

Thursday 5 November 2020

Mulberry Schools Trust launches innovative new STEM provision in partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd

- Inspirational programme in science, technology, engineering and maths
- Providing the foundations for a lasting commitment between the two partners
- Virtual launch took place with Lewis Hamilton, Toto Wolff and 150 Mulberry students today

The Mulberry Schools Trust is excited to announce today an innovative new partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd and the launch of the Mulberry STEM Academy – a Saturday/holiday provision that will provide a place of learning, inspiration and innovation for young people. It will be a powerful supplementary provision for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education and, working together with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd, it will offer a world-class programme of vocational training, specialised study and masterclasses for students aged 7-18 within the Mulberry family of schools and beyond.

To celebrate this significant occasion and to coincide with the partnership launch, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd has arranged for Lewis Hamilton and Toto Wolff to join students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry School for Girls and Mulberry UTC in a broadcast from the team's headquarters in Brackley, Northamptonshire.

The provision will run on Saturdays during term time and school holidays for local young people who have talent, passion and aptitude in STEM, computing, physical science and design. It will offer a comprehensive and integrated curriculum, focusing on the long-term development, strength and needs of each student. Our students are bright, have a passion for STEM fields and will benefit from non-traditional teaching methods, such as industry specific and project-based learning to supplement and enhance the more mainstream teaching they receive in their classrooms and laboratories.

Whilst schools within the Mulberry Schools Trust achieve well and currently have progress well above the national average in many areas, we recognise that our students do not routinely enter degree courses and apprenticeships in STEM compared to other science related pathways. Our schools have worked hard for many years to place our students – most of whom are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds – at the forefront of STEM industries, but the dial has not moved fast enough. Representation from these groups amongst the respective workforce is low in skilled areas and it is particularly complex at the intersection of gender and ethnicity*. The establishment of this new provision takes explicit, positive action to address this early on in a child's educational life.

Cont/2...

The Mulberry Schools Trust and Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd are unafraid to go where the challenge is high. Both work within the territory of marginal gains to achieve success in their respective fields. They thrive on team spirit and an enjoyment of high performance – be it in the classroom pedagogy and practice or technical prowess on the race track. With their core values aligned, the partnership provides the foundations on which a deep, long-term commitment can be built. This crucial investment is required if the STEM provision is to change the picture, transform lives and develop a pipeline of talent into the Formula One workforce from amongst the youth of East London.

The provision will give students access to inspirational role models, imaginative teaching and rich extra-curricular experiences over a five-year period. Graduates will leave with a passport into engineering, design and science-based industries and be highly desirable employees for Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd and other related sectors.

Toto Wolff, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd commented: *“We are very proud today to announce our new partnership with the Mulberry Schools Trust and to continue our journey towards making a positive contribution to the future engineers and scientists of the next generation. This is a deeply important project for us and the result of a great deal of thought into how best we might make a lasting contribution to promoting diversity and inclusion within our industry. I know myself and all our team are passionate about the success of this programme and we look forward to welcoming the first attendees of the Mulberry STEM Academy and exploring how we can best support their learning journey. Providing practical workplace experience and access to opportunities will be key to breaking down the barriers these students face when aspiring to their future careers and we are proud to be part of a project which will set them on a path to strengthening the STEM capabilities of our industry in years to come. The Mulberry Schools Trust is a hugely impressive organisation that shares our core values and we are honoured to be working with them. If the passion, enthusiasm, respect and excellence that I witnessed today during our virtual event with students from the Mulberry Schools today is anything to go by, this is going to be a very exciting, rewarding and successful venture.”*

Lewis Hamilton continued: *“I was honoured to join the virtual event today to launch the new STEM Academy and to see the enthusiasm, intelligence and commitment of the Mulberry students for myself. It’s so important that, as a sport, we do all that we can to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. Increasing young people’s access to STEM and, ultimately, paving the way to careers in our industry is a brilliant way to do this. Creating a sport that is more representative of society is something very personal and important to me, and this partnership shows a real commitment from Mercedes to build a legacy that goes beyond motorsport. The STEM Academy is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference and I’m proud to work alongside my team, in partnership with the Mulberry Schools Trust, to open doors for these students which might otherwise have been closed, and to give them the opportunity to excel. Providing young people from diverse and often disadvantaged backgrounds with the confidence and resources to implement change in their own lives is one of the strongest tools that we have to build a fairer and more equal future. I’m looking forward to seeing how the students progress and, judging by the questions I received today, I have every faith we will see some of them fulfilling their dreams of working in motorsport in the future!”*

Jane Farrell, Chair of the Mulberry Schools Trust said: *“We are delighted that Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd is partnering with us on this exciting new venture. This partnership will provide access to world class innovation and performance that match the ambitions of our students and the communities that they live in. It’s our job to ensure that we create opportunities that encourage the development of the skills and confidence that will lead to fantastic employment opportunities in specialised industries that too often miss out on the talents of our truly diverse and brilliant students. I would like to thank Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix for seeing their potential and creating a true partnership of learning and opportunity.”*

Cont/3...

Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust and Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls continued: *“The first-class learning experiences our students will receive through this deeply thoughtful partnership between Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd and the Trust will deliver a pipeline of talent into science and engineering industries over the next few years. Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of our work and we do all we can to provide young people in our schools with the opportunities they deserve at university and in industry. We must move the dial much quicker than we have in the UK to meet our students’ aspirations and fulfil their potential. Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix recognises this and I am glad to work with such like-minded partners as Lewis Hamilton, Toto Wolff and all their colleagues in our efforts to really shift structural inequality for good, starting early in young people’s lives through education and workplace experience.”*

Paul Mills, Chief People Officer at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd concluded: *“It has been a pleasure working closely with the leaders and teachers at the Mulberry Schools Trust over the past few months as we have established our new STEM Academy. I would particularly like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Jane Farrell and Dr Vanessa Ogden for their vision and commitment to our joint endeavour. I have already taken learnings from them which will be of benefit to our team, and I am confident that this learning will go both ways in the future. Unfortunately, we have not been able to visit the Mulberry Schools as yet due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we very much look forward to being able to do so and meeting the students in person. I am honoured and excited to be joining the steering group for our STEM Academy programme and look forward to working with the Trust and our employees at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix to make a real difference to the Mulberry students over the course of our long-term commitment.”*

* Engineering UK 2018: 9% are of Black, Asian and minority ethnic background; 12% are women; 24% are of low socio-economic background

- Ends -

For further information, please contact:

Julie Cordice | Director of Marketing, Communications and External Affairs
Mulberry Schools Trust
Email | jcordice@mulberryschoolstrust.org

Nicola Armstrong | Head of Corporate Communications
Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team
Email | NArmstrong@mercedesamgf1.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Mulberry Schools Trust

The Mulberry Schools Trust is a flourishing multi-academy trust set up in 2016 in Tower Hamlets. The family of schools includes Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry School for Girls and Mulberry UTC, and it is currently working with the Local Authority and the Department for Education to build a new school in Wapping – Mulberry Academy London Dock. The Trust believes in the power of local partnerships with families, other schools and the communities that it serves.

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls are graded ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and Mulberry UTC, a relatively new school, was graded ‘Good’ by Ofsted earlier this year. Attainment and progress of schools within the Mulberry Schools Trust is significantly above the national average at GCSE and A Level.

Cont/4...

The Trust takes great pride in its extensive network of partners, covering all key areas: education, business, community and culture including the University of Cambridge, the Prince's Trust, Barts Health NHS Trust, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the British Film Institute, the National Theatre and the WOW Foundation. Each of its partnerships contribute to and enrich the curriculum offer for students and form an integral part of the Trust's unique and inspiring learning environment. These strong collaborative partnerships provide students with exceptional opportunities which support and enhance their learning including practical activities, trips, motivational speakers, school visits and mentoring.

Above all, the Trust's partnership activities broaden students' horizons and takes their learning beyond the classroom.

Digital Channels & Resources:

Websites: www.mulberryschoolstrust.org
www.mulberryschoolstrust.org/stemacademy

Twitter: @MulberryTH

About Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd

The Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team is the works Formula One Team of Mercedes-Benz, competing in the FIA Formula One™ World Championship – the pinnacle of world motorsport and the largest annual sporting series in the world.

Based at two world-class technology campuses in the UK, the team designs, develops, manufactures and races the race cars and Hybrid Power Units driven by six-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton and race-winning team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

Formula One is a uniquely demanding technical and human challenge, requiring the right alchemy of cutting-edge technologies, high-performance management and elite teamwork to deliver results at 22 Grands Prix around the globe in a race season running from March to December.

The Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team has set new benchmarks for F1™ success on its way to winning the Constructors' World Championships in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020*. During those seven Championship-winning seasons, the team scored 100 wins, 200 podiums, 107 pole positions, 70 fastest laps and 53 one-two finishes from 134 race starts**.

*Subject to official confirmation by the FIA of the results of the 2020 FIA Formula One™ World Championship

**Statistics accurate up to the 2020 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix

Digital Channels & Resources:

Media Site: media.mercedesamgf1.com
Websites: mercedesamgf1.com
mercedesamgf1.com/en/sustainability/

Instagram: /MercedesAMGF1
Twitter: @MercedesAMGF1
Facebook: /MercedesAMGF1
YouTube: /MercedesAMGF1
LinkedIn: /MercedesAMGF1