

This year the National Mathematical Center (NMC) wishes to introduce the Bebras challenge as a first stage competition towards the International Olympiad in informatics. Bebras is an international initiative aiming to promote Informatics (Computer Science, or Computing ) and computational thinking among school students of all ages. The challenge is performed at schools using computers or mobile devices. **Every child in secondary school in Nigeria can do it.** The Bebras challenges are made of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and may be delivered on-line or off-line. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that computer scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. The aim is to solve as many problems as you can in the allotted time.

Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. The Bebras challenge promotes problem solving skills and informatics concept including the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalization and abstraction. Computational thinking is a problem solving process that includes a number of characteristics, such as logically ordering and analyzing data and analyzing data and creating solutions using a series of ordered steps (or algorithms) and dispositions, such as the ability to confidently deal with complexity and open-ended problems. CT is essential to the development of computer applications, but it can also be used to support problem solving across the curriculum can begin to see a relationship between subjects as well as between school and life outside of the classroom.

For this year, the competition will be strictly pen-and-paper off-line in the junior (JSS1-3) and senior (SSS1-3) categories. To help us prepare to host the on-line version next year 2018, solicit that you kindly encourage your school head to heads to appoint an informatics teacher from each school who will be relating with our team here at NMC. The appointed teacher is also required to visit our site [www.bebbras.org.ng](http://www.bebbras.org.ng) to register and complete a survey which will aid our planning.

Once again please note that this competition is open to every child between the ages of 10-18 years. We therefore request that you encourage as many students as possible within the ages strata to register and participate in this competition. This first stage competition will take place on **Saturday, November 18, 2017**. for further details you may wish to visit our site above or contact the Coordinator of Computer Science Programme on: [jodamio@mail.com](mailto:jodamio@mail.com) or [info@bebras.org.ng](mailto:info@bebras.org.ng) and +2348069680153.