



Conakry Academy of Software and Technology

DIGITAL INCUBATOR

Changing lives through access to digital skills

Three-year programme

Supporting young people into employment

Developing business, software and coding skills

Supported by industry leading mentors

Closing the digital gender gap





LAUNCH July 2024

TARGET £100,000

TIMEFRAME 2024-27

Every £1,000 raised covers the full cost of a place on the programme.



Conakry Reliance School (CRS) is a progressive, high achieving school, supporting 500 students, where gender equality is championed. Over 20 years, UK charity, Friends of CRS, has run successful projects that have improved the school environment and raised educational aspiration and outcomes, including setting up a science lab, installing WIFI and providing toilet facilities. Access to education has been increased through the menstrual health programme, awarding scholarships, and providing free school meals.

Having demonstrated the ability to raise money for, and successfully implement projects, we now want to provide a road map through education to employment and better livelihoods. Guinea-Conakry is one of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and faces many challenges for development including a stubborn digital gender gap, and limited skills availability for digitally enabled industries. Many of the most able feel pressure to migrate to find opportunities.



Our **DIGITAL INCUBATOR** will mentor students, provide access to digital skills, and help achieve better livelihood outcomes that support local development. Commercial partnerships will ultimately replace reliance on donations.

In 2023, we ran a coding taster session followed by an intensive 6-week software academy taught by experienced Guinean IT professionals, supported by senior industry experts. Throughout the following academic year, we supported IT teaching through after school sessions and IT training for CRS staff. Building on the success of these initiatives and in response to the obvious appetite for digital skills, we are scaling up to a structured 3-year programme. This will provide training, mentoring, a space for peer support, work experience, a pathway to work and ensure gender parity at all levels in the programme.



YEAR 1

IT classes in school, 6-week summer school.

YEAR 2

Workshops, summer school, practice skills, investigate advanced topics.

YEAR 3

Internships, mentoring programme, paid work experience.

**ACADEMIC YEAR
GRADE 11**

IT teaching in school for West African Exam Council IT exam (whole school cohort c30 students).

CRS IT teacher's wages paid by CAST

CAST interns teach in summer school #1

**SUMMER SCHOOL #1
GRADE 11**

PART 1
Introduction to using Office tools and Search.
15-20 students.

PART 2 (i)
Introduction to software development.
Students who show aptitude and interest.

PART 2 (ii)
Practical projects to gain experience using Office tools and search to support analysis.
All other students.

**ACADEMIC YEAR
GRADE 12**

IT teaching in school for West African Exam Council IT exam (whole school cohort c30 students).

Weekend/after school follow up from summer school - advanced topics, practical case studies (10-15 students).

Supported by experienced mentors.

CAST alumni teach in summer school #2

SUMMER SCHOOL #2

PART 1
Access to internet classroom to prepare presentations on self-selected project and personal pitch.

PART 2
Intense coding boost supported by experienced mentors.
12-15 students.



POST SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Triage week Sept to assess which route suitable

Route 1: Mentored programme of support and skills development to move into paid full-time work.

Route 2: University scholarship programme (including part-time volunteering with CRS/CAST).

Route 3: Business Funded Internship



PAID BUSINESS-FUNDED INTERNSHIPS

25% Supporting CRS, FCRS and CAST administration.

25% Teaching responsibility in school, CAST IT classes and CAST summer school.

50% Mentored exposure to projects and hot topics: Data, AI, and software development e.g. Pluralit Internship 2024



TIMETABLE

- Enhance the IT suite facilities and WIFI access
- Run a 12-month programme of IT, coding skills and mentoring
- Set up first paid internship
- Kick off fundraising to run the programme for three years
- Expand IT suite capacity
- Roll out basic IT classes for neighbouring schools and business
- Complete small scale IT projects for local businesses

- COMPLETED
- COMPLETED
- COMPLETED
- JULY 2024
- JULY 2024
- 2025
- 2025/26



This rolling three-year programme will create a significant team of experienced well-trained alumni. We will use our network of contacts in the technology and business sectors to open-up commercial opportunities for the team. The uptake of these will help reduce, and ultimately replace donations to run the programme in the future and provide financial support for the school.



IMPACT (gender parity in all student numbers)

- 100 students at CRS** receive 3 years of skills development and mentorship.
- 500 students at CRS** benefit from IT facilities and digital learning.
- 60 students** from neighbouring schools receive basic IT classes.
- 50 teachers** receive IT training, enhancing the quality of teaching.
- 10 businesses** benefit from small-scale ICT projects.

BUDGET

- £60K** 3x 3-year programme costs, staff, facilities, scholarships.
- £20K** Scale up facilities, increase resilience to power outages.
- £20K** Roll out to neighbouring schools, community and businesses.





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www.fcrcs.org.uk

CONTACT

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THANK YOU



UK Charity Number
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