**bcs** Bedford Branch

The Chartered Institute for IT

# Schools Computing Challenge 2015

Report to AGM

August 2015

# BCS Bedford Branch Schools Computing Challenge 2015

Following the success of the 2014 competition for schools in Bedford Borough, the BCS Bedford Branch Committee supported a Schools' Computing Challenge for 2015 with the catchment area widened to cover the branch area including Central and South Bedfordshire, eastern Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

The team delivering this project was provided by staff based at Biddenham International School who provides Bedford Borough support to computing in schools (Jacq Emkes, Lisa Ryder and Karl Rivers) and the local Computing At School (CAS) Hub (Jackie Samosa). The committee would like to thank the hard work of this team in putting on this competition.

The competition was launched successfully at The National Museum Of Computing on 26 February with representatives of 19 schools in attendance. There were to be two competitions; the Year 7 competition was to use 'Scratch' to illustrate the parts of a computer and the Year 8 competition was to produce a game using 'Alice' related to other parts of the curriculum and submit a blog describing the development process.

20 schools participated and over 80 students, teachers and families attended the prize awards ceremony was held at Cranfield University on 19 June.  The winners and all participated collected their prizes from Detective Superintendent Jon Gilbert of Bedfordshire Police.  The participants visited the Cranfield gas turbine engine exhibition hall as well as a secured data centre.

Plans are being made to prepare for next year's competition in conjunction with the Bedfordshire Police.