



Course Guide  
Autumn Term 2018

The Burton  
Borough  
University



The VEX IQ Challenge provides students with an exciting, open-ended robotics challenge that enhances STEM skills through teamwork, critical thinking and hands-on learning. Using the VEX IQ kit, the teams have to research, design and build a robot to compete in each year's competition, an engineering challenge in the form of a game.

VEX IQ Challenge Next Level is played on a 4'x8' rectangular field. Two robots compete in the Teamwork Challenge as an alliance in 60 second long teamwork matches, working collaboratively to score points. Teams also compete in the Robot Skills Challenge where one robot takes the field to score as many points as possible under driver control; and Programming Skills Challenge, where one robot scores as many points as possible autonomously, without any driver inputs.

We are privileged to have been selected to host this years regional heat in our Sports Hall and the students are very excited about the upcoming event.

## Reading List

At Burton Borough School we see reading and, in particular, reading for pleasure as a key factor in the success of our students. It is for this reason that we have 20 mins dedicated reading time each day for students in year 7, 8 and 9.

We also have a recommended reading list for students who find it difficult to find or choose a book to read. We have produced this to try and encourage more students to read a wider range of high quality fiction and non-fiction in their spare time. We want to help guide our students to engage with books that they may enjoy but will also stretch and challenge their vocabulary and ideas.

You will be able to find the list on the school website in the 'High Potential' section and the school librarians have made every effort to source copies of all the books on the list.

We would like students to aim to read and enjoy 6 of these books over the course of the year. I hope you will be able to support us in this and will discuss the books read with your child. The importance of providing them with the opportunity to share new ideas and discuss events and characters they have read about cannot be underestimated.

Happy Reading!



## Youth Speaks Competition

The Rotary Youth Speaks Competition is a well-established and successful competition organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. It is a four-stage competition which is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills. We will be entering the senior competition, competing at Adams's Grammar School on Tuesday the 12th of February. The students are working hard to prepare and will be putting forward the argument that prisons are no longer fit for purpose.



The school team for this competition will be meeting regularly on Thursdays after school in comms 5 and invite all interested students to join them and contribute.

## Film Club

Film entertains, educates and inspires. We believe that children and young people, given access to a range and diversity of films and the opportunity to explore their responses, will make more informed and adventurous decisions about the films they choose to watch. It is also an engaging and inclusive way of developing a wider cultural awareness as well as literacy and oracy skills.

The films are decided on by the students and our first meeting of the year will take place on Friday 11th January. The opening film of this term will be 'The Breadwinner'. The stunning visuals are matched by a story that dares to confront sobering real-life issues with uncommon -- and richly rewarding -- honesty. Parvana is an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses like a boy in order to support her family. Working alongside her friend Shauzia, Parvana discovers a new world of freedom and danger. With undaunted courage, Parvana draws strength from the fantastical stories she invents, as she embarks on a quest to find her father and reunite her family. Equal parts thrilling and enchanting, The Breadwinner is an inspiring and luminously animated tale about the power of stories to sustain hope and carry us through dark times

INTO  
FILM

## The Big Think

We are very proud of the Big Think programme here at BBS. The vision for this is to encourage students to think critically about some of the significant issues in the world today by exploring the research and ideas around some key questions. In doing this they will broaden their knowledge of these issues and ideas while developing the independent inquiry skills so prized by the top colleges and universities.

Each half term we put forward a question for the students to respond to and invite them to submit position papers that set out their thoughts, research and conclusions. Past questions have included: 'Is a robot a person?'; 'Should we eat animals?'; and 'Do guns hurt more people than they protect?'

This year we are publishing the submission dates in advance. We have also decided to award students who participate small school reward points.

**The first question this year is 'Can we end poverty?' and the submission date is Friday 28th September.**

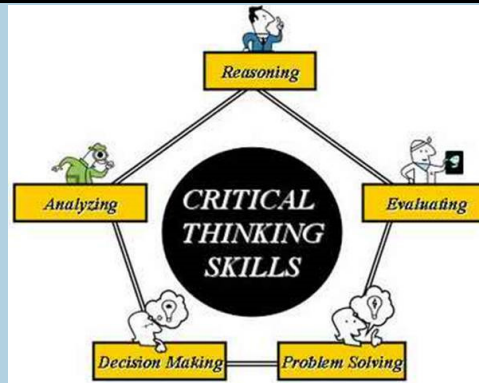
The next question will be shared after half term and the submission date will be Friday 30th November.

It would be great to see parents getting involved, perhaps co-writing the position papers with their children and doing the research together. You can use the [explore.org](http://explore.org) website for plenty of links to the research available (this is where we got the question from). You are also welcome to explore other sources of research you feel appropriate. Guidance on writing your position paper is below and also available on the school website along with one of the best submissions from last year to look at.

# Critical Thinking

These sessions will help students to develop the kind of skills that many of the top universities want from their applicants and could make the difference at interview or during entrance exams. We will explore questions that will call on problem-solving skills, including numerical and spatial reasoning; critical thinking skills, including understanding argument; and reasoning using everyday language.

These sessions are open to all students and will be on Wednesdays after school for 1 hour during Blue Week between 3:20 and 4:20. Please sign up with Mr Allen during the week prior to each session to book your place.



## Strategy Games Club

This runs in the library every lunchtime. Students can play chess or any of the games available in Comms 18 as long as they check in with the librarian. We have a range of games so come along and join in!