Dear Applicant

Thank you very much for your interest in the role of Chair of BCS’ Schools and Colleges Committee.

As the UK’s professional body for computing, BCS’s mission is derived from our Royal Charter. We aim to:

1. ensure everyone in society has access to the knowledge, skills and technology needed to thrive in our digital world
2. create a diverse talent pipeline, inspiring significantly more careers in IT and digital roles
3. improve opportunities for young people, society and the economy.

We bring together our community of 70,000+ practitioners business leaders educators and policy makers to support this mission through:

4. 1000+ annual events from AI to quantum and everything in between
5. 1500+ mentors and mentees sharing knowledge and experience
6. 150+ specialist interest groups and local branches

Influencing and improving computing education in schools are strategic priorities. BCS has been at the heart of bringing computing into schools across the UK. We led the development of the statutory computing curriculum in England and created the business case for government’s £100m investment into teacher CPD. Many BCS members volunteer their time and expertise to work closely with teachers and learners through Computing at School (CAS) our grassroots network of computing teachers and the UK’s subject association for Computing education. Since starting, CAS, has supported 45,000+ teachers, academics and others, passionate about computing education and supports local community groups led by volunteers. BCS accredits computing degree courses in over ninety UK universities and leads the DfE-funded Computer Science Teacher Scholarships which have supported more than 800 new trainees since 2013.

The BCS Academy of Computing aims to help the public understand the digital world by advancing computing education. Steering our mission is the BCS Academy of Computing Board which puts in the groundwork to make computing education effective for everyone, from ensuring every child learns about computer science to helping teachers engage students and supporting scholars and researchers.

It does this with the help of a number of sub committees and groups including the BCS Schools & Colleges Committee.

The chair of the committee will be a leading voice in UK’s computing education scene. They will understand the diverse nature of computing in UK Education (from
schools, through to Further Education and beyond into Higher Education) and the various key actors and stakeholders in the landscape, and a willingness to engage with them on their terms. And they will have the background and experience to speak authoritatively on the challenges facing schools & colleges computing education in the UK and be prepared to engage directly with policymakers and influencers in our pursuit of a quality computing education for all.

We have a simple and compelling vision, we believe everyone should have the skills to thrive in the digital world, and you'll be joining a team of staff and volunteers focussed on making that happen through our ambitious work with governments, regulators, schools, colleges and universities.

We are proud of our impact through the Schools & Colleges Committee (currently named School Curriculum & Assessment Committee) including the Landscape Review: Computing Qualifications in the UK, our work to draw attention to potential grading severity with England's regulator Ofqual. And discussion papers on Digital Literacy for all and reforming England’s key stage 4 computing qualifications.

I have worked at BCS for 6 years, and I have no doubt that this is a very special, purpose-led, organisation. We are lucky enough to employ brilliant people who care about technology and how it affects our world and share our vision to make IT good for society. We want people to join us who believe that whatever their role, they can make a difference to the opportunities for preparing young people for their place in our digital world, now and in the future.

I hope this gives you some idea of BCS, what we stand for and what it might be like to work with us. If you would like to schedule a call to explore this role further, please contact Sally Moulton sally.moulton@bcs.uk. Please also refer to the Committee Terms of Reference and Chairperson Specification included in this pack. Interviews will take place at the BCS London Office on Tuesday 19 December 2023 and online on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 December.

Very best wishes,

Julia Adamson MBE FBCS
Managing Director, Education & Public Benefit