

Jan 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Would your young person be interested in applying for a national IT competition for disabled young people?

The UK IT Challenge is an annual competition for disabled young people hosted by charity Shaw Trust and held at BT's Adastral Park in Ipswich, BT's global centre of digital innovation.

Over three days, 50 disabled young people from across the UK come together to compete on a number of different IT challenges designed to test ability, creativity and skill.

There will be individual challenges, team challenges, fun stuff, interesting stuff and motivating presentations from people who prove that having a disability is no barrier to success.

To make sure it is a level playing field, everything is adapted and adjustments made according to the level and requirements of each young person taking part.

Prizes: The top four winners from the competition will go on to represent the UK at the Global IT Challenge in Asia in November (exact date and location TBC).

Other prizes include laptops, Ipads, tablets, work experience opportunities, online training and much, much more.

Some comments from parent/ teacher chaperones from last year's event:

"It taught me lots about my son and his determination, his ability to overcome his disabilities. Seeing all the delegates try their best, they were all inspirational. Knowing my son has opportunities in the future I didn't believe possible." A parent chaperone

"It was a massive opportunity for my son (who has Autism and ADHD) to join a like- minded group event, all focused on his passion "computing" where no one was discriminated against for their disabilities. Thank you." A parent chaperone

"It was a chance for students to shine. It was a fabulous chance for them to see that life for those with disabilities doesn't have to be a prescriptive path." A teacher chaperone



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Competition details

When: 3-5, July 2019

Where: BT Adastral Park, Ipswich, IP5 3RE

Eligibility:

- Aged between 13- 24 years
- Interested in computers and IT
- Disabled
- Able to travel to Ipswich in July (with a chaperone/ parent)

How much does it cost?

The only cost will be for travel (for the young person and chaperone) to Ipswich. Suitable accommodation and meals for three nights, for both the young person and their support, will be paid for.

How to apply?

Please visit www.shaw-trust.org.uk/UKITChallenge to complete the nomination form. The closing date for nominations is 31st March 2019.

To watch the video from last year's UK IT Challenge and clips of the four overall winners who were chosen to represent the UK in India at the Global IT Challenge please visit www.shaw-trust.org.uk/ukitchallenge

To speak to someone about the competition or if you have any questions please email studio@shaw-trust.org.uk or call on 0300 30 33 117.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsteen Kamming
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