genuinely doesn't matter if you win or lose, the competition taught me such a wide range of skills - from designing, making, and racing the car to creating a business presentation, and raising money through gaining outside-of-school sponsorship. I had such a great time, and it was truly an eye-opener as to what I wanted to do as a future career."**

CASE STUDY