



Bishop Challoner Catholic College  
Birmingham and Central Midlands

Your local  
computing news,  
events and  
updates



Computer science is the fastest-growing STEM subject, but despite its growing popularity, girls remain significantly outnumbered by boys. Research shows that the roots of this gender gap can often be traced back to stereotypes formed during primary school years. To foster greater diversity both in classrooms and in future tech careers, it's crucial to show girls early on that they have a place in computer science.

The new Primary I Belong programme is here to support educators and leaders in identifying barriers to girls' participation in computing and developing actionable plans to break them down.



The brand new free primary I Belong programme offers a series of activities designed to help you address the gender gap in computing at your school.

The certification process includes three stages:

- Completing a 2 hour short course
- Accessing free resources
- Increasing girls engagement through an activity

[Enrol Here](#)





## Empowering girls in key stage 2 computing

This live remote short course will explore the current gender balance in computing education and delve into the factors that influence pupil engagement, including the impact of stereotypes and biases. You will be equipped with actionable steps to promote equity and diversity in your teaching practice so that computing in school is more balanced, accessible, and empowers girls.

[Book your free place here](#)

## 3 inspiring ways to empower girls in computing with I Belong at key stage 2



In September, the I Belong programme for key stage 2 (KS2) had its official launch. Already, we are hearing inspiring stories coming from primary schools across the country in how they've implemented the programme in their school. Three schools recently completed the programme and discussed their efforts to combat gender stereotypes and promote gender equity.

[Read their stories here](#)



## Accessing free resources

Once registered on to the program, you can gain access to the following:



### I Belong Primary handbook

The I Belong program has a handbook to support you with increasing girls engagement with computing

[Log in to download](#)



### Posters

Request your free set of posters to displayed in the classroom to promote STEM related careers

[Login in to request](#)

## Activities to increase girl's engagement

Below are just some of the ways you could increase girl's engagement



### Tech she can

Tech she can have a range of live webinars/assemblies for KS2 pupils to inspire them about a future career in technology. These lesson can be watched live or you can watch the recording at a later date.

<https://techshecan.org/live-assemblies>

They have also just released a free series of 'Young Women in Tech' role mode posters. The posters not only highlight the achievements of these inspiring women but also encourage students to envision themselves in similar roles in the future.

[Explore the resources here](#)



### Festive micro:bit code alongs

Digit<all> are putting on three free code alongs in December (between 9th and 13th) for KS2 pupils to use alongside the micro:bit. These hour-long sessions are a perfect way to combine physical computing with the festive spirit whilst engaging pupils with hands on experiences.



[Book your place here](#)

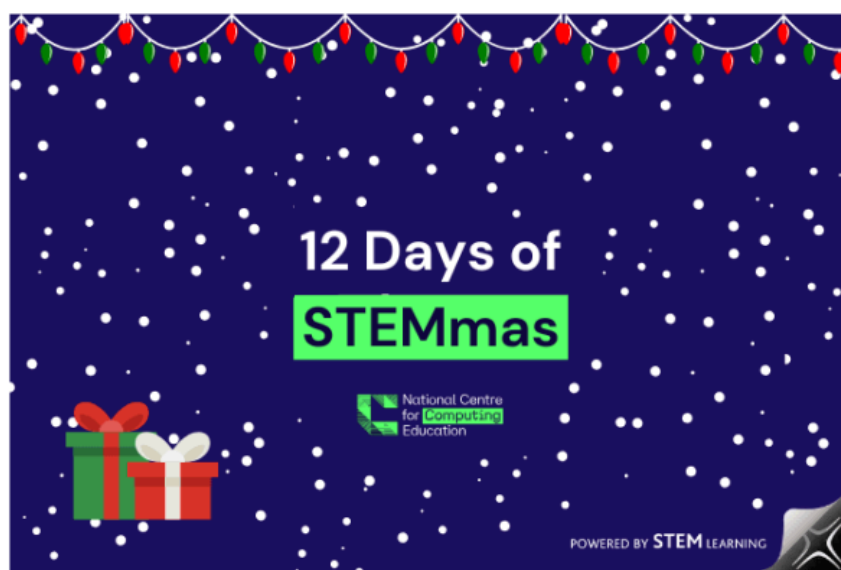


## First Primary School in our region achieves the I Belong Certificate



A huge congratulations to **Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School** of North Midlands Computing Hub for being the first primary to achieve the certificate.

*"We have worked hard this term on the 'I Belong' programme towards encouraging more girls into computer science. We have run a Code Club just for girls where we used Micro:bits, ensured we have equal representation amongst our Digital Leaders and have showcased some inspirational women in Computing through posters around school. We will continue this drive throughout the year but are encouraged by the progress we have made so far!"*



### Step into the magic of the 12 Days of STEMmas

Deck your classroom with STEM wonders this season!

From Monday 2nd December, we're thrilled to unveil the 12 Days of STEMmas, a virtual advent calendar packed with festive, hands-on STEM activities for two whole school weeks. Partnering with STEM Learning, we're bringing primary and secondary resources right to your screen and supporting you in injecting fun into your classroom.

[Read more](#)



## Programme of Computing Courses for Primary Teachers 2024-2025



Our Programme of Computing Courses for Primary Teachers for 2024-2025 in the West Midlands and South-West England is live now!

[Click to view](#)

## Venue Available to Hire?



We are seeking new venues to host our courses in order to increase our offer and make it accessible for more teachers. If your school has a suitable room to hire and you have the facilities to provide refreshments (subsidies are available to cover the costs) and possible photocopying if required, please contact us to discuss further:  
[teachcomputing@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:teachcomputing@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)



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