For immediate Release – 18th September 2019

Denbigh School joins a new network of Computing Hub Schools

Denbigh School is celebrating being awarded Computing Hub status and joining an exclusive club of only 30 such schools across the country given this prestigious role by the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE).

Being a Computing Hub will mean that Denbigh is the focal point for local computing training in schools in this area, providing support for both primary and secondary computing teachers and developing links with industry and universities.

The NCCE was set up in 2018, by the Department for Education to increase the number of students in schools and colleges who study computer science at GCSE, AS and A level. There is a particular focus on encouraging girls and those who live in disadvantaged areas. The Government wants to ensure that there is a strong pipeline of digital skills in England to ensure we are a competitive economy moving forward.

Commenting on the news, Andy Squires, Executive Headteacher at Denbigh said: 'We are delighted to be among the first wave of Computing Hubs and to be recognised for the outstanding standards we set in teaching computing at Denbigh and the results our students achieve. It is entirely fitting that a school so close to Bletchley Park, the birthplace of modern computing, has been chosen to encourage students to study computing. Indeed, one of our first steps as a Computing Hub has been to enter into an exciting partnership with The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park to widen understanding in schools across the region about the development of computing. We are looking forward to the launch event for this initiative in November.'

Chair of the National Centre for Computing Education, Professor Simon Peyton Jones said: 'It's exciting to be announcing the first Hubs. They will be the local face of the National Centre for Computing Education, providing tailored support to all computing teachers (primary, secondary and colleges), to equip them to make the new computing curriculum into an inspirational reality in every classroom in the land. Our partnership with teachers is vital to our mission. A single inspired, equipped, valued and supported teacher will influence tens or hundreds of children every day, and thousands over their career.'

Notes to Editors

- The picture with the press release features Ian Bacon (Computing Hub Lead) and Anne Marie Sandos (Learning Manager at the National Museum of Computing) in front of Colossus, the world's first electronic computer which had a single purpose: to help decipher the Lorenz-encrypted (Tunny) messages between Hitler and his generals during World War II (Built by Tommy Flowers) - https://www.tnmoc.org/colossus
- The National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) was established in November 2018 with up to £84 million of Government funding and was supported by a further £1 million from Google to develop training for secondary school computing teachers.
- The Government's decision to substantially invest in computer science in schools followed a Royal Society report, After the Reboot, which showed computing education across the UK was patchy and fragile. It called for action to be taken in a swift and coordinated way by government, industry, and non-profit organisations.
- The NCCE aims to increase the number of pupils in schools and colleges who study computer science at GCSE, AS and A level, particularly girls and in disadvantaged areas, and ensure that there is a strong pipeline of digital skills.
- The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park, an independent charity, houses the largest collection of functional historic computers in Europe, including a rebuilt Colossus, the world's first electronic computer.   The Museum complements the Bletchley Park Trust's story of code breaking up to the Colossus and allows visitors to follow the development of computing from the ultra-secret pioneering efforts of the 1940s through the mainframes of the 1960s and 1970s, and the rise of personal computing in the 1980s. For more information, see www.tnmoc.org
- STEM Learning is the UK's largest provider of education and careers support in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It has a mission to improve lives through world-leading STEM education. For more information, visit www.stem.org.uk
- The Raspberry Pi Foundation creates world class educational resources for computing and computer science used by millions of people each year, and has developed online courses that have supported tens of thousands of computing educators. For more information, visit www.raspberrypi.org
- BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT is the professional body for computing and, as part of its Royal Charter, sets and maintains academic and professional standards in computing. For more information, visit www.bcs.org

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Ian Bacon (Computing Hub Lead) and Anne Marie Sandos (Learning Manager at the National Museum of Computing) in front of Colossus, the world's first electronic computer.