## *A BCS Hampshire Branch Competition to Encourage More Girls to consider a Career in IT*

We want to know ….

> ### *Why do so few girls study computing and ICT at A-Level - and why do so few women work in the IT industry?*

Do you have an answer? If you work in a school in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight, we want to hear from you – and you may win a prize – this is a competition that aims to increase interest in IT as a career option for young women.

**Note – Closing deadline is extended** for entries to the end of week of **8 March, International Womens day,** which would be **Sunday 15 March 2015.**

We want to dispel the myth that IT is the preserve of the male 'geek' or primarily about 'programming'. Many roles are less about technology and more about how technology is used - business analysis, creative web design, project management, customer service, organisational change, and service design. These are roles about how organisations can use technology to delivery better outcomes in every industry, for economic, social and environmental benefit.

Organised by BCS Hampshire and sponsored by Hampshire County Council, the competition revolves around female success stories within the IT industry and is aimed at teenagers and their teachers.

It is based on the stories of 30 women collected by the BCS and published as an e-book, *Women in IT: Inspiring the Next Generation*, which can be downloaded for free from the BCS website and from Amazon

The competition is open to boys and girls in Years 10-13 (that is, aged approximately 14 to 18 years, and their teachers, and the **deadline is extended** for entries to the end of week of **8 March, International Womens day,  which would be Sunday 15 March 2015**.

The prizes are:

**Student categories** - iPad mini and work experience at Hampshire IT
**Teacher category** – iPad mini and £100 IT voucher for your school

Entries should be submitted to a single Point of Contact (PoC) at each school or college. The PoCs are then asked to aggregate the entries from their establishment and email them to hampshirecompetition@bcs.org.uk as a single file.


### The process

➢ Schools and colleges are asked to **choose a single Point of Contact** at their school and **email their name and contact details asap** to hampshirecompetition@bcs.org.uk, with copy to Margaret.ross@solent.ac.uk

- We will then post the name of the Point of Contact on the BCS Hampshire Branch Competition webpage ([http://www.bcs.org/category/12271](http://www.bcs.org/category/12271) ) so students can see who they need to contact, and we will also send the PoC details of how to submit entries to the competition

- We will also email downloadable A4 posters for you to distribute as handouts and put up on your noticeboards.

- There are three categories, two for students, the other for teachers in schools and colleges in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

- **Category A**: students in secondary schools, years 10 and 11 (approximately aged 14 to 16) in Hampshire

  **Category B**: students in years 12-13 (schools), in 6th form colleges or FE colleges in Hampshire

  **Category C:** teachers in secondary, 6th form and FE colleges in Hampshire

- **Category A and B – Student categories**

  1. Students should read some or all of the articles on successful women working in IT to be found on the [BCS website](#) or in the e-book, *[Women in IT: Inspiring the Next Generation](#)*

  2. Students should then write up to 100 words saying which one woman impressed them most and why, plus a further 100 words maximum, saying what they think is great about IT.

  3. The designated Point of Contact for each school and college will collect all the entries and send them to [hampshirecompetition@bcs.org.uk](mailto:hampshirecompetition@bcs.org.uk) as a single file.

  - For the first answer, the judges will be looking for a reasoned case from the student for their choice of female success story. For the second answer, the judges will be looking for indications of genuine interest in finding out more about a career in IT.

  - The winning entries and a selection of other entries will be published on the website of the BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, on the Hampshire IT website and in *Hampshire IT Schools,* Hampshire IT's termly magazine for schools.

  - The Point of Contact will be contacted to check if the student may be identified in any publicity.

- **Category C – Teachers' Competition**

  - In this category the judges will be looking for the most imaginative and creative answers to three questions about IT teaching and about IT as a possible future career choice.

  - Teachers should base their answers on their personal experience as a teacher in no more than 150 words for each question.

- The best answers will be input as ideas for BCS strategic development and published on BCS website. They will also be published in Hampshire IT's termly magazine for schools, *Hampshire IT Schools*, and on the Hampshire County Council website, www.hants.gov.uk

- **The questions**

  **1.  How do you think IT education in schools can be improved?** For example, making it relevant; building on the way pupils use technology in their everyday lives; recognising the increasing need for IT to compete for employees; giving teachers more support and resources.

  **2.  How can we encourage pupils to pursue IT in further education and why is this hard?** For example, are there links that can be made across the curriculum to the 'softer' skills that are increasingly essential in IT roles in industry above and beyond technology?

  **3. What would sell IT as a career option for pupils, based on the BCS "Women in IT" stories and on your own experience?** For example, are there gender differences to consider; is the image of the IT industry a hindrance,and, if so, what could be done about it?

- The judges will be looking for clearly expressed, interesting ideas and evidence of a strong liking / passion for IT.

- The judges' decision is final.

- Selected entries will also be displayed on the BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT website, the Hampshire County Council website and in *Hampshire IT Schools*, Hampshire IT's termly magazine for schools..

- Entrants will be given the option of not being identified in any publicity.

- **Judging for all categories**

  Shortlisted entries will be judged by a panel including: Professor Margaret Ross, who chairs BCS Hampshire Branch; Jos Creese, Deputy President of the BCS and CIO at Hampshire County Council; Jane Stedman, Support, Quality & Security Manager at Hampshire IT; Sue Savory, the County ICT Inspector / Advisor

- **Results**

- The competition results will be announced through the pages of *Hampshire IT Schools* and on BCS and Hampshire County Council websites.

- Prizes will be presented at the schools.

- Selected entries will also be displayed on the websites, with agreement from the entrants. Entrants will be given the option of not being identified.

- A joint news release will be issued by BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, and Hampshire County Council

Entries are expected from various schools and colleges including:

**Arnewood School (Academy),** with point of contact Mr S Jaggar
**Barton Peveril 6<sup>th</sup> Form College,** with point of contact Ms I Culmer
**Burage School and Sixth Form,** with point of contact Mr A Tettenborn
**Perins School,** with point of contact Mr D Gardner
**New Forest Academy,** with point of contact Ms B Pugh
**Thornden School,** with point of contact Ms S Wilson
**Wavell School,** with point of contact Ms K Gilbert
**Westgate School,** with point of contact Ms A Williams