

## **Class of Your Own Launches International Sustainable Race Track Challenge for Schools, Supported by Ridge & Partners, Driven International, and Bentley Systems**

Class Of Your Own (COYO) has released its latest international design challenge for schools to Design a Sustainable Race Track, inviting young people aged 13–17 to take on one of the most ambitious infrastructure design briefs ever set through the award-winning 'Design Engineer Construct!' (DEC) programme. The challenge creates a powerful opportunity for students to represent their school, their community and their country.

Developed in partnership with world-class experts, Ridge & Partners and Driven International, and supported by COYO's technology partner Bentley Systems, the challenge uses the thrill and complexity of high-performance race tracks to explore the real-world skills behind road design, infrastructure planning and the built environment.

Race tracks are among the most demanding pieces of infrastructure on the planet. They require precision, safety, environmental responsibility and imagination in equal measure. Through this challenge, students will work in mixed-age, multidisciplinary teams to design a complete race track aligned to the performance of a chosen vehicle, balancing speed, safety and sustainability.

"Driven International, A Ridge Company, are excited to support the Class Of Your Own Sustainable Racetrack Challenge and share how engineers, architects, surveyors and more work together, creatively problem-solving real-world challenges to design safe, high performing race tracks across the world. We are incredibly proud to encourage students and teachers to explore engineering and design to inspire the next generation of innovators," said Keegan Rhodes, Principal Engineer at Driven International, A Ridge Company.

Teams will design the full circuit, including the track layout, pit lane, podium, changing rooms and modular spectator facilities. All buildings must be designed using net zero principles and modern methods of construction, and teams must demonstrate how their race track can serve a meaningful community purpose when not in use for racing.

Alongside the release of the brief, Class Of Your Own will deliver a global programme of live webinars, giving students rare access to professionals who design, engineer and construct complex infrastructure projects. Themes include Site, Land and Context; Track Design and Performance; Buildings, Materials and Sustainability and Working Like Professionals.

"Ridge & Partners is proud to support the Sustainable Racetrack Challenge. Inspiring young people to think creatively about sustainability and the built environment is essential for shaping the future of our industry, and this initiative offers an exciting platform for the next generation of designers, engineers and surveyors to do exactly that," said Michael Wood, Associate Partner at Ridge and Partners.

To further support schools, students will also receive technical training sessions in Bentley Systems' road design tools, building design for modern methods of construction, and Cesium geospatial software for site analysis and visualisation, helping them move from concept to credible digital design.

Chris Bradshaw, Chief Sustainability and Education Officer at Bentley Systems, added, "We believe empowering young people with digital skills is essential to building a more sustainable future. The Sustainable Race Track Challenge gives students a hands-on opportunity to explore the same engineering, design and environmental principles shaping real-world infrastructure

today. We're proud to support an initiative that not only sparks curiosity but also equips future talent with the tools and confidence needed to tackle the world's most complex challenges."

Speaking about the launch, Alison Watson MBE, Founder and CEO of Class Of Your Own, said, "It's fantastic that we have such an amazing team of professionals supporting this year's COYO Challenge. Designing a race track is about far more than speed. It brings together the same skills used to design roads, infrastructure and places that communities rely on every day. If young people can tackle this challenge responsibly, they can apply those skills anywhere in the world."

As usual, there's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the winning team, offering the opportunity to take their concept far beyond the classroom, work with industry partners to develop a full digital model and visualisation, and experience world-class racing and infrastructure innovation first-hand.

Class Of Your Own is encouraging consultants, contractors, professional bodies and specialist universities to support the challenge through volunteering, mentoring and sharing expertise.

Full challenge details and registration information are available at: <https://designengineerconstruct.com/racetrack/>

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#### Associated Image



**Caption:** Class Of Your Own invited young people aged 13–17 to take on one of the most ambitious infrastructure design challenges: to design a sustainable race track. Registration is now open to participate in the challenge. (Image courtesy of Class Of Your Own)

#### About Class Of Your Own

Class Of Your Own is the award-winning social enterprise founded in 2009 by Alison Watson MBE, creator of the 'Design Engineer Construct!®' Learning Programme ("DEC"), a pioneering curriculum focusing on the Built Environment.

By integrating STEM subjects and real-world project-based learning experiences, DEC educates and inspires children and young people to contribute positively to a net zero carbon future, giving them 21st-century skills and a deep understanding of design, engineering and construction concepts for a more sustainable world.

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