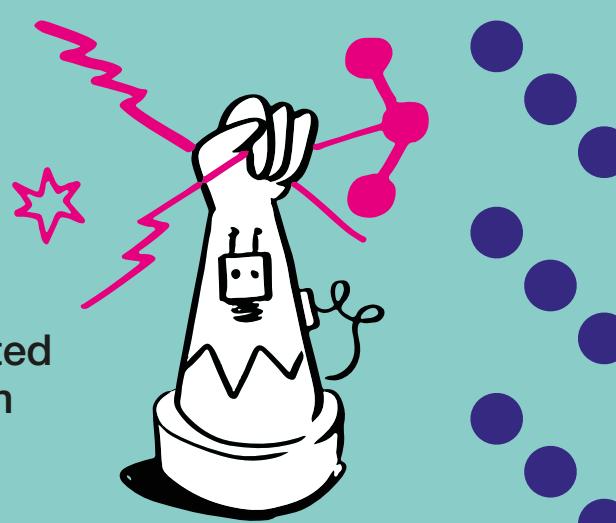




Girl power in STEM

Young women working to
close the gender gap

STEM may currently be a very male-dominated field but teams Equuleus and Delphinus from Nonsuch High School for Girls are doing everything in their power to change that.



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Equuleus & Delphinus

Equuleus: 10 team members
Delphinus: 11 team members, aged 13-15

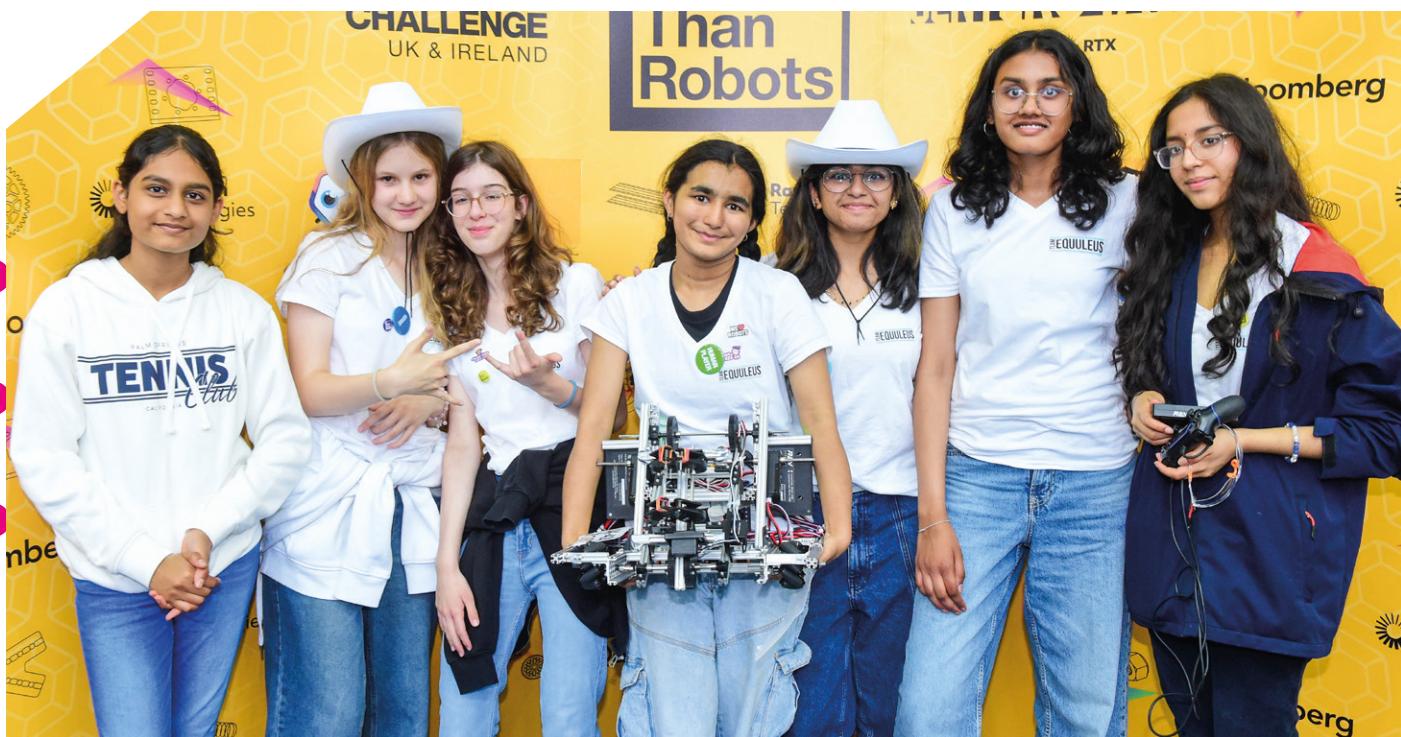
Nonsuch High School for Girls, Sutton, South East

Ask teams Equuleus and Delphinus who inspired them to pursue STEM and they'll talk about their teachers and the impressive women who have come before them. What they don't realise is the global impact they've already made before finishing their GCSEs.



Team Equuleus reached out to over 130 teams worldwide with a clear mission – to close the gender gap in STEM and make the field more accessible. What they've done at home and away inspires young women to venture into a new field and find where they belong in the STEM community.

Their impact doesn't stop there either! When talking to other *FIRST* teams across the globe, Equuleus found a computer-aided design (CAD) model of a robot claw from a US-based team. Instinctively, they got their permission to implement it into their design, but team Equuleus went one step further. They 3D-printed multiple claws and sent them to local teams to help the competition level-up their robots. They're not just innovating for themselves, they're actively investing in the community.



Team Delphinus also made strides in promoting diversity and inclusion among women in STEM. Putting their excellent outreach skills to work, they led coding tutoring sessions for younger students in the holidays. The programme has given both teams plenty of opportunities to apply what they've learned in the classroom to a real-life situation.

"We learn about gears in physics and we learn about trigonometry in maths, and we never really use it in real-life situations," they add.

"We had to come up with a compromise for the pieces we didn't have. How to make the original design work with what we have is something I learned a lot."

Elizabeth, Year 10, Delphinus, Nonsuch High School for Girls

The only way is up

The girls have plenty of knowledge to take with them into next season to guide new teams – you wouldn't know some of them came into the programme with no prior robotics experience!

Passing on this knowledge starts at home, with team alumni volunteering as mentors to guide new team members. It's their chance to give back to their team and empower other young women to get involved in STEM. Once a member of the *FIRST* community, always a member of the *FIRST* community!

"Other team members have taught me a lot about how to join extrusions, why you can't use this screw here, and you have to use a different one."

It's been very interesting learning about the building side of robotics."



Eva, Year 10, Delphinus, Nonsuch High School for Girls



For example, Eva from Delphinus has taken a lot from the programme.

“Before robotics, I wasn’t very comfortable talking to people I didn’t know very well. Robotics has definitely helped me,” she explained. Working with students from different year groups in her team as well as other teams and presenting to judges at events, Eva’s confidence has skyrocketed.

Vidula has also surprised herself at how much she’s enjoyed learning about robotics and she has plans to go into robotics engineering in the future. Pranavi, who came into the programme unsure of what went into building a robot, now plans to go into engineering too. Elizabeth has learned how much she enjoys leading others and her experience as vice-captain this season has solidified her desire to pursue a leadership role in the future.

“Before *FIRST* Tech Challenge UK, I had no idea what I wanted to do. Now I’ve found robotics, it’s become a part of me. It’s so much fun.”

Vidula, Year 10, Equuleus, Nonsuch High School for Girls

Joining a global robotics movement has had a huge impact on the two teams at Nonsuch High School for Girls. These young women in STEM may be building robots today, but they’re building skills for the future and they’ve inspired many girls across the world to do the same.



Discover our impact in action

Find us on:



MoreThanRobots.UK