What VEX means to me

I’ve really enjoyed working with Vex robotics. I’ve gained valuable experience and learned many lessons such as:

The importance of working in a team: Each person should have a specified role without one person doing everything. Teammates should share ideas with each other and keeping to deadlines is a very important factor.

Practical applications of mechanics: I’ve experimented with many different ways of using gears in the robots I’ve built and have learnt more about torque and other associated principles. I’ve also discovered the numerous ways friction can affect a robot and how difficult, but important, it is to reduce that friction.

How to work within constraints/ with limited resources: One of the biggest challenges I have faced in the Vex competitions is the 18x18x18 inch size limit. Working within this limit has always stretched me and often required creative thinking to overcome. The limits on motors and sensors are also a challenge; they must be used efficiently or the robot will not be able to perform all of its functions as well.

One of the great things about Vex has been the opportunity to go to the World Championships in America for the last 2 years. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience - travelling to a different country and meeting different people with similar interests.

Robotics started as a school club activity but now I am heading to university to study engineering (mechatronics) as my career. Because of Vex robotics I have an exciting future.