



digital Xtra fund

2019
in
Numbers



We awarded

£100,000

for digital skills activities in Scotland...



30 across local authorities

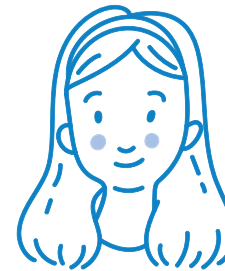
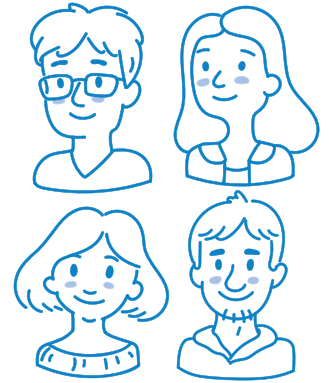
Aberdeen	1,273	Highland	1,701
Aberdeenshire	988	Inverclyde	608
Angus	237	Midlothian	292
Argyll & Bute	370	Moray	188
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	593	North Ayrshire	2
Clackmannan-shire	73	North Lanarkshire	255
Dumfries & Galloway	87	Orkney	358
Dundee	3	Perth & Kinross	0
East Ayrshire	3	Renfrewshire	179
East Dunbartonshire	0	Scottish Borders	40
Edinburgh	1,667	Shetland Islands	3
East Lothian	70	South Ayrshire	2
East Renfrewshire	206	South Lanarkshire	369
Falkirk	20	Stirling	198
Fife	75	West Dunbartonshire	3
Glasgow	313	West Lothian	250

Engagement per local authority

We supported 22 initiatives and reached...

10,426

children and young people...



including 5,226

girls and young women

aged 4 to 16



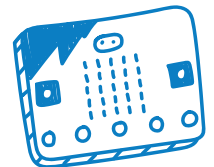
Supported initiatives covered topics such as...

Coding, App Development, Internet of Things, Machine Learning, Robotics, Wearable Technology, Digital Creativity, Design & Testing, Ethical Hacking and Future Careers Education



We also donated

850



micro:bits

to schools and organisations across Scotland in partnership with the Micro:bit Educational Foundation



Case Study 1
Port Ellen Primary School:
Resilient Robotics

‘Resilient Robotics’ at Port Ellen Primary School was created by Class Teacher Jo Clark. A robotics club for children aged between 8 – 12, it taught them how to code, create apps and build robots. However, the aim was to create a club where children not only learn new technical skills, but also develop resilience, improve self-confidence and, most importantly, have fun.

Ms Clark explains: “Learning programming and building robots requires skills like investigating, debugging and perseverance. There is a lot of trial and error when it comes to programming; children need to know failure is part of the design process. Overcoming difficulties while creating robots develops resilience and, once they are successful, is also very rewarding.

“I think lots of children don’t understand the outcomes of being able to code, but once they see what they can achieve, they are hooked. They follow instructions, generate algorithms, and use their skills creatively, developing progressively more complex ways of working as they go on – the children are inspired and motivated.”

The grant supported the pilot programme at Port Ellen Primary School which engaged an initial 120 children. The programme has now been expanded across the island, including the local High School, as well as on Mull and Jura while some resources have also been subsequently translated into Gaelic.



Case Study 2
New College Lanarkshire and Firpark Secondary School:
VEX Robotics

Both New College Lanarkshire and Firpark Secondary School in North Lanarkshire received grants to engage young people in technology using the VEX Robotics programme. The College’s grant allowed them to build on their previous success of supporting local young people to become robot designers, computer programmers, CAD designers, engineers, and robot pilots, as well as hosting the Scottish Regional Finals. Firpark’s grant would enable the school to create from scratch an all-girls robotics club using the same VEX EDR system.

Despite being less than two miles apart, neither institute knew the other was applying for a grant and were delighted to be connected by Digital Xtra Fund and work together after they were both successful in their applications. New College Lanarkshire’s previous experience and support was invaluable to the team at Firpark as they chose which equipment to purchase and learned how to build and code their first robots.

Elaine Sweeney, Computing Science Teacher as Firpark, highlighted the value of the club to the girls was not just about learning new skills, but it also provided them with experience and confidence as well, “Feedback from the pupils is they value being treated more maturely and being involved in the decision making and running of the club. When participating in the VEX competition, their faces were radiant and that is something that I will never forget as a teacher.”

Gigabyte Partners



J.P.Morgan



Scottish Government
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With Thanks

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To find out more please contact us:



01506 472 200



digital-xtra-fund



info@digitalxtrafund.scot



@digitalxtrafund



www.digitalxtrafund.scot



@digitalxtrafund

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Digital Xtra Fund, c/o ScotlandIS, Oracle Campus, Blackness Road,
Springfield, Linlithgow, EH49 7LR