



Cadets Jemma Archer and Robert Envy with Go North East Engineers Dan Wynne and Chloe and Go North East Business Director Ben Maxfield.

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Local cadets head to national engineering competition final backed by Go North East

Go North East is supporting four Royal Air Force Air Cadet squadrons in a national robotics competition, aiming to inspire engineers of the future.

Eighteen cadets from 405 Darlington, 234 Durham, 361 Gateshead and 1313 Whickham squadrons have been competing in the Vex Robotics League, where students are challenged to build and programme robots to battle it out

to complete timed tasks.

Ben Maxfield, Business Director at Go North East, said: “Our engineers are an integral part of the Go North East team so we’re really proud to support young people in our community to get into engineering through Vex Robotics. We wish them the best of luck in the competition!”

For the cadet squadrons, the mixed gender competition teams are an opportunity for young women and girls to get involved in and lead on engineering projects, an area where women are often underrepresented.

Chloe is in her first year of a mechanical and electrical engineering apprenticeship at Go North East. She was in the air cadets for seven years.

Chloe says: “I’m really pleased that so many young women are involved in this robotics competition. It would have been nice to see an initiative like this when I was a cadet - it’s a great way to inspire young girls to get into engineering!”

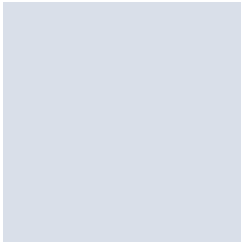
Jemma Archer from Gateshead Squadron: “It’s great to see girls like me leading the build team for the competition. I didn’t think I’d be good at this, now I’m helping design our robot’s whole drive system!”

Go North East will be supporting the cadet squadrons by providing the six-foot by eight-foot arenas each team needs to compete in the League.

The national final of the competition will take place on 20 August 2025.

[Go North East website](#)

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