

## **Robot invasion at St. Helena School**

**-National Grid awards VEX Robotics Kit to school**

**-St. Helena School in Colchester joins three other schools in the battle of the robots**

**-Robots set to inspire our future generation of engineers**

Last week St Helena School in Colchester became the latest school in the region to join National Grid's VEX Robotics programme. After reading about National Grid's offer to provide a free robotics kit worth £2000, science teacher, Dani James, contacted the energy firm to put her school's name forward.

National Grid received several requests and after careful consideration, decided to award the kit to St Helena's. During a visit to the school, National Grid engineer, Bob Jones, handed over the VEX Robotics kit to staff and students in the science department. He said: "We were delighted with the response to our offer and we are very pleased to support St Helena's with its first experience of VEX.

"It is very pleasing to see the enthusiasm of the students and the teachers towards engineering. Especially as VEX is a hands on learning opportunity in this age of virtual reality."

There are now four schools involved in this exciting new educational programme which is designed to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education through designing and creating robots.

VEX Robotics is a unique and innovative teaching system which will allow students to develop a new outlook on STEM subjects, as well as encouraging creativity and teamwork. This exciting opportunity for students and teachers is bringing National Grid one step closer in their bid to inspire the young engineers of our future.

During this autumn term, National Grid engineers and the VEX Robotics team will be helping the students to create their own robots, develop valuable science, technology, engineering and maths skills along the way. They will be training up and overseeing the teams from each school to make sure they are fighting fit in preparation for a competition early next year to find the best robots in the east.

Dani James, science teacher at St Helena School, added: "The students' enthusiasm is contagious. We are all really looking forward to working with a successful St. Helena team."

Since October 2009, National Grid has been consulting on proposals to build a high voltage electricity transmission connection between Bramford in Suffolk and Twinstead in Essex. It is needed to connect a number of new power generators to the national transmission network in East Anglia.

National Grid would like to thank all the schools who showed an interest in the offer of the VEX kit.

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