

# ICT

for Education

Trusted by Teachers

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SALFORD | 9 OCTOBER 2025

Attaining the highest  
educational standards  
through the use of ICT

Diversity in  
Computing

*An article by  
Prof. Miles Berry*

P.16

Don't miss  
our talks:

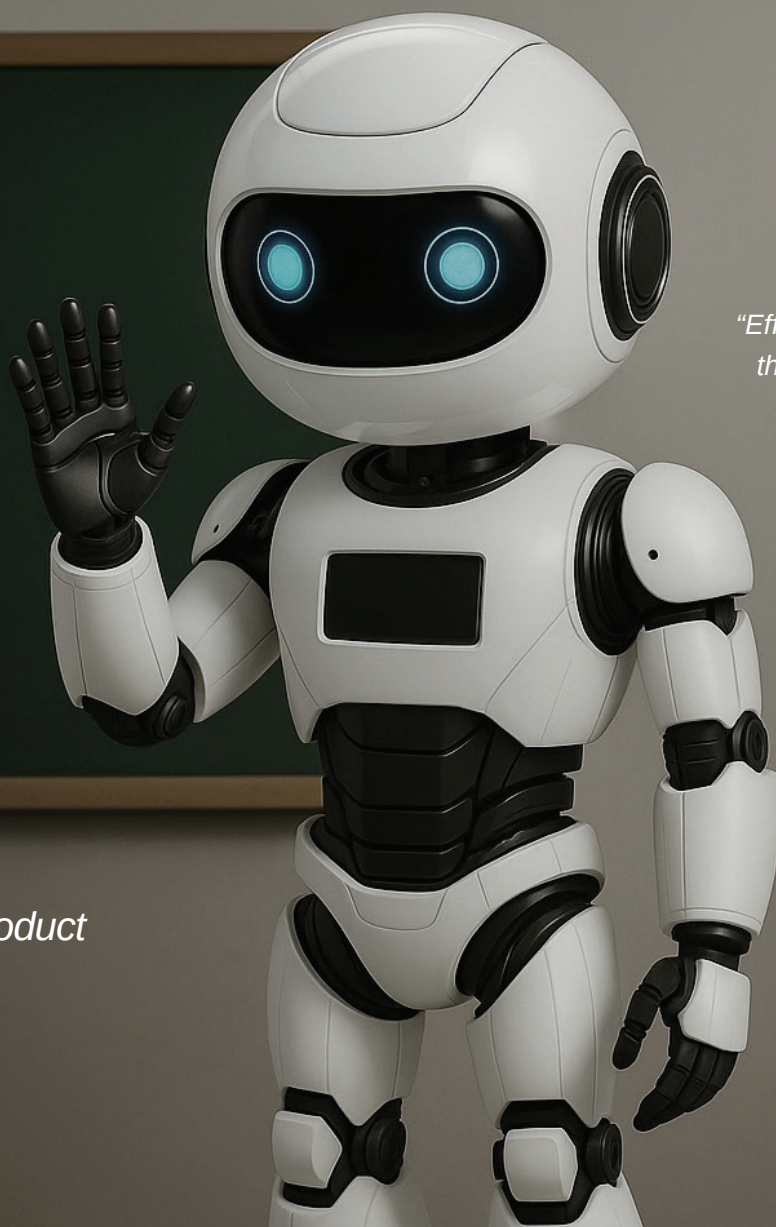
*"Effective use of AI resources in  
the classroom for all students"  
from Jamie Edmondson*

*"The EQAITE project:  
Exploring Quality AI for  
Teaching Excellence"  
from Alan Harrison*

*"The importance of  
digital literacy"  
from Tig Williams*

*Plus many more...*

Don't miss *Product  
Review Live!*



Expert speakers | Industry leading exhibitors | Network with peers

## OUR NEW AND IMPROVED SIGN IN AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT SCREENS



We're passionate about the technology we create and how this impacts our customers, which is why we've given our screens a makeover! Take a look at our new features below.



### WINDOWS 11

Our new screens run on Windows 11 and have an increased hard drive capacity.



### INTEGRATED SCANNERS

Our new integrated scanners give the system a sleeker, more streamlined look and feel.



### ENHANCED LIGHTING

Our custom-designed screens now feature enhanced lighting to improve imagery of visitors and contractors.



### DUAL CAMERA

This addition ensures that all users can easily access the system's features, significantly improving user experience.

FREE UPGRADE TO THE CLOUD WITH EVERY GEN 6 SCREEN PURCHASE

## Learn, Share, Enjoy



### Welcome to ICT for Education Salford.

Those tasked with providing the nation's children with a Computing / Computer Science education, to prepare them for the demands of the digital world, may be forgiven for seeing themselves on a par with Sisyphus. In Greek mythology, Sisyphus pushes a boulder up a hill as a punishment by the gods.

In the face of constantly moving goalposts (curriculum content and demands), competition for budget, the impossibility of keeping pace with technological development, the demands of industry, not to mention the significant shortage of Computing teachers - how are schools supposed to fulfil the demands of those allegedly responsible for education policy and direction?

ICT for Education looks to bring the Computer Science community together. Our events and our newsletter Sapiientia are all about supporting Computing teachers, school leaders, and IT professionals in education, giving you the motivation and inspiration to tackle your Sisyphean task with enthusiasm, innovation, resourcefulness and, ultimately, satisfaction.

You are not alone. Our expert keynote speakers are passionate and practical in their support for Computer Science. They will cover a wide range of issues pertinent to your work and will be happy to engage with you throughout the conference.

Our specialist suppliers' exhibition is full of products and services that aim to help you make a difference in your school. See products put to the test and spend time with knowledgeable and consultative vendors. Thank you for taking the time to join us today. We hope you enjoy the conference and the opportunity to network with peers and colleagues from across the region.

If you wish to speak at an ICT for Education Conference or contribute an article to our newsletter, please contact Ian at [il@ictforeducation.co.uk](mailto:il@ictforeducation.co.uk) or speak to our team at the conference.



Owner of ICT for Education

### ICT FOR EDUCATION EVENT TEAM

Ian Loosemore  
Louise Johnson

### OUR THANKS TO



[www.waggleevents.org](http://www.waggleevents.org)



[www.screenfocus.co.uk](http://www.screenfocus.co.uk)



[www.pcconsultants.co.uk](http://www.pcconsultants.co.uk)



[www.nosy.agency](http://www.nosy.agency)







## EVENT

# Schedule

**07:30 – 08:30** | Registration and Exhibition Opens, Networking over coffee and pastries.

**08:30 – 08:40:** | Welcome from the Conference Chairman – Tig Williams CAS Master Teacher, Teacher Trainer and Curriculum Specialist.

**08:40 – 09:00** | *Keynote 1:* “Effective use of AI resources in the classroom for all students” From Jamie Edmondson – CAS Master Teacher, Computing Leader, Primary Computing Specialist.

**09:00 – 09:40** | *ICT Reviews Live!*

An independent product review session that will put products to the test and give you real insight into their capabilities. Watch the reviews, comment on product content, consider underlying technologies, discuss ease of use and share your opinions on how you would like suppliers to develop products and services to meet the needs of teachers and schools.

**09:40 – 10:25** | Coffee and visit the Exhibition.

**10:25 – 10:45** | *Keynote 2:* “The EQAITE project: Exploring Quality AI for Teaching Excellence” From Alan Harrison -, author and lecturer in Computer Science for Ada College.

**10:45 – 11:00** | The PSTN sunset: the rise of full fibre. An overview of the PSTN switch off & navigating your path to All-P – Allie Pennington, PSTN Switch-off Coordinator, Wavenet Education.

**11:00 – 11:30** | Coffee and visit the Exhibition.

**11:30 – 11:50** | *Keynote 3:* “The importance of Digital Literacy” From Tig Williams - CAS Master Teacher, Teacher Trainer and Curriculum Specialist.

**11:50 – 12:10** | *Keynote 4:* “Our trust’s approach, the guardrails and guidance that we have put in place for staff when it comes to using AI. The importance of tech and teaching staff working together” From Dave Leonard - Strategic IT Director at The Watergrove Trust

**12:10 – 12:30** | *Keynote 5:* “Cyber security in schools” From representatives of Greater Manchester Police, Cyber Crime Unit.

**12:30 – 12:40** | Closing Comments.

*Please note that session timings, speakers, and speaker order subject to alteration. Exhibitors are welcome to attend any conference sessions.*

# Conference Chairman



## TIG WILLIAMS

University Lecturer

Tig is a tutor for secondary Computer Science trainee teachers at the University of Winchester. As an former HoD with over 20 years of teaching experience he also supports a number of schools to deliver Computer Science for non-specialist teachers, both training staff and modelling teaching.

As Chair of the CAS Assessment working groups and an active examiner Tig is heavily involved in Assessment at GCSE, working with both Ofqual and a number of exam boards.

Contact Tig: [tig.williams@icloud.com](mailto:tig.williams@icloud.com)

## Speakers



## JAMIE EDMONDSON

Teacher, Computing Leader,  
Education Technology Consultant

With over 12 years' experience running his own computing consultancy, Jamie has worked directly with a wide range of primary and secondary schools and MAT's to support them with the delivery of the UK computing curriculum, through high-quality lesson delivery, curriculum development, and impactful CPD. Contact Jamie: [info@jecomputing.co.uk](mailto:info@jecomputing.co.uk)



## ALAN HARRISON

Freelance education consultant.

Alan lectures on Degree Apprenticeships for Ada College and is a visiting tutor in computing education at Man Met. Previously Head of Computing and Digital Strategy at William Hulme's Grammar School, Alan wrote the book "How to Teach Computer Science". Available at <https://online.htcs.online>. Contact [alan@htcs.online](mailto:alan@htcs.online)



## DAVE LEONARD

Strategic IT Director at Watergrove Trust.

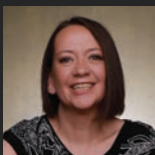
Dave, Strategic IT Director at Watergrove Trust, has supported educators with IT for over 20 years. A Google Certified Innovator and co-host of the LearningDust podcast, he was Edufuturists' Network Manager of the Year in 2019 and 2021. In his spare time he enjoys sports, food and walking.

Contact Dave: [leonardd@watergrovetrust.co.uk](mailto:leonardd@watergrovetrust.co.uk)



## GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Cyber Protect and Prevent Team within Greater Manchester Police, helps young people at risk of cybercrime and promotes positive cyber opportunities. They also educate schools on cyber security and online safety. Contact: [cyberprotect.prevent@gmp.police.uk](mailto:cyberprotect.prevent@gmp.police.uk)



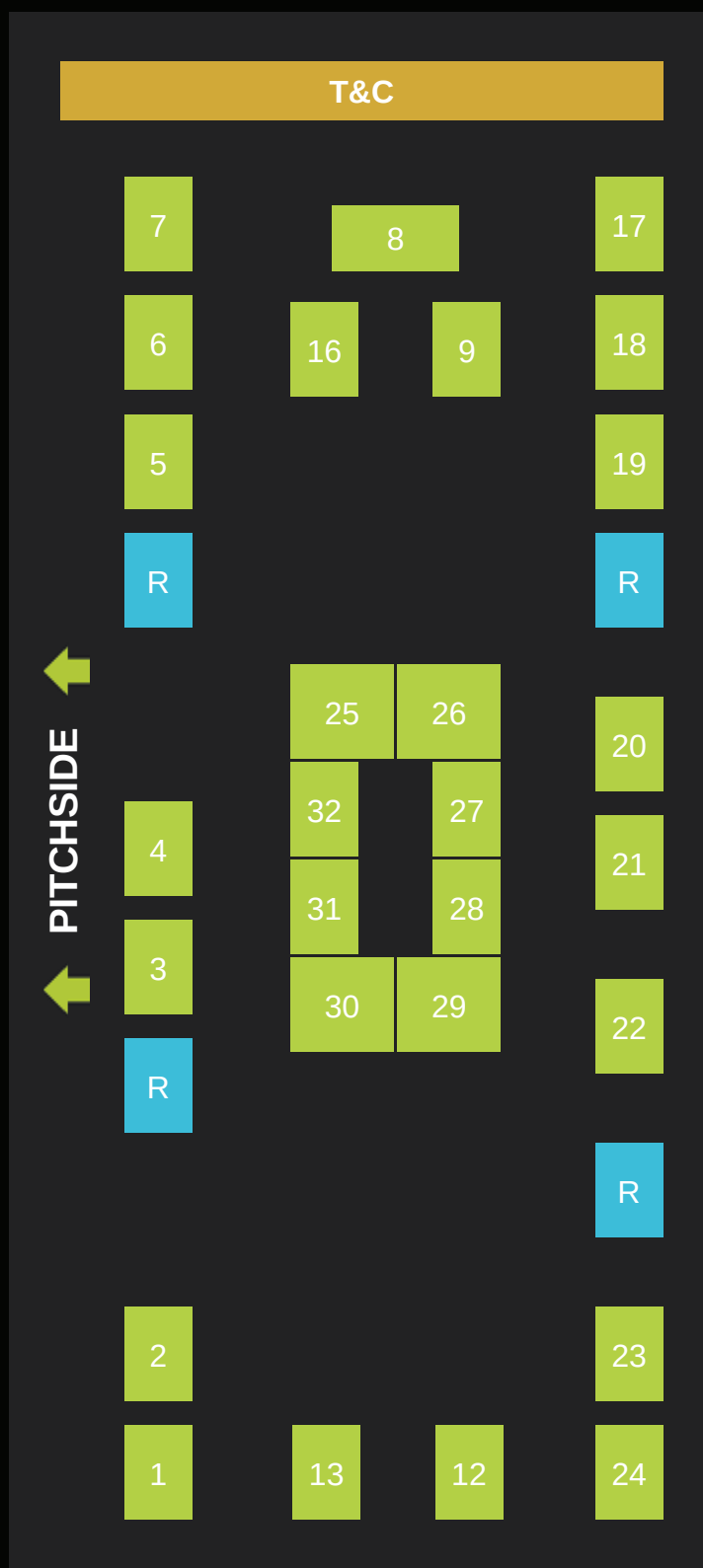
## ALLIE PENNINGTON

PSTN Switch-off Coordinator.  
Wavenet.

With an extensive background in Unified Communications of over 27 years, Allie is an accomplished project manager and product specialist; currently helping customers transition away from the PSTN, with industry-expertise across transformative products like SOGEA/SOTAP and technologies such as FTTP integrated with All-IP voice platforms.

# Floor Plan

## The Irlam Lounge



## Stand Directory

- 1 | InVentry
- 2 | Getech
- 3 | VEX Robotics
- 4 | 2Simple
- 5 | ICT Direct
- 6 | BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT
- 7 | KRCS
- 8 | Clever
- 9 | Edtech.Direct
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- 25 | CTOUCH UK LTD
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- 27 | Greater Manchester Police
- 28 | Crusader AV
- 29 | Elementary Technology
- 30 | ASUS
- 31 | Legamaster
- 32 | Raspberry Pi Foundation

edtech.direct is dedicated to enhancing teaching and learning through cutting-edge educational technology. We offer a wide range of products, including classroom tools, assistive technologies, and creative software designed to meet the diverse needs of modern classrooms. By partnering with us, teachers can access top-tier educational resources that make learning more engaging and efficient. Whether you need interactive whiteboards, educational software, or assistive technology, edtech.direct provides tailored solutions to help you effectively integrate technology into your teaching.



T: 01252 619829  
[www.edtech.direct](http://www.edtech.direct)



# Exhibitors



## InVentry

### STAND 1

InVentry is the market leader for staff, visitor, and pupil management; trusted by over 10,000 schools. Their system transforms the efficiency of entry into your school and provides secure digital data on every entry or exit.

Designed to improve the safeguarding of pupils, through InVentry, you can keep an accurate log of who is on your site at any one time, giving you maximum traceability for staff, contractors and visitors.

From late pupil arrivals to DBS information, InVentry seamlessly integrates with leading MIS providers, to ensure that your sign in information is always up to date.

Other features include:

- Contractor Management.
- Printed passes for late pupils.
- Fire and Trip Management.
- Access Invitations for visitors.
- Multi-site tracking.

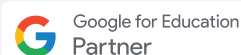
As well as offering this, InVentry also provides an asset management software; Audit & Compliance. This solution delivers fast and cost-effective solutions for tracking assets in your school - providing a clear audit trail of usage to enable you to make informed decisions on your software and hardware investments.

#### Get in touch to find out more:

✉ info@inventry.co.uk

🌐 www.inventry.co.uk

☎ 0113 322 9253



## Getech

### STAND 2

As Google's leading Premier Partner in the UK and Lenovo's largest Education Partner in Europe, Getech has been a trusted technology partner for schools, colleges and universities across the UK and Ireland for over 30 years.

A deep understanding of our product portfolio coupled with a consultative approach to problem-solving for our customers enables us to deliver technology that works as intended, on-budget and beyond expectations.

For schools and colleges that don't have teams of in-house IT experts on call, we offer a catalogue of partner services from pre-shipment configuration and asset tagging of devices to CPD training for educators and administrators, change management, security audits, cloud migrations and more. Beyond IT procurement and deployment support, we also help schools to address the STEM skills shortage by providing fun and engaging, hands-on learning activities aligned to the national curriculum with LEGO Education.

By dispelling the misconceptions that Science is boring and Maths is hard while giving the tools for teachers to implement coding into their classroom projects as early as Key Stage 2, we aim to give all young minds access to the platforms that will prepare them for any career in the 21st Century workforce.

Visit our stand for a quick chat about your next technology challenge and come away with a better understanding of how we can make IT easy for you.

#### Get in touch to find out more:

✉ schools@getech.co.uk

🌐 www.getech.co.uk/schools

☎ 01473 240470

**SEE OUR PRODUCT REVIEW LIVE**



## VEX Robotics

### STAND 3

VEX Robotics is educational robotics for everyone.

The VEX product continuum spans all levels of education with solutions tailored to EYFS and KS1 right through to university level.

Our products can be used both in the classroom and as part of extracurricular robotics competitions and our free virtual robotics coding tools mean that you can stretch your budget further when teaching with VEX.

The free STEM Labs curriculum and activities give teachers everything they need to deliver a rich STEM curriculum including presentations, hand-outs, lesson guides and more.

No previous STEM experience is required, and the resources are linked to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Computing, Science, Design Technology and Maths.

Free online teacher certification, training webinars and face-to-face training ensure your staff have the knowledge they need to deliver a high-quality STEM curriculum.

#### Get in touch to find out more:

✉ chris\_calver@vexrobotics.com

🌐 www.vexrobotics.com





## 2Simple

### STAND 4

2Simple has been making powerful and creative educational software for learners and schools for over 25 years.

We are committed to providing creative, inclusive, and inspiring software to encourage children to love learning and prepare them for later life.

Today our software and resources are used by learners in over 11,000 schools, in more than 70 countries.

2Simple can support you and your learners with a variety of resources and tools:

**Purple Mash:** A whole curricular resource that supports teachers with challenging subject areas or topics, whilst encouraging pupils to love learning.

**Serial Mash:** A vast online library of fiction and non-fiction books with activities and resources to encourage reading.

**Evidence Me:** The award-winning observation and assessment app that makes record-keeping effortless and secure.

**Striver:** Full PE scheme of work and dedicated wellbeing units. Every teacher in your school will have the confidence to deliver engaging PE lessons that boost primary pupils long-term physical and mental wellbeing.

**Python in Pieces:** An interactive coding environment designed to build student and teacher confidence with the text-based language of Python.

**Know My School:** Transform your school's self-evaluation and improvement planning, while ensuring a healthy work-life balance.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

 [www.2simple.com](http://www.2simple.com)



## ICT Direct

### STAND 5

ICT Direct have been the nation's favourite supplier of quality refurbished computers since 1997.

By far the greenest option for schools, our zero-landfill recycling operation provides schools and colleges across the country with high quality refurbished PCs, laptops, servers and more, reducing the huge environmental costs associated with new computers.




We refurbish only the best quality brands such as HP, Dell and Lenovo ensuring that our offering is as reliable as possible.

As an ICT Direct customer, you'll have access to powerful, low-cost Windows 11 certified computers backed by superb next-day warranties for your peace of mind. You'll be able to make your purchase knowing that our team of dedicated account managers have curated these products to suit your exact requirements whilst providing a tangible environmental benefit.

We specialise in sourcing large quantities of identical machines. This means we can guarantee the very best price on bulk orders where ALL the devices will have identical make, model and specification.

Get in touch with us for special pricing if you have a bulk requirement. Our friendly sales team are always ready to help, so just get in touch to see what we can do for you today.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

 [sales@ict-direct.co.uk](mailto:sales@ict-direct.co.uk)  
 [www.ict-direct.co.uk](http://www.ict-direct.co.uk)  
 01254 820980



## BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT

### STAND 6

BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, is an awarding organisation that specialises in digital education.

We're on a mission to build a safe and bright digital future for everyone in society, working with key partners to improve IT education and raise professional industry standards. It's something we've been committed to since 1957.

While many young people can use mobile phones or find their way around an iPad, the true meaning of digital literacy goes far deeper.

Help your students become safe, productive and creative users of IT - in the classroom, at home and in preparation for the workplace through teaching one of our digital literacy or computing qualifications in your school.

Aimed at individuals at all levels our qualifications cover all areas of IT, including IT fundamentals, staying safe online, using Microsoft applications effectively to boost productivity, robotics, and coding.

Digital is everywhere and constantly evolving. Being in the teaching profession, it's important that you stay up to date. Ensure you've got the digital skills you need in your role with on-line, bitesize e-learning modules from BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

With a wide range of topics from AI and Green IT to Developing an Agile Mindset and Digital Leadership, we've got it covered. Come take a look.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

 [bcs.org/CPD](http://bcs.org/CPD)

**kracs**

## KRCS

### STAND 7

KRCS are proud to be an Apple Authorised Education Specialist, an Apple Authorised Service Provider and an Apple Premium Reseller, as well as being a Jamf Gold Reseller.

We have a wealth of experience, supporting education institutions for over 40 years. Whether you are a large multi academy trust or a small village school, our team of experts are here to help you no matter how big or small your project is.


Unlocking the genius in every learner is fundamental to using Apple in education and KRCS are here to support your journey.

Education is in our DNA and we have a team that includes former school teachers and technicians, active school governors & parents. We believe that Mac and iPad can improve outcomes by transforming teaching and learning in UK classrooms and provide equitable access.

KRCS currently manage over 12,000 Apple devices in schools and colleges across the UK.

#### Get in touch to find out more:

 [edsales@kracs.co.uk](mailto:edsales@kracs.co.uk)

 0115 985 1797

**Clever**

## Clever

### STAND 8

Clever is on a mission to connect every student to a world of learning. As the leading identity platform for education, more than 100,000 schools worldwide use Clever to power secure digital learning experiences.

With Clever's layered security solutions, schools can protect access and identities for all staff, teachers, and students. With a secure identity platform for schools and a network of leading application providers, Clever is committed to advancing education with technology that works for students everywhere. Clever, a Kahoot! company, has an office in San Francisco, CA, but you can visit us at [clever.com](http://clever.com) anytime.

**SEE OUR PRODUCT REVIEW LIVE**



## EdTech.Direct

### STAND 9

Edtech.Direct is the new educational reseller in town, we supply technology to enhance teaching & learning.

With over 30 years combined experience of delivering solutions to schools, the Edtech.Direct team look forward to not only supplying but sourcing the appropriate Edtech solutions for your pupils.

We will be delivering you access to a wide range of ed tech products, teaching aids and accessories all designed to enhance lesson delivery, pupil engagement and ultimately, learning outcomes across the primary and secondary age ranges.

Edtech.Direct is also able to source products from across the globe due to our relationships with major distributors and product agents.

So, if you hear or see a product line you are interested in just call and let us do the rest. We really are a one stop shop of Educational resources.

#### Get in touch to find out more:

 [www.edtech.direct](http://www.edtech.direct)

LinkedIn: Edtech.Direct

Twitter: @edtech\_direct

**SEE OUR PRODUCT REVIEW LIVE**



## RUCKUS Networks

### STAND 12

RUCKUS Networks, a CommScope company, delivers purpose-driven network infrastructure that meets the evolving demands of today's digital world. Backed by CommScope's expertise in broadband, enterprise, and wireless technologies, RUCKUS provides high-performance, secure, and scalable solutions where "good enough" connectivity simply won't do.

In the education sector, seamless connectivity is the foundation for future-ready schools. RUCKUS ensures "anywhere, anytime, on any device" access, empowering students and educators with uninterrupted learning experiences. With cutting-edge technology like Wi-Fi 7, our solutions support modern tools such as esports, virtual reality, and interactive learning.

RUCKUS solutions empower schools by providing:

- **Advanced Networking Infrastructure:** Best-in class wireless access points and switching to provide a converged networks for all the connected devices needs.
- **AI-Driven Management and Operations:** Automates tasks, freeing IT teams to focus on broader initiatives that enhance student success.
- **Advanced Security:** Enforce network security policies and integrate health and safety systems like CCTV surveillance, emergency communications, and environmental sensors.

By enabling digital transformation, fostering collaboration, and enhancing learning environments, RUCKUS helps schools prepare students for success in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

✉ [steve.johnson@commscope.com](mailto:steve.johnson@commscope.com)

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## NAACE

### STAND 13

The National Association for Education Technology NAACE is a community of teachers, school leaders, advisors, consultants, and commercial partners working across all areas of UK education who share a vision for the developing role of technology in education.

As a professional association, we support schools to embed the use of technology by collating the latest research in our Advancing Education Journal, gathering evidence of good practice from schools that have been awarded NaaceMark, and providing access to our EdTech Review Framework to support schools in their EdTech journey.

We undertake independent research on behalf of our members into the state of education technology across the sector. These help us identify where we are now with EdTech in the UK, the challenges for schools, and the approaches that can be taken to address those challenges.

#### Who is NAACE?

NAACE members and sponsoring partners work in both public and private sectors. They represent a range of professions in the education sphere including teachers, school leaders, consultants, software developers, technicians, university lecturers, student teachers, company executives, national partners and colleagues from commerce and industry.

Our members and partners share a passion for embedding the effective use of technology into teaching, learning and school management.

If you share this passion and are looking to collaborate with like-minded professionals, join NAACE to become a part of our community.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

✉ [membership@naace.org.uk](mailto:membership@naace.org.uk)



## Pearson

### STAND 16

Welcome to Pearson, the world's leading learning company. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning.

Whether it's at home, in the classroom or in the workplace, learning is the key to improving our life chances. To this end, Pearson in the UK brings together leading names in education to provide a blend of content, curricula, assessment, training and technology to make learning more engaging and effective.

We are the UK's largest awarding body. We offer academic and vocational qualifications that are globally recognised and benchmarked, with educational excellence rooted in names like Edexcel and BTEC.

By bringing together international assessment and education experts, Pearson is developing World Class Qualifications that empower learners to develop important skills to make progress in their lives through learning. Setting a new gold standard in education, with unrivalled support for teachers and students every step of the way, Pearson is committed to education and achieving long-term learner outcomes.

Time for a change? Our Pearson Edexcel GCSE Computer Science qualification reflects the fast-changing world of Computer Science with its innovative onscreen practical assessment. What's more, over 20,000 students have taken our onscreen assessment paper since 2022.

**Get in touch to find out more:**

✉ [TeachingComputerScience@pearson.com](mailto:TeachingComputerScience@pearson.com)



## Wavenet Education

### STAND 17

With over 30 years' experience providing 'designed-for-schools' technology that is simple to use, easy to implement, and budget-friendly, our award winning range of products and services are being utilised by education establishments across the UK to enable their digital learning visions.

Our tailored solutions enable education leaders to tackle every aspect of their ICT environment and transition smoothly to new digital platforms and ensure everything works efficiently at all times. We offer access to specialists in every field – including networking, software, security, safeguarding and more.

- Over 4,000 schools nationwide
- ISBL Approved Partner
- Cyber Essentials Plus
- Google Cloud Partner
- Microsoft Solutions Partner
- Crown Commercial Service Supplier

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [enquiries@wavenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wavenet.co.uk)

 0333 234 0011



## ICTn

### STAND 18

ICTn Limited is an established and trusted UK-based IT solutions provider, managed by teachers and school network managers, specialising in tailored infrastructure and support services for schools, multi-academy trusts, and local authorities.

With over 2 decades of experience, ICTn delivers reliable, scalable systems including managed ICT services, WiFi deployment, VOIP, cabling services, cloud backup, and cybersecurity.

Our proactive approach ensures seamless operations, enhanced digital safety, and improved learning environments. From small primary schools to complex networks, we design solutions that meet educational needs with clarity and care.

At ICTn, we don't just support IT—we empower education through innovation, service excellence, and long-term partnership.

Whether you are planning a new build, a large-scale redevelopment, A Connect the Classroom upgrade or need a regular service contract - please contact the education ICT specialists.

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [richardw@ictn.co.uk](mailto:richardw@ictn.co.uk)

 07789 685412

 [sales@ictn.co.uk](mailto:sales@ictn.co.uk)

 01782 406406



## Acer

### STAND 19

#### **WHY ACER FOR EDUCATION**

Our mission is to bring next-generation technologies to schools and universities, enabling educators to create learning environments where students and teachers can connect, collaborate, and engage from anywhere.

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [sales.uk@acer.com](mailto:sales.uk@acer.com)





## The classroom of the future starts with RUCKUS

RUCKUS ensures “anywhere, anytime, on any device” access, empowering students and educators with uninterrupted learning experiences. With cutting-edge technology like Wi-Fi® 7, our solutions support modern tools such as esports, virtual reality, and interactive learning.

### RUCKUS solutions empower schools by providing:

1

#### **Advanced networking infrastructure:**

Best-in-class wireless access points and switching to provide a converged network for all the connected devices’ needs.

2

#### **AI-driven management and operations:**

Automates tasks, freeing IT teams to focus on broader initiatives that enhance student success.

3

#### **Advanced security:**

Enforce network security policies and integrate health and safety systems like CCTV surveillance, emergency communications, and environmental sensors.



### Empower your school with next-gen Wi-Fi

To learn more about how RUCKUS can transform your school's connectivity and educational experience, contact us today and explore the possibilities of creating a truly connected school environment.





## NetSupport

### STAND 20

With 22 million users worldwide, NetSupport is a leading producer of education software solutions, providing schools with all the essentials for successful IT management, safeguarding and technology-enhanced teaching.

For teachers, NetSupport has two solutions to choose from. Our cloud-based solution, classroom.cloud provides the essential tools for flexible instruction in any setting. Combined with a safeguarding toolkit to provide a safe learning environment at all times, and IT management features to help schools centrally manage and maximise their edtech, classroom.cloud is a 3-in-1 award-winning solution.

Meanwhile, NetSupport School is the market-leading and most feature-rich on-premise classroom instruction and monitoring solution, with a wealth of monitoring, control, collaboration and assessment features.

For technicians, NetSupport DNA provides network and IT management features to effectively track, monitor and manage IT assets and endpoints across a school or Trust – all from one central point. Meanwhile, its built-in online safety toolkit ensures schools can meet their eSafety requirements with proactive and reactive tools.

Lastly, NetSupport Notify helps schools ensure all staff/students are informed with one-way messages that can't be ignored – perfect in supporting risk assessments, lockdowns, and boosting school communication.

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [sales@netsupportsoftware.co.uk](mailto:sales@netsupportsoftware.co.uk)

 [www.netsupportsoftware.com](http://www.netsupportsoftware.com)

@NetSupportGroup



## Omada by TP-Link

### STAND 21

Omada by TP-Link delivers a comprehensive networking solution designed specifically to enhance educational technology ecosystems.

Our complete offering enables your Ed-tech devices to perform optimally, helping you deliver better learning outcomes for students and teachers. Regardless of your institution's networking needs, Omada provides tailored solutions that meet all scenarios.

Whether you manage a small campus network or a large multi-site infrastructure, require simple deployment or complex management capabilities, Omada's versatile platform rises to the challenge.

Our education-focused solutions not only meet but exceed the current Department for Education guidance, ensuring your institution stays ahead of technical requirements while maximising your technology investment.

Contact us below to learn more about the solution.

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [gary.roche@tp-link.com](mailto:gary.roche@tp-link.com)



## Simply AVS

### STAND 22


Simply AVS have been supplying audio-visual solutions since 2001.

Our team have the knowledge and experience to help customers design, select and integrate technology solutions and equipment to best meet their needs and we strive to deliver a high-quality service which is informed by the latest technology.

We offer a full range of service and support, whether you are looking for a large audiovisual installation, the supply and installation of an interactive display or to purchase a replacement lamp for a single projector.

#### **Get in touch to find out more:**

 [www.simplyavs.co.uk](http://www.simplyavs.co.uk)

 0044 1635 597 044



## ClassVR

### STAND 23

ClassVR from Avantis Education is an award-winning all-in-one VR and AR system for schools.

First introduced in 2017, ClassVR has provided exceptional learning environments for more than 2 million students in 200,000+ classrooms in 90 countries across the globe. ClassVR is unique in that it was designed specifically for education.

It includes all the hardware, software, tools, training, support, and implementation services needed to successfully deploy VR/AR technology in the classroom. ClassVR headsets are classroom-ready, designed to be easy for students to use, and come in a rugged storage and charging case to ensure devices are always ready to go.

ClassVR includes thousands of curriculum-aligned VR and AR lessons and resources to enhance lessons and engage students more deeply in content.

Students can virtually examine once-hidden worlds, hold a beating heart in their hand, travel to far-off locations, and more. The ClassVR teacher portal lets teachers control the content and guide students through the content, maximising learning.

ClassVR helps teachers:

- Create immersive, engaging lessons in a safe, controlled VR environment.
- Improve students' knowledge, retention and understanding of academic concepts.
- Spark students' imagination.

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# Diversity in Computing

*By Miles Berry, Professor of Computing Education at the University of Roehampton*

It is now over 10 years since computing became part of the national curriculum, which meant coding and computer science would be taught to all pupils irrespective of their gender, ethnicity or home background. This inclusive vision for the subject has served us well, with close on 100% of pupils learning computing at least until the end of Key Stage 3.

However, when pupils are given the option to choose the subjects they study for GCSEs and A-Levels, computing does not do well. The situation is improving: this year, entries are up 6.2% and 11.8% respectively, but there's an ongoing issue around under-representation of some groups of pupils. Put simply, when given the choice, girls, poorer pupils and some ethnic groups are much less likely to choose to study computer science, and some pupils in these groups are not even given the chance to do so.

Last summer, just 22% of GCSE entries were from girls and 17% of A-level entries. For schools in the 20% of most affluent areas, 93% entered pupils for a GCSE in computing last summer. In the 20% of least affluent areas, this dropped to just 67%. One consequence of this is that 16% of pupils in these most affluent postcodes did the GCSE, but only 11% of those in the poorest areas did. Computing is a very meritocratic field and offers lots of opportunity to address social mobility – it seems wrong that pupils who would most benefit from the opportunity to study this at GCSE are denied the opportunity to do so.

I am aware that I come to this from a position of some privilege, as a white, middle-class, middle-aged man, but the unrepresentative nature of GCSE and A-Level computer science matters profoundly to me, as it should to us all. Partly, this is because I think everyone should continue to study some aspects of computing until they leave school, given the impact of computing on other academic disciplines, all jobs, culture and society. It is also because computer science opens up lots of career opportunities for those who do study it. More than this, those who work in tech ought to be more representative of the society they're building tech for. If not, there's a real danger that the products we get are based too much on the needs and opinions of unrepresentative groups – as we're seeing with the misuse of AI.

There are many possible reasons for why diversity in computer science isn't all that it could be, but it is certainly not because it's a 'boys subject' – the first programmers were women, women make up more than 50% of those studying computer science in Arab world universities, and girls get better grades than boys in both GCSE and



## A Level computer science.

In part, the disparity is because some pupils aren't even given the opportunity to take the subject. This could be because there just aren't enough computing teachers to go round, and it might be that it's even harder to recruit computing teachers in economically disadvantaged areas than in more affluent ones. I think there are also potential issues with the nature of the subject itself – ICT, for all its faults, had a much more diverse cohort than computer science has.

I would love to see GCSE and A-Level computer science replaced by far broader qualifications in computing that recognise the full breadth of the national curriculum subject and take in the most useful bits of coding and computer science, alongside useful skills in IT and digital media, and critical digital literacy to help pupils think hard about the impacts of digital technologies. A broader qualification would be likely to broaden the uptake.

My 14-year-old daughter put it very well: "The boys are interested in what computers can do, the girls are interested in what we can do with computers." This seems to reflect many of the opinions in the DfE's Omnibus survey in 2023 and the recently published Science Education Tracker. The latter reveals a disturbing decline in pupils' interest in computing from Year 7 to Year 11, particularly among girls, and the numbers in the 2023 report are even worse than they were back in 2019. Digging into this data, the girls who choose to study





computing often say they find it creative, those who don't often say it's because it's not interesting, not enjoyable or just too difficult – there are lessons to learn here for how the computing qualifications should be reformed.

Other than broadening the scope of the qualifications, what else might be done? The Raspberry Pi foundation conducted research into a number of strategies: developing non-formal learning of computing; promoting a sense of belonging for girls; focussing on the relevance of computing; working on teaching approaches such as peer instruction; pair programming and storytelling, and work on option choices and how the subject is promoted at this point. These are all really good ideas and well worth considering in school.

Alas, the research was conducted during the pandemic and didn't indicate that any one of these strategies made a statistically significant impact, but perhaps a combination of strategies might.

The National Centre for Computing Education has developed an 'I Belong' project, addressing how computing can be better promoted to girls in Key Stage 3, which seems crucial to see impact on subsequent GCSE choices.

Before 2010, Becta developed a home access scheme, providing free computers and internet access to pupils entitled to free school meals. This was a great success, but it was stopped when the incoming government

closed Becta. However, there's nothing to stop schools using some of the Pupil Premium funding now available to provide laptops and internet access to pupils who don't have these, as items 'necessary to overcome specific barriers to pupil attainment'. If we're serious about addressing the socioeconomic divide in computing education, and education more generally, it's hard to think of something that would have a better return on a relatively modest investment.

Culturally responsive teaching might do much to help pupils from under-represented ethnicities see computing as something for them. Again, the Raspberry Pi foundation has done much here, building on work conducted in the US. The approach includes using learners' own cultural knowledge and experiences to inform what we teach and providing opportunities for learners to pursue personally meaningful projects to express their own identities.

For all of these issues, it is worth exploring the role models and examples. Many pupils in these groups might not be able to see themselves in tech or tech-related roles. Brilliant as Grace Hopper, Ada Lovelace, Mary Jackson and Tommy Flowers were, pupils might not easily be able to see them following in their footsteps. Former pupils and diverse individuals working locally in creative or tech related industries might be much better at inspiring pupils and demonstrating the relevance of computing for all.

*First published in Sapientia Summer Term 2024*



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# Notes



# Notes



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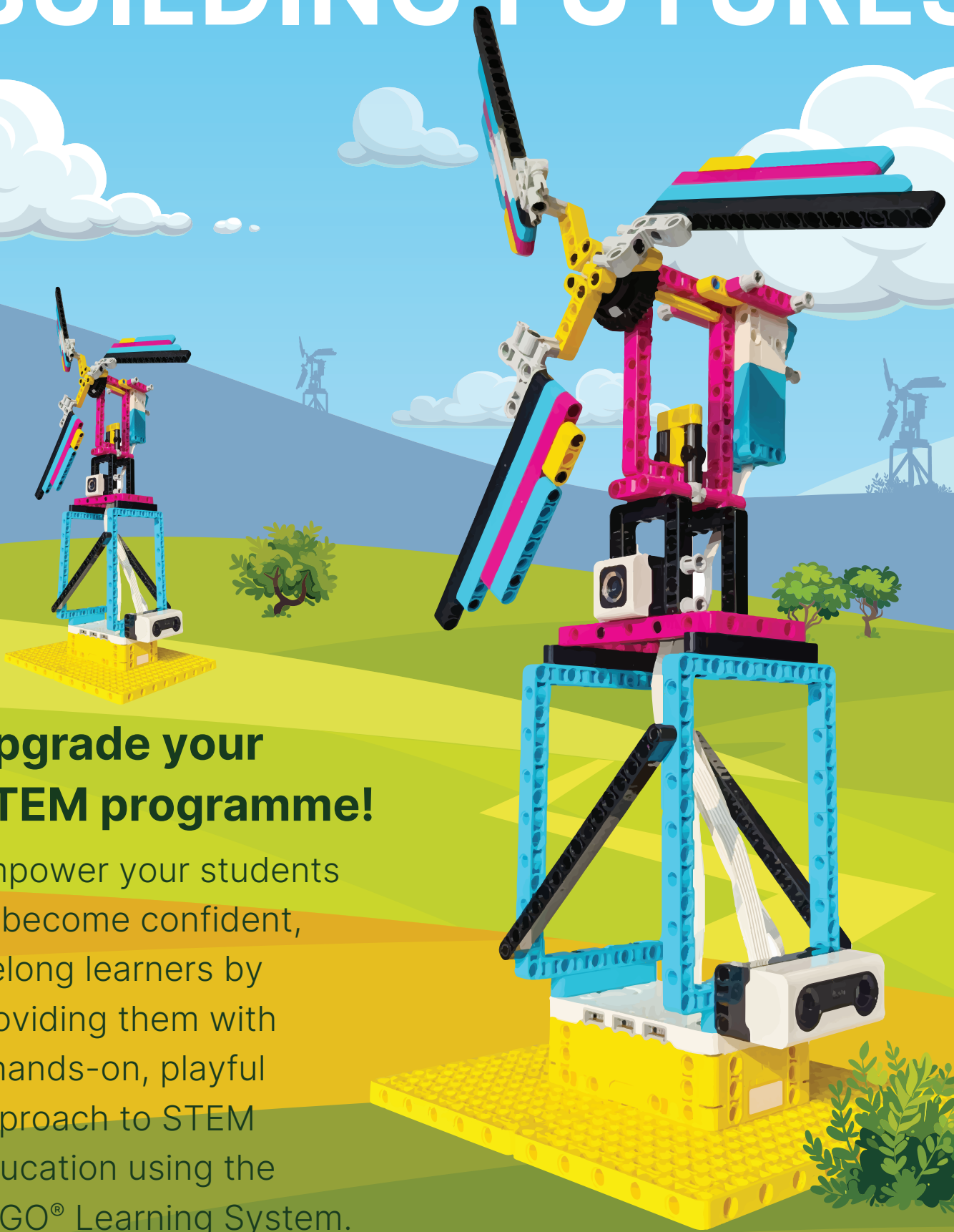
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