

## **ROB SMEDLEY JOINS F1 IN SCHOOLS PATRONS ROSTER**

F1 in Schools, a global educational initiative, welcomes Rob Smedley, Race Engineer, Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro, to its growing list of patrons from the Formula 1 community. Smedley has been a loyal supporter of F1 in Schools for many years and has welcomed many of the World Finals teams into the Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro garages at races.

Smedley says of becoming a patron for F1 in Schools, "I'm extremely proud to have been given this opportunity to support such a great initiative as F1 in Schools. As the current crop of engineers working in Grand Prix motor racing we should all be aware of the responsibility that we have in nurturing the future of our sport which rests in the hands of the young enthusiasts who aspire to one day occupy senior engineering positions within the teams. This talent needs to be supported and guided at such a crucial stage to ensure the correct development and F1 in Schools is doing just that. It is no surprise to see that all the major teams in Formula 1 are involved in this excellent programme.

"For the young people involved this is a great opportunity and one that should be grasped with both hands. It is a chance to learn and grow in an environment that reflects a modern day Formula 1 team. It's great that people are able to get involved in engineering from such a young age, the younger the better! Use the experience to its full potential and it can only be of benefit. Most of all, have fun."

Smedley, a native of Middlesbrough, England, studied mathematics and mechanical engineering at Loughborough University and after completing a Masters Degree started work in the motorsport industry, initially joining Peugeot as a suspension design engineer for the French manufacturer's touring car team. His Formula 1 career began with the Jordan Grand Prix team and from there he moved to Ferrari, where he has achieved considerable success, and forming probably the most noted engineer-driver partnership in F1, working with Felipe Massa for over four years.

Andrew Denford, Founder and Chairman, F1 in Schools, welcomes Smedley as a Patron of F1 in Schools saying, "Rob has been a great champion of the work of F1 in Schools and has helped us to build some excellent relationships in the F1 paddock. He has always welcomed our students whenever possible and we're always grateful for the time he gives them, showing them around and giving a unique insight into the inner workings of a top F1 team. As an engineer we value the knowledge and guidance he can give to our students and the initiative."

Smedley joins a roster of patrons from the world of F1 which includes Adrian Newey, Ross Brawn, Mike Gascoyne, Martin Whitmarsh, James Allen, Norbert Haug (F1 in Schools Germany), Gary Anderson and Richard Cregan (both F1 in Schools Ireland).

Ends.