

North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos.

Looking forward to its 125th anniversary on 12th November. Visit www.northschoolxxv.com



5 North Techs Take JAWTY to Vex

Arriving at school at 5.30am on Sunday 3rd March is a terrible thing to do but the pain was worth it according to Talia, Alex Joel, Will and Joe: the five members of the school Robotics Team.

Thanks to Mr. O'Donovan, the team were able to travel together with parents in a minibus 200 miles across England to Telford to take part in the two day national finals of the Vex Robot Competition, held in The Telford International Centre.

North was one of 60 schools that had qualified for the final. Schools had come from as far afield as Aberdeen. Most were secondary age – Years 7-9. What an achievement to be competing with and against KS3 students.

The team of five have been attending Robot Club after school on Mondays and given up lunchtimes to prepare for the finals. Mrs. Walker has been so impressed with their dedication: "I have enjoyed working with this team. They quickly slotted into their individual roles that make a successful team. They deserve their success."

Sunday went well and the children (and adults) were exhausted. They had to face one more challenge that evening: Walking through wind and rain to get to and from a restaurant! Storm Freya survived, Monday began with BrainGym in glorious sunshine in Telford Park before getting ready for the second, long day of competition ahead.

Having built the robot, and naming it JAWTY, they had to get it to do a variety of tasks on their own or by collaborating with

another school. Their skills were tested with a hand held controller having to complete as many tasks as possible against the clock. They also had to program the robot to complete the tasks independently too, which is very challenging. As little as 1mm out on one instruction can escalate until disaster strikes. That is the level of programming precision required.

The team were also interviewed by four sets of judges who grilled them about the design process, individual roles within the team, the effectiveness of the working parts and how they overcame any problems.

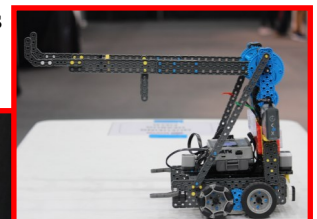
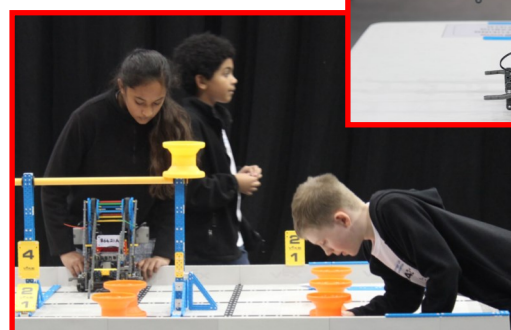
The magic ingredients for success are: teamwork, determination, logic and thinking clearly under pressure. Did they have these? Well their parent's thought so. This is what they said –

"It was great to see them working so well as a team. If something didn't quite work as planned in the practice run, they would immediately brainstorm to come up with a possible solution which they would then program and test., each person putting forward ideas." Mr. Burton.

"It has been great seeing their enthusiasm and teamwork. We enjoyed watching the team's competitive spirit coming out." Mr & Mrs Kyle.

"They worked good as a team. They tried to improve the robot's movement."

Mr. Mereani.



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NSA News NSA News

DISCO

Friday 8th March

Fast track your entry by buying tickets before the day

“**Inspirational.** Amazing to see our young roboteers entering into the full spirit of the competition – every one of them enjoying the experience to the full.” Mr. Addley.

This is the third year that North has been involved in this competition. Former team members are now applying their skills and expertise in their secondary schools – fellow finalists St. Helena and CRGS have former North pupils in their teams. So North is obviously a successful Nursery for growing programmers.

In the summer term these roboteers will be training Year 5s ready for next year.

With thanks to Mrs. Walker’s great teaching, Mr. O’Donovan’s driving and frontpage headline and all the parents’ financial support.

Find out how they got on in Newline March Issue 3.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March

Dress up as your favourite book character and bring your favourite book to school

WORLD BOOK DAY

Enjoy a special themed lunch and spend the afternoon with your school family and grandparents

TERM DATES		
Thursday 7th March	WORLD BOOK DAY Grandparent Afternoon	1.45pm
Friday 8th March	NSA DISCO	5.30pm & 6.45pm
Saturday 16th March	Children’s University Graduation Ceremony	Invitation only!
Friday 22nd March	NSA Spring Fair	After school
Sunday 24th March	Colchester Half Marathon	9.00am start
Tuesday 26th March	Colchester Music Festival	6.30pm
Friday 29th March	Mothering Sunday Lunch	Details to follow
Tuesday 2nd April	Open Afternoon (KS1 and KS2) 2.00pm. Reception Stay and Learn dates to follow	
Friday 5th April	Easter Parade and Governors’ Awards	assembly
Friday 5th April	End of Spring Term	
Tuesday 23rd April	First day of Summer Term	
Friday 10th May	NSA Bingo Night	6.00pm
Friday 24th May	Penny Race	
Friday 24th May	Last day of half term	
Monday 3rd June	Return to school	
Friday 7th June	NSA Quiz Night	Details to follow
Friday 5th July	NSA Summer Fete	6.00pm
Wednesday 24th July	End of school year	
Monday 2nd September 2019	Year 6 residential to Weymouth	
Thursday 5th September	First day of new school year	