FORMULA STUDENT

FIRST TERM RECAP

WORKSHOPS

"ONE FOR THE BOOKS"

In the first semester, we held two CAD (Computer-Aided Design) workshops using SolidWorks software to design and simulate a bracket. This was achieved through step-by-step tutorials provided by our team's senior members: Jack Young, Tom Fellows, James Barnes, and Warwick Daden.

In December, we held a collaboration workshop with the Women in Engineering Society, organising a women-only workshop under the guidance of our team's senior members. This workshop provided hands-on experience with the parts, including fitting driveshafts, pedal boxes, and differentials, and aimed to create a more inclusive space and challenge any gender stigma within the team. We look forward to scheduling similar events in the second term!

We organised a drop-in workshop session, an open opportunity for members of all knowledge levels to gain hands-on experience. Our team is hoping to repeat this drop-in session on a fortnightly basis, allowing members to continue advancing their experience in the field.

We also conducted a Computational Fluid Design workshop, using ANSYS software to deliver a step-by-step tutorial by Sidd Khandekar (Aerodynamic Lead) and Aditya Ramkumar (Secretary).

TESTING

PEMBREY AIRFIELD

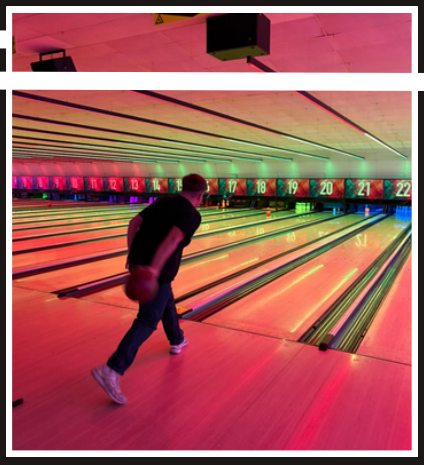
To find areas of improvement for 2026, we completed some testing on the 2025 entry car, at Pembrey Airfield in November. Our aim for this session was to test legalised and upgraded systems, including a new wiring loom and dashboard. We kicked it off with full bolt and safety checks on all systems, including the electrical shutdown. Once we were pleased with the safety elements, we started the car, allowing the sensors to get up to operating temperatures. Following this, we used a shift cut that closed the throttle body during the shift, along with wheel mounted paddles, downshift and great auto blips, to smoothly shift between gears.

FULL AERO PACKAGE

We were also especially interested in testing our brand new full aero package, with it being the first time we have been able to implement one. This addition to our car is designed to improve performance through increased downforce which gives it more grip and stability. Lastly, we tested our new Dash Software, which displays vital information such as oil pressure, battery voltage, water temperature, and RPM. This software is designed with a separate LED Shift light which is set to flash at 6500 RPM, however we found that the engine reached 9500 RPM without any problem.

The testing day was also super useful for driver training, particularly in allowing them to see how the car runs. Looking ahead at future testing days, we hope to run the car with flat shifting enabled and to simulate a full competition event. The rest of the session comprised of testing new components like logging data on the DTA T8+, our new engine control unit.

SOCIALS



Things got rolling in October with our ice breaker bowling social at Tenpin. In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we asked our members to wear pink in solidarity with the cause. Each attendee's £10 contribution for two games was subsequently donated to Breast Cancer Now, which allowed us to donate an impressive £118 to the charity.

Ahead of Halloween, we organised a pub crawl in collaboration with Women In Engineering and the Mechanical Engineering Society, encouraging everyone to get into the spirit by arriving in their most wicked costumes.

Taking to Wind Street, we assigned each venue a different challenge, from boat races to accent rounds, ensuring there was never a dull moment. And not to mention our Social Sec, Len Noel's impressive rendition of Valerie during the karaoke round at Coyote Ugly, which won best karaoke and a £50 bar tab!

To wrap up the semester, we held our very own football match. In spite of falling temperatures, our final social proceeded as a five-a-side friendly tournament, which was a great success.

It's safe to say our first-semester social events turned out to be a massive hit with our members, with over 20 people showing at each event.

With such a successful year behind us, we look forward to seeing lots of new faces joining our returning members in the new year.