

Having participated in many robotics competitions over the past few years, progression and mentoring others has added an entirely new dimension to my experience. VEX challenges me in different ways than FLL, RoboCup Junior and FTC with more emphasis placed on the competitiveness between teams whilst working together in both mutual and competing alliances.

Teamwork is such an important cornerstone in almost everything I do from science and maths competitions to sports that having opportunities to combine both classroom knowledge and robotics into this sport for the mind provides an excess of motivation to learn new skills and acquire more knowledge. The real world is full of challenges and even being a VEX rookie this year I am seeing parallels with problem solving robot issues whilst working on a tight timeframe and limited budget. These experiences although difficult and more often than not sleep deprived are building my life skills and confidence.

Working with mentors presents opportunities to learn subject matter I would probably not even know existed until taking university papers. Many of these awesome mentors readily share their knowledge on the VEX forum which adds to the pool of knowledge my brain willingly soaks up. I value this input highly and although only just emerging from middle school in 2013 I can see a path forwards to bigger and better things plus along the way I'll be mentoring others too. VEX is my gateway to an engineering career.