

From an all-boy team to a girl powered team

I am not going to lie, getting girls involved in robotics has been a serious challenge.

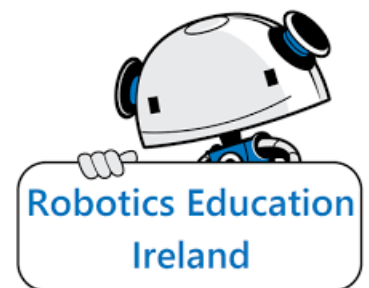
Here we were, a group of five boys with one thing in common, a love for robotics.

Most of us started in Robotics when we were 11-12 years old in primary (elementary) school. There was an equal number of boys and girls in the primary (elementary) robotics clubs. We thought it was great fun and we all loved the experience. On starting in secondary (high) school the following



year, we were delighted to hear that there was a robotics' club. However, on joining there were no girls in the club even though it's a mixed high school. We were all confused by this as we were used to there being an equal ratio of girls to boys and did not

understand why there were no girls. We quickly found out that there was a mixed conception in our school that girls could not do robotics and that they were too scared to join an all-male team. We performed very poorly that season and decided a change was necessary.

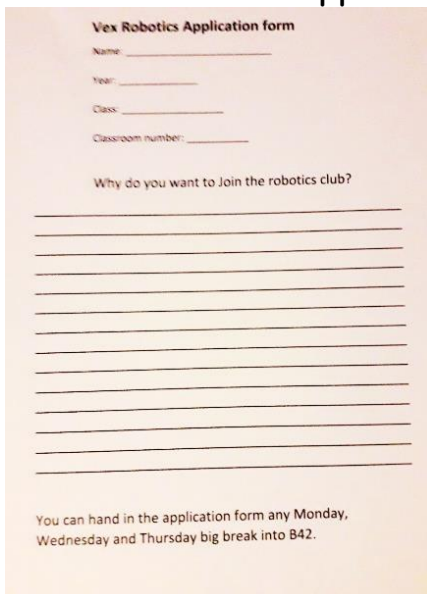


This year our team set an objective- to become a competitive, inclusive and girl powered team by getting girls involved in Robotics by showing them how robotics isn't just for boys. But we had one big problem.... Covid-19. After approaching our mentors on the first day of school inquiring about robotics the school was adamant that robotics could not run because of the virus. We were outraged by this because we had planned to become a strong, competitive, girl-powered team. So, we didn't give up. We persisted determinately but we were still not allowed to start up robotics club. We continued creating Covid friendly plans and displaying our serious interest and enthusiasm. Finally, the school gave in! After 2 months of persistence, we received the go ahead! Now that we got it going the team was soon reorganised and I was made captain. The plan now was to recruit new members (particularly girls) to build up our team. We found the best way of getting new members was by creating flyers and placing them around the school.



The posters gave the details on how to receive and submit application forms.

We received 8 application forms, 1 of which was from a female.



Vex Robotics Application form

Name: _____

Year: _____

Class: _____

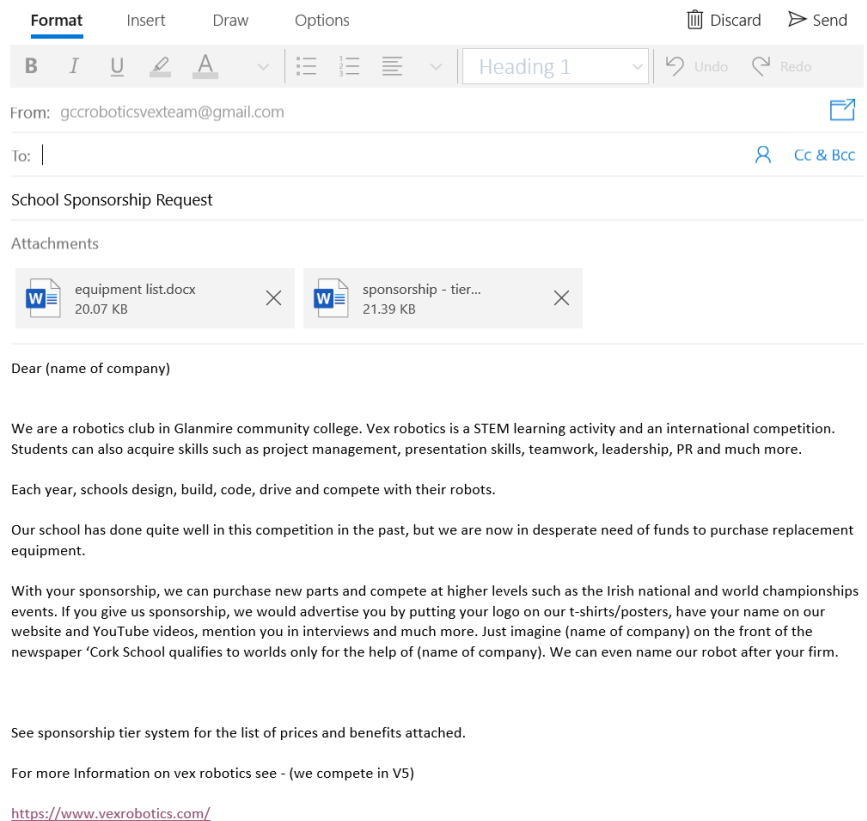
Classroom number: _____

Why do you want to Join the robotics club?

You can hand in the application form any Monday, Wednesday and Thursday big break into B42.

After accepting the application forms, we got to meet the new members in person. Emma's (the new girl) application form was fantastic. We made her feel comfortable and welcome in what was an all-male team. She quickly got used to robotics and soon

started driving the team. Our team has been around for a while now but has never been competitive and has been consistently male dominant. Thus, the club had very little equipment. It was necessary to find money to buy new equipment. Emma came up with the amazing idea of finding sponsorship and she drove it. She wrote a lot of emails and sent them out to numerous companies looking for sponsorship.



She also created a list describing how we would advertise their business/companies based on how much money they sponsored us.

- The sponsorship Tier system

Sponsorship	Diamond	Platinum	Gold	silver
Price	€ 1,500	€ 750	€ 300	€ 100
Recognition for team	yes	Yes		
Choose name of robot	Yes*2	Yes*1		
Mention you in interviews	Yes	Yes		
Logo on T-shirt	Yes	Yes		
Logo on side of t-shirt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Image/logo of choice put on robot	Yes*2	Yes*1		
Main mention in YouTube videos	Yes	Yes		
Side mention in YouTube videos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo/name on posters at competitions	Yes	Yes		
Logo/name on website	Yes	yes	yes	
Sosial media mentions	Yes	Yes		

She then followed up with potential sponsors, met a few of the companies in person and gave them incredible pitches. In the end she helped us get all the sponsorship we could ever want.

Currently our team is progressing rapidly. We are still set on becoming a more Girl Powered team. Slowly but surely, girls will become more interested in robotics and teams will be better because of them. We hope to soon be a gender balanced team. We currently have 11 members and already, 3 of whom are female. With the girls involved, we are now seeing a huge positive change in our team. This is because of the increasing influence of girl power.



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