



Merchant Venturers School of Engineering  
Outreach Programme

# **Microbit Space Invaders**

## **Preparation Notes for Teachers**

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## Workshop Summary Notes

- This workshop is intended to last 1 to 1½ hours.
- The workshops are intended for ages 9+ (years 5+).
- The content is intended to be learnt through self-directed individual or pair work, using the worksheet as guide.
- The learning platform is the BBC Micro:bit, the popular BBC's new educational platform as supplied to year 7s across the country.
- All year 7s in the country are being given Micro:bits for free for the next three years. Therefore, this workshop is ideally suited to Years 7 and 8 (since year 7s already received their Microbits last year).<sup>2</sup>
- Students do not need to have used the Micro:bit before but any time they have spent using the online Block Editor is very helpful.
- We can supply Micro:bits if required but if students have their own that is ideal. Micro:bits cost 15 per kit online.
- This document includes some notes about what you need to do to prepare for us to come and run the workshop.

# 1 Guide

The following notes are guidelines for the things we have thought of or know from experience need to be prepared before we arrive to run the workshop. Please use these notes as an addition to any guidelines and preparation you would normally follow.

- Logging on** If you have enough PCs/Macs for the whole group, please ensure the children are logged on before we begin the session.
- Provision of laptops** If you do not have enough PCs/Macs for the whole group, please let us know in advance. We may be able to provide laptops in order to run the session. If we provide laptops, we will need to allow at least an additional 15 minutes for handing them out and logging everybody on / getting set up.
- Software Installation** No additional software is required for this workshop.
- Website Access** Please ensure your IT administrator has unblocked the Micro:bit website and download of the hex files that the website produces (that are saved to the Micro:bit devices). Please also ensure our Github site is unblocked: <https://github.com/MVSE-Outreach/> The easiest way to test all this is to get a student (not a teacher) to open the websites and attempt to browse them.
- Students with special needs** We are happy to accommodate students who have special educational needs or disabilities. If you can, please make us aware of any students in the group who might need extra attention and any additional information that will help us make the workshop as enjoyable and successful as possible for them.
- DBS Checks** Your school or organisation may require valid DBS checks (previously called CRB checks) for our volunteers. Please let us know if this is the case so we complete the process. All of our volunteers are current members of the University of Bristol.
- Name List and Contact Information** We would very much like to be able to keep in touch with students to encourage them to attend our other free, open outreach events (such as Digimakers). If possible,

please supply us with a list of the names of students and their parent's contact information so that we may follow up with them after the last workshop. We never send spam and we'll only contact parents to let them know about our other outreach events that are available to them.