

# Go4IT

## School Workshops

### Information for Schools

**Go4IT** are half day workshops that successfully engage young people in careers in IT and are delivered by employers, on their premises, to students in year 9. **Go4IT** provide a positive, exciting and up to date image of IT. They're timed to precede the students' selection of options for their GCSEs.

**Go4IT** have now been made available, free, to a select number of schools in the SEEDA region (the South East of England).

You probably already understand that working with local employers gives clear benefits both in the short and long term, and can have an extremely positive impact on students. However it is often time consuming to develop a programme that fits the needs of both the school and the company. e-skills UK does the work for you by engaging and briefing the employers to deliver the Workshop (co-facilitated by e-skills UK staff) and, because it's on the employers' premises, students get a real feel of what's it's like to work for the company.

The only cost to the school is transport to and from the employer premises and the teachers to accompany the students.

By the end of the workshop students should:

- Be excited by the IT industry, wanting to share their knowledge with family and friends and to visit the e-skills UK website to find out more
- Have a clearer understanding of the skills needed to work in the IT industry
- Have a better understanding of how to plan their education and out of school activities for a better chance of getting into IT.

#### **The key workshop themes are:**

- Working with the students' ideas for improving IT products and asking them to prepare a short group presentation to sell their idea to a customer
- The rate of change in the world and how IT will impact their lives
- An opportunity to talk to someone who has recently joined the industry about the work they do and how they went about getting that job
- The non-technical skills that are needed in the IT sector

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## Case Study

### St Paul's School

20 students from S2 (year 9 equivalent in England) visited BT in Glasgow for a half day **Go4IT** workshop. The scene was set so that students understood that they would be treated like BT employees for the morning.

#### Feedback from the school was excellent:

“The young pupils thoroughly enjoyed the work shop and came away very enthusiastic. The timing was such that it provided the students with an insight into this type of career aspiration and gave them more opportunity when choosing their options.”

“The **Go4IT** workshop provides links to the world of work and opportunities for young people to obtain valuable related experiences. This supports learning and teaching and provides a sound platform for the Careers Guidance process. This type of activity provides young people with the opportunity to:

- Develop attitudes and skills
- Experience and develop understanding of the world of work
- Participate fully in activities
- Enjoy appropriate focused careers education”

#### 87% of the students said that after the workshop that they would be more likely to consider choosing a career in IT:

“It will help me make a more positive decision about choosing school subjects”

“The best part of the workshop for me was the group work. It makes you use your mind and hear other people’s decisions”

All of the students felt that the workshop might be useful or very useful to them in thinking about the work they would do in the future.

“I thought it was well designed to target people of our age and the messages were clearly put. It was very relaxed atmosphere also.”

“The best bit was getting to ask professionals what it is really like”

Elaine Wingate, a computer and business studies teacher at All Saints' Secondary, said: “The workshops are very useful. Pupils see the skills they are working with and use their imaginations. It’s also good to see how a large business operates and to meet people in these organisations. It’s a social experience too. It’s rewarding to see the girls get involved,”

**To find out more, or to register your school, contact:-**

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