

FROM BOARDING TO DAY SCHOOLS, NEW EXPERT ADVICE FOR LONDON PARENTS

SCHOOL REPORT

Autumn Term 2019



GREAT THINKERS

FROM EARLY YEARS TO EXAMS, WHY MENTAL
HEALTH REMAINS TOP OF THE AGENDA

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ARE TEACHING
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BLACKHEATH HIGH'S
£18M MASTERPLAN**

In the fast lane

How a Year 12 Felsted School student is committed to using his success on the track to accelerate funding for a charity that is close to his heart

Words: GUSTAV BURTON

Lining up on the grid for every race in the 2019 Ginetta Junior Championship, my thoughts are naturally about winning – for myself and my motor racing career, of course, but also for the charity I support.

I've been racing for two years and I love the excitement and intensity. It's a challenge both physically and mentally. I also love the feeling of supporting The Sparkle Foundation, which is one of my school's chosen charities and was founded by a former Felsted student. The good work they do feeding, educating and providing healthcare for children in Malawi, one of the very poorest countries in Africa, is really impressive. So this season I am committing every penny



JAMES ROBERTS

'Every time I cross the finish line I know my driving success is helping a worthwhile charity'

of corporate sponsorship and advertising on my racing car to The Sparkle Foundation so that they can help a hundred more children at their day centre for a whole year.

TOP: Success in the Douglas Motorsport Ginetta Junior Championship
BELOW: Felsted School

My target is to raise £24,000 and I am optimistic. Last year, thanks to the generosity of my supporters, I raised £20,000 for The Sparkle Foundation, which funded new classrooms, offices, a dining room and toilets at their day centre. Knowing that this funding makes such a huge difference to the lives of seriously deprived children in Malawi really spurs me on.

I first got behind the wheel of a go kart when I was nine. I loved it and couldn't wait to move on to racing cars five years later. In my first season of competition last year I led the front-wheel drive Clio Cup Juniors competition and finished fourth in the winter series of rear-wheel drive Ginetta Juniors. I am ready and excited for my first full season this year, racing for Douglas Motorsport.

The Ginetta cars are somewhat underpowered and a real handful, which tests a driver's racecraft to the limit. The competition in the G40 Junior car is a route into top-level racing for drivers aged 14 to 17 – a first step on the motor racing ladder.

There is quite a lot of preparation, testing and training. My school is very understanding and flexible. They accept that sometimes I have to miss lessons and the teachers are great at helping me to catch up on all of my work.

It's worth the effort though. As Ginetta Juniors is a support race to the famous British Touring Car Championship, every race weekend attracts about 40,000 spectators and 400,000 TV viewers. It's great exposure for The Sparkle Foundation. My car is liveried in a very distinctive teal colour and named 'The Sparkle Car' so it attracts quite a lot of attention!

Every time I cross the finish line I know that my driving success is helping this worthwhile charity to keep moving forward and help more deprived children in Malawi. **SB**

Gustav Burton is a Year 12 student at Felsted School in Dunmow, CM6 3JL. Find out more at felsted.org



TOM SOPER