South Wilts Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science, Maths and Computing College
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Headteacher Michele Chilcott BSc MA **Deputy Headteacher** Carolyn Stammers BA MA

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Congratulations to your daughter for getting to the final of the Microsoft STEM Student Challenge final. This is a fantastic opportunity and I am sure your daughter will have a very positive and exciting trip. The competition is on Friday 5th May and as we have an early start in Cambridge, which is over 3 hours away, we will travel the day before. Please find below details of the event. Microsoft will cover all travel and hotel expenses.

LEAVING THURSDAY

We will travel by train and will need to go via London. We will catch the 4:47pm train from Salisbury to London Waterloo and will then get the tube from London Waterloo to Kings Cross. We will aim to catch the 7:14pm from Kings Cross to Cambridge and will arrive in Cambridge at 8:05pm. The hotel is less than a 5-minute walk from the station. We will be staying in the Ibis hotel and students will share a twin room with one other student.

The plan Thursday will be to have a meal in a local Pizza Express and the girls will need to have money with them to pay for their meal. I will check for special offers and if the girls have any vouchers they can use and share, please can they bring them.

Students will need to bring their travel bags with them and I will arrange for them to be stored in school.

COMPETITION DAY FRIDAY

We will have breakfast in the hotel and head to the competition venue which is a very short walk from the hotel. The venue is Microsoft's Research labs (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/lab/microsoft-research-cambridge/)
This is the itinerary I have been given for the day:

Grand Final Agenda

09:15 - Registration opens
10:00 - 10:15 - Introduction to MSR and judges
10.15 - 11.15 - Presentation session 1
11.15 - 11.30 - Break - Xboxes and games
11.30 - 12.30 - Presentation session 2
12.30 - 13:00 - Lunch and judges deliberation
13.00 - 14:00 - Group 1 – Lab Tour and Group 2 – Workshop
14:00 - 15:00 - Group 2 – Lab Tour and Group 1 – Workshop
15:00 - 15:30 - Winner Announcement
15:30 – Close

There is no requirement to wear uniform on this trip however I would ask that students are smart and do not wear ripped jeans or spaghetti strapped tops. They should also have sensible footwear that they can walk in.

TRAVEL FRIDAY

We will aim to catch the 4:15pm train from Cambridge to London Kings Cross and will again travel by tube to London Waterloo, where we will catch the 6:20pm to Salisbury. We will arrive back at Salisbury station at 7:48pm. Please pick your daughter up from Salisbury station.

My contact number while on the trip will be: **07929 539527**

Please can you confirm that your daughter will take part in this trip by emailing me ral@swgs.wilts.sch.uk. Please also use this email address to ask any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Lane
Teacher of Computer Science