BCS: Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee

Minutes of meeting of the BCS: Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee held on **15th June 2022** at 3.30pm via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT

Irene Bell, Michaela Black (MB), Eamonn Brankin, Bill Connor (BC), Pamela Cowan, Sam Dempster, Andrew Douglas (AD), Ruth Foster, Tim Gamble, Michael Gould, Philip Hanna (Vice-Chair), Jonathan Heggarty, Ian McChesney (IM, Chair), Anthony McCourt, Michael McEnery (ME), Andrena Murray, Gareth O'Hare (GO), Roisin Rice, Rachel Steenson (RS), Gerry Trainor, Colin Turner, Jonathan Wallace, Graeme Wilkinson. In attendance: Jon Chippindall (Barefoot), Ciara Mahon (CCEA).

1. APOLOGIES

Donna Bennett, Tom Gray, Alastair Irons, Gráinne McGowan, Averil Morrow, Nicola Ward.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (2nd March 2022)

The minutes of the previous meeting (previously circulated) were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Action: Invite new members to committee (IM). New members were welcomed to the committee: Sam Dempster (Department of Education), Tim Gamble (Dalriada School), Gareth O'Hare (Wellington College).

3.2 Action: To progress the Year 9 social media campaign in conjunction with About Blank Creative Ltd (RS). As reported in 8.1 below.

3.3 Action: Year 9 social media campaign to receive feedback from YPAG (RS, MB). As reported in 8.1 below.

3.4 Action: WG2 to formally write to YPAG confirming membership. As reported in 8.2 below.

3.5 Action: To consider publicity opportunities highlighting work of committee (IM, RS, MB). This will be considered at the next meeting of each of the working groups. (Action: IM, RS, MB)

3.6 Minute 5.1 (NCCE Mapping). The mapping activity, amongst other things, had been reported in the NICEC paper to the Academy of Computing Board meeting of 6th May 2022. Julia Adamson offered to help disseminate any output arising from this.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

4.1 The recently published document "Cyber Security careers - a young person's guide", produced by the Department for the Economy, was brought to the attention of the committee, along with the availability of similar documents relating to Data Analytics and Software Technology.

4.2 Ruth Foster was recently awarded the BCSNI IT Educator of the Year 2022 Award in the Computing Post Primary category. The committee congratulated Ruth on her achievement.

5. BAREFOOT NI

Dr Jon Chippindall (Barefoot Director) gave a presentation on the work of Barefoot and in particular its activity within Northern Ireland The underpinning concepts and approaches which informed teacher resources were outlined, along with plans to further the reach of the programme within NI. Members of the committee were encouraged to spread the word about Barefoot and its free resources.

The committee noted the high quality of the Barefoot resources and the value of sharing and promoting these resources, especially through the relevant sections of the CCEA website where appropriate.

(Presentation slides available on Basecamp).

6. CCEA DIGITAL SKILLS AREA OF LEARNING

Ciara Mahon, ME and AD presented the Key Stage 3 digital skills area of learning scoping project currently underway within CCEA. The presentation addressed how the KS3 curriculum could enable young people to become digital citizens, digital workers and digital makers through a range of inter-related statutory skills, knowledge and understanding.

In subsequent questions and answers, a useful exchange of ideas followed.

The committee noted:
- the importance of ensuring teacher confidence in their ability to deliver the area of learning.
- the availability of the YPAG to assist with any student voice engagement which might arise from the scoping project.

The project received strong support from the committee.

7. NI DIGITAL AWARENESS WEEK 2022

RS updated the committee on the plans for the NI Digital Awareness Week (DAW) 2022. This will build on the success of last year's inaugural event. Running from 24-28 October 2022, the week will include a range of in-person and virtual talks and workshops for students and teachers.

John Chippindall indicated that Barefoot NI could contribute student facing sessions to the DAW programme. Similarly, BC offered Sentinus coding activities as part of the week.

8. UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

In advance of the WG updates, IM reminded the committee that WG membership was open to all. Anyone interested in joining a working group should email the committee chair or working group conveners.

8.1 WG1

RS updated the committee on the progress made with the "Computer Science can take you anywhere" video completed as part of the group's social media campaign targeting the Year 9 age group. Feedback from members on an earlier version of the video had been included in the final release.

It was AGREED WG1 would assemble a set of key messages and hastags for use in promotion of the video, with the BringITOn website being used as the "landing page" for further information. (Action: RS)

The video had also been shared with the YPAG. Due to timings and the school exam season, feedback received could not be incorporated into the current version. However comments have been noted for any subsequent videos.

Sentinus will be facilitating a number of BringITOn workshops in the winter term of the next academic year and plan to use the video as part of that programme. (Action: BC)

8.2 WG2

MB reported that, subsequent to the YPAG nomination process, new members of the YPAG had been formally contacted confirming their nomination. The YPAG held its first meeting on 11th May 2022. At that meeting the aims of the advisory group were outlined and views sought on the best mechanism for group communication. Following this, a Google Classroom space was setup for subsequent YPAG work.

It was noted by the committee that the YPAG resource can be availed of, for the purposes of evaluation and feedback, by members who are producing any resource related to the work of the committee.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GO gave a verbal presentation to the committee on his Code Show NI initiative, recently funded by Allstate NI. The initiative will see a "travelling museum" of historical computing equipment visit ten schools in NI during September 2022, with a target audience of approximately 5000 pupils. The aim is to help young people learn and explore computing history in a fun way which will inspire them to

study computing in school.

The initiative was welcomed by the committee and it was AGREED that GO update the committee on its outcomes at a subsequent meeting. (Action: GO)

(Code Show NI initiative proposal available on Basecamp).

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was AGREED the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 3.30pm via MS Teams.

Actions:

3.5	To consider publicity opportunities highlighting work of committee	RS, MB, IM
8.1	Assemble a set of key messages and hastags for use in promotion of the "Computer science can take you anywhere" video	RS
8.1	Use promotional video as part of Sentinus/BringITOn workshop programme September-December 2022.	BC
9.0	Update committee on outcomes of the Code Show NI initiative	GO