**Opportunities for Subject Matter Expert (SME) Consultants, National Centre for Computing Education**

**Overview**

The Computing Hubs, as part of the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE), are seeking to appoint a number of consultants to work with schools and colleges to promote the development of their computing and computer science provision.

**Role description**

Primary focus

The focus of a primary SME is to engage and support schools in Local Authority Districts 5 or 6 within the hub region. They will support them by first analysing the needs of the school and its teachers before working with computing leads on an action plan to further develop their computing curriculum, this action plan can run over a 1-3 year period, using a purpose built, supportive toolkit.

Secondary focus

The secondary focus is split into two main priorities:

1. Engage with and support schools who either do not currently offer GCSE computing science, or need some support in maintaining the subject at GCSE. SMEs will first work with senior leaders and then middle leaders to identify the barriers and needs of the school, before developing a comprehensive one year action plan, to ensure that school is in the best position to have GCSE CS as part of their provision moving forward.
2. Engage and support schools in Local Authority Districts 5 or 6 within the hub region. They will support them by first analysing the needs of the school and its teachers before working with computing leads on an action plan to further develop their computing curriculum, this action plan can run over a 1-3 year period, using a purpose built, supportive toolkit.

**Subject Matter experts are expected to:**

* Facilitate high quality consultation with senior leaders, middle leaders and school teachers.
* Create high quality action plans that will support schools and their computing teachers.
* Respond to feedback on any quality assured action plans
* Generate demand for professional development courses delivered by the computing hub(s) and online.
* Ensure schools are aware of the full NCCE offer and generate demand for it.
* Update Dynamics weekly with relevant schools engaged and supported that week, as well as the number of teachers
* Check the ‘Request NCCE support’ form for new entries and follow up with the school where required.
* Complete a monthly worklog
* Work closely with other members of the Hub team on a strategic plan including the hub lead and CS champion.
* Attend team meetings with Hub Leads and/or STEM Learning
* Attend regional meetings as arranged by the Regional Network Lead
* Attend termly strategy meetings with the wider Computing Hub Team and SEP Team
* Ensure they have completed the facilitator development programme to at least stage 2.
* Respond to any reasonable request from the hub lead to support other parts of the hub teams’ targets and strategy, e.g. engaging SCITTs, Supply Agencies and Non GCSE Schools.

**Essential Skills and Expertise required from interested consultants:**

* Excellent knowledge of computing education.
* Excellent subject knowledge and pedagogical understanding
* The ability to, and experience of, developing and maintaining effective working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders including schools and colleges.
* Good understanding of the wider educational landscape, and relevant regional issues, challenges and opportunities.
* Highly developed all-round communication skills, orally and in writing.
* Ability to think analytically and strategically, and respond creatively to challenges.
* Experience of working remotely with colleagues to deliver successful outcomes.

**Desirable Skills and Expertise required from interested consultants:**

* A proven track record engaging with primary and/or secondary schools including supporting professional learning
* Excellent influencing skills, to support and challenge school leaders and teachers to manage professional learning programmes and curriculum change, including adopting computer science at GCSE when they currently don’t offer it.
* Understanding of the key challenges of priority area schools who have difficulties in the implementation of the computing curriculum.
* Understanding of the key barriers to engagement of girls and other underrepresented groups in the computing
* The ability to devise and implement a programme of support to address this.

**Length of opportunity:** Until end of July 2022

**Start date:** September 2021

**Location of the Work:** Working primarily from home, this is a regional post as you will be expected, at times to travel to schools within the Computing Hubs region to give face to face support.

Posts will be based in a region, to achieve full geographical coverage, and will support a number of secondary schools and colleges within their assigned region, working closely with their appropriate Computing Hubs.

The potential number of days available for this contract will vary based on the need within the Computing Hubs regions.

The list of Computing Hubs that are looking to recruit for this role can be found [here](https://teachcomputing.org/hubs)

**Fee:** Consultants will be paid a day rate of up to £400 for undertaking the work of the programme. Reasonable travel expenses will be paid by or from the computing hub and will be in line with STEM Learning’s expenses policy.

**How to apply:** Please contact the NCCE via computing-hubs@stem.org.uk stating which of the Computing Hubs you would be interested in applying to for this role. You will then follow the standard process of recruitment for that Computing Hub.

**Closing date for applications:** As soon as possible.

**For any queries regarding the opportunity please contact:** computing-hubs@stem.org.uk