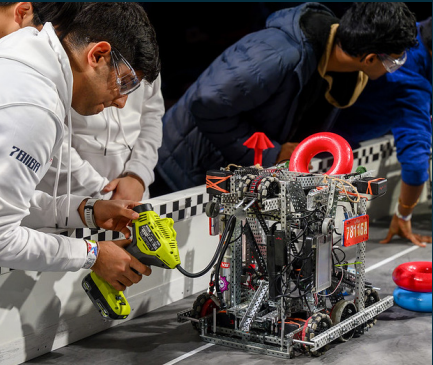


Hear from the Winning VEX Team from Haberdashers' Boys' School

Meet the students behind the Cyber Squad team from Haberdashers' Boys' School who won the Excellence Award at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas. They talk us through what it was like winning the award, how they worked together as a team and advice for students starting out with VEX.



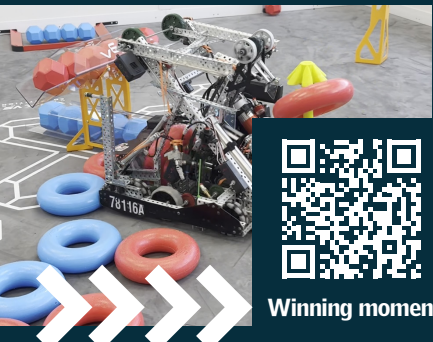
Students from Haberdashers' Boys' School in Elstree have made history at the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas, becoming the first UK team at their programme level to win the prestigious Excellence Award.

Landmark Win for UK STEM Education

The award celebrates achievement across a range of areas including engineering design, coding, teamwork and innovation. It's only the second time in the competition's 18-year history that a UK team has received the award, making it a landmark moment for STEM education in the UK.

Behind the Scenes with the Winning Team

The D&T Association visited the school to meet the team and hear more about their journey. During our time there, the members of the team walked us through the development of their robot, from early ideas and design challenges to testing, problem-solving and final refinements. It was clear that resilience and teamwork played a key role in their success as well as support from their D&T department.



Mr Ryan and Ms Fagan, who accompanied them on the trip and have pioneered the VEX programme within the school, allowed them to constantly learn, improve, and develop over the course of their three years competing.

We were also given a tour of the Design and Technology department, where the students work in spaces that support creativity and hands-on learning.

As well as gaining technical skills, the students spoke about how the project helped build their confidence and communication skills, particularly during the competition itself and their plans for the future.

Inspiring the Next Generation

The team are now mentoring younger pupils at the school, sharing their experience and helping to guide the next generation of robotics students.

At a time when the UK is facing a shortage of STEM and engineering skills, this kind of achievement highlights the importance of investing in D&T education.



Ishan Visvanath
Engineer

Ishan is a Year 10 student and a proud member of Cyber Squad. His journey began in Year 9 when he joined the VEX Robotics competition with a group of friends. Ishan crafted 450 pages of handwritten notes, meticulously documenting their design process. This documentation helped their team to stand out in the competition.



Isaac Collis
Programmer

Isaac, a STEM enthusiast and programmer, talks about the thrill of winning an award shortly after joining the team. He discusses the unique strengths each member brings, and the challenges they overcame between nationals and worlds. Programming for robots has fuelled Isaac's learning and what his future aspirations in robotics and software engineering.



Max Spooner
CAD Designer

Max was the lead CAD designer on the team. Max focused particularly on designing and perfecting the robot's intake system. He applied mathematical analysis to game strategy and translated complex challenges into practical engineering solutions. He loved seeing his detailed designs come to life and contribute to the team's success.



William Cheng
Driver and Builder

William was the driver and builder on the robotics team. From a young age, he harboured a strong passion for engineering. This interest naturally steered him towards competitive robotics, a field where *"being the driver has always been a bit nerve-racking but very rewarding."*



Ayaan Bajay
Robot Builder

Meet Ayaan, the main builder of the award-winning robotics team. Ayaan's journey in robotics began at a young age, driven by a fascination with both technology and the mechanics of old things. This passion led to participating in F1 in Schools (now STEM Racing) during Year 7, eventually discovering the world of competitive robotics.



Joe Lyons
Programmer

Meet Joe, an aspiring mechanical engineer whose passion for robotics led him to VEX. Joe shares his experiences and the challenges his team faced and programming and engineering at the World Championships in Dallas. Joe emphasises the importance of commitment and teamwork, and discusses the systems and techniques his team used to stay organised and perform well.



Oscar Balint
Engineer

Meet Oscar as he shares his passion for STEM and his journey in the VEX Robotics competition. He discusses how his team's dedication, collaboration, and a solid engineering design process led them to win the world championship. He emphasises the importance of hard work and details his role in the team's engineering design process.



Jaiden Joshi
Sponsorship and Outreach Lead

Meet Jaiden, the sponsorship and outreach lead, as he shares his journey with VEX Robotics. He shares his love of hands-on engineering and how he overcome challenges and communication hurdles at competitions. He offers his perspectives on teamwork, and innovative problem-solving.

