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PR/KM/ICT/DigiGirlz'16

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Dear Parents/ Guardians

Deputy Headteacher:  
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Assistant Headteacher:  
Mollie Tustian  
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## DigiGirlz UK – Microsoft Reading, Friday 18 November 2016

We have secured eight places for Microsoft's annual DigiGirlz event on Friday 18 November, at its headquarters in Reading. There is a serious skills gap for IT and Computing workers in this country which is set to rise, and a real gender imbalance within the industry. Only 27% of digital workers are female, compared to an average of 47% across other sectors. For this reason, Microsoft runs DigiGirlz each year to highlight the wide range of career opportunities for women in technology, and to dispel the idea that such careers are only for boys. This is a particularly valuable trip in light of the considerable employment opportunities available in the technology sector in this local area.

This one day event will include collaborative workshops with Microsoft employees, demonstrations and competitions. Students are likely to be photographed or filmed.

- There is no charge to students for the day - lunch, refreshments and a free T shirt are provided.
- Students do not have to wear school uniform, but are expected to dress appropriately for the day.

We will be leaving school, in the school minibus, at 8:00am and should return by 3:45pm, so **students who use the school buses will need to make alternative travel arrangements.**

If you would like your daughter to attend the above event, please log into the Gateway at [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com), and tick to give your consent. Please complete the attached medical form and return it to Pupil Services no later than **Friday 4 November**. An earlier response would be helpful if you do not wish your daughter to take part, so the place can be offered to another student.

The day will include a challenge in the form of a competition. Consent must also be given for your daughter to be eligible for a prize should her team win.

Yours faithfully

Peter Redrup  
Lead Practitioner in Computing

