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landmark project.

Worsley said: "Breaking the sound barrier does not constitute a record, but imagine the headline—'school children break sound barrier!' And we're not stopping there; how much further could we go? Could we emulate the magnificent Bloodhound car, at 1,000mph?"

The sound barrier attempt is slated for summer 2018, where the latest version of the car will likely go faster than it has travelled before. The rocket cars are powered by ammonium perchlorate, a frequently used oxidizer in most modern composite rocket propellant formulations.

Worsley said: "We have so far officially achieved 628mph. This is not the maximum speed that this car can go, as just as the car passed the time trap it abruptly broke up and turned over. We have completely redesigned it to have a lower and longer rear stabiliser with a much stronger chassis design. The cable guide system has also had a huge upgrade; we will be using a 6mm guide cable and loading it with the optimal tension to reduce any whip that might be occurring."

The first car (Mach 1) was 740mm long, 100mm high and the main chassis was only 60mm in width. The rear wheels were 280mm apart to reduce the possibility of the car overturning. The weight of the car was approximately 1100g without the rocket motor, which weighs 868g, giving a total weight of 1,968g. The second edition (Mach 2 or 'Big Mac') is the same length and width but due to the double rocket capacity, is 130mm high. It weighs approximately 1,300g, while the rocket weight will be up to a maximum of 2 x 868g, giving a maximum full load of just over 3kg (3,036g).

Worsley concluded: "We could not be where we are now without this load cell and Straightpoint's generosity. STEM is difficult to learn from a book. It has to be experienced through some medium that allows students to see, hear and feel something and have ownership over changes that they create. STEM is best understood through discovery learning." ■

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