

I had a work experience girl with me last week and when I told her that I was studying A-levels when the World Wide Web was invented she looked at me as if aliens had just poked their tiny green heads out of my ears!

This came up during a visit to a primary school where I remarked on the amazing quality of the ICT suites (note plural) and recalled that my computing classes at school consisted of a shared keyboard and clunky large box of a screen, taking it in turns to learn QWERTY typing. I didn't have email until I went to University and even then we had to have special extra-curricular lessons, put on by the library, on how to use it.

Technological advancements mean there are now millions of people who cannot recall what it was like to live in a world without instant connectivity. This is surely a good thing for our tech sector but alas we are failing to encourage girls to get involved. Last year, only 245 girls took A-Level Computer Studies compared to over 5,000 who took Spanish. Likewise there has been a decline in the number of women who hold tech jobs in the UK from 22% to 17% and those studying technological or science degrees has fallen from 37% to 18%. I am supporting the Put Her into Hero campaign to encourage girls to achieve their potential and to be supported by schools and workforces to do so.

Science wasn't my thing at school because it was boring and no attempt was made to make it relevant. Computers weren't accessible and half its functionality wasn't invented. This is no longer the case and there is no excuse. Show casing female role models, such as programming pioneer Ada Lovelace, in the tech sector is essential and if we can inspire the Little Miss Geek in our girls then who knows, maybe we'll finally find out what really is dark matter.