next gen. SKILLS

Get Schools Coding Call to Action

This Call-to-Action asks policy makers to agree with the following statement and principles, and commit to the steps set out overleaf:

"*We recognise the fundamental importance of digital knowledge and skills to the economy and believe every child should learn the concepts and principles of Information Technology and Computer Science from primary school age onwards, and later to specialise in Computer Science if they wish. We believe that Computer Science should be recognised in schools as a rigorous, high-status school subject discipline, on a par with Maths, Physics, or History. Like the other sciences, it will have a practical as well as a conceptual aspect and should be taught alongside compatible subjects including Design & Technology and Art.*"

Our ambition is:

- For all pupils to be digitally literate before they leave school
- To support school leaders as they review how they teach digital literacy, IT and Computer Science in their schools
- To work with industry, professional bodies and universities and educators to set an ambitious target for Computer Science in schools
- To make sure pupils have the chance to learn not only formally (the school curriculum and qualifications) but also informally (e.g. after-school clubs and 'hack' days or spaces)
- To secure the investment and financial support needed to kick-start the training and re-training of Computer Science teachers in schools

Don Foster MP, Ukie CEO, Dr Jo Twist and Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Ed Vaizey MP

How you can help:

1. **Ask schools in your constituency or authority to review what they are doing to promote Computer Science.** You can also help by drawing schools' attention to the many resources available to help them take advantage of the changes to the ICT curriculum. Resources include:

   - the strategic information pack that British Computing Society and Computing at Schools (CAS) sent to every secondary head in England: www.bcs.org/csteachingexcellence

   - transformational ICT curriculum for Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 from Naace, free to download at www.naace.co.uk/naacecurriculum Part of Naace's new ICT Curriculum Framework is supported by CPD and the 3rd Millennium Hothouse www.naace.co.uk/events/Naace3mhothouse

   - The *Behind the Screen* programme www.behindthescreen.org.uk for Year 9 to Year 11, and Computer Clubs for Girls (CC4G) at www.cc4g.net for Year 6 to Year 9 both led by e-skills UK

   - Royal Academy of Engineering analysis of current computing qualifications raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/computing_qualifications.pdf and 'Get Coding' resources raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/get_coding.pdf

2. **Encouraging schools to join the CAS Network of Excellence in Teaching Computer Science:** academy.bcs.org/upload/pdf/expression-interest-cs.pdf - this aims to share best practice, offer Continuing Professional Development to teachers, and support schools in developing their Computer Science provision

3. **Ask what steps schools are taking to ensure more girls are taking up Computer Science and STEM subjects.** Computer Science skills will be vital for the future economy, we want to make sure everyone is getting the opportunity and encouragement to fulfil their potential

4. **Ask if your local schools need any additional support.** This could include funds for Initial Teacher Training, Continuing Professional Development or help for after-school clubs

5. **Get local digital and creative firms involved.** Engaging with local firms can be an important way to broaden career horizons for pupils and support career progression in hi-tech industries

For more information please contact Theo Blackwell at Next Gen Skills:
theo.blackwell@nextgenskills.com
T: +44 (0) 207 534 0597
Follow us on Twitter: @nextgenskills
www.nextgenskills.com

The Next Gen Skills campaign is backed by the Association for United Kingdom Interactive Entertainment (Ukie) – a trade body that represents the whole of the UK's video games and wider interactive entertainment industry.

Next Gen Skills is a cross industry campaign whose supporters include