

St Paul's Girls' School

Computer Science and Creative Technology Bursary

An exciting opportunity is open to a student who can demonstrate a particular interest in computer science and creative technologies (CSCT) wishing to join the school to study A Levels in September 2022. The successful candidate will be studying STEM subjects at A Level and have passed the school's 16+ entrance process to be offered a place in Year 12.

Assessment will be through the normal means-tested bursary assessment process plus an interview conducted by a panel including questions about the student's experience with and interest in CSCT. The selection panel will want to hear from applicants what their personal ambitions are in terms of their careers and how they think they may be able to make their contribution to their own community and wider society.

During the bursary's two-year duration, relevant work experience and shadowing opportunities will be provided to the successful candidate.

At St Paul's, students in Year 12 can follow a 20-week elective where they investigate and learn about an area of computer science or creative technology, with access to mentors from London Universities including Imperial College and Goldsmiths. They can liaise with the technical manager for access to labs and/or Makerspace in one or more periods during the week or after school, whichever works best. Previous investigations have included robotics, AI and data science, machine learning, algorithmic music, and interactive 3D environments.

Senior pupils can also join the leadership of the Computer Science society and provide mentoring to younger pupils, organise speakers and competitions, etc. Alternatively, they can simply join the society and benefit from the events organised. Other opportunities for leadership include becoming a student teacher with Launch Engineering – this involves students organising a year's programme of teaching and delivering weekly lessons in electronics engineering to a cohort of younger pupils from St Paul's Girls' School and partnership schools. Many students entering the sixth form start by completing their Arkwright Scholarship entries and we have an excellent record of success in this scheme.

Good ideas are always supported, if possible, and pupils are encouraged to come into the CSCT department and find out how to make their ideas reality.

The coming year holds the promise of our first school hackathon, as well as interesting projects such as a web based QR code interactive trail, esports and streaming and a robotics team entry. These are examples of student-led initiatives - many more are in the pipeline.

The bursary will be available to a student joining from a school in the maintained sector and offers two years' full funding. It is means-tested and further details regarding financial criteria are available from the website, businessdirector@spgs.org or 020 7605 4881.

Students who have accepted a place at St Paul's with a bursary award to enter Year 12 in September 2022 will be contacted in spring 2022 by the Admissions Office to establish whether they wish to be considered for the Computer Science and Creative Technology Bursary.