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'Sale student rallies to the cause'

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A STUDENT from Sale has set the wheels in motion to experience life in the fast lane by taking part in the Student Gumball Rally. Neil Johnson, 20, of Glenthorne Grove, will be making the 1,500 mile trip to Eastern Europe, starting on September 3. He will be driving from Dover to Croatia in just six days with the chance to win a first prize of £1000. This is the first year the rally has taken place. It will involve more than 500 students from 10 countries taking part to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, the charity supported by the rally. The trip will be an exciting challenge for Neil. He said: "I wanted to do it because I thought it would be something different and a new experience for me to see different places. I've never done anything like this before." He will be completing the journey with his friends from Northumbria University, where he studies graphic design. The rally will receive television coverage and will be screened in student unions nationwide during 'freshers' week at the start of the academic year. It has predicted viewing figures of 1.6 million. The students will be passing through a number of countries en route, including stopovers in Germany and Hungary. They will be making their final lap of honour on Pag Island, in Croatia, on September 8. No training is needed for the rally and the Gumball's organisers have arranged accommodation along the way for the many participants. So, for Neil and his team it will simply be a matter of hitting the road and enjoying the view as they drive through some of Europe's most impressive cities. For more information visit studentgumballrally.com.