



ACTING DIRECTOR of the National Council of Science and Technology, Charles Cyrus (left), and teacher at Columbus School for Girls, Christine Murakami, looking over the work of Shania Depeiza-Best and Earl-Lisha St Martin. (Picture by Christoff Griffith.)

Programming a hit at St Alban's

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING is a hit among students of St Alban's Primary.

And although the subject is one commonly taught to those 15 and over, the 11-year-olds at the Weston, St James school were very enthusiastic about the information technology subject taught by a team from the Columbus School For Girls in Ohio, United States.

At the recent launch of the programme which is considered way above the level for Class 4 students, teacher at the Ohio school Christine Murakami said she was looking forward to the creativity flowing from the minds of the students.

The reason behind their visit to the island, she said, was to create a passion in young girls towards information technology but also to spur an interest in programming among young people.

She said back in Ohio her main focus was to create a class which would particularly interest young females as the IT sector was dominated by men all over the world.

"The point is to make it appealing to them in ways that they don't really recognise. Because computer science is the vehicle for them to enjoy the beaches, travel and fun," she said.

Using the programme 'Scratch', which has been described as extremely child-friendly, the students will be working towards a game for Barbados'

50th anniversary of Independence.

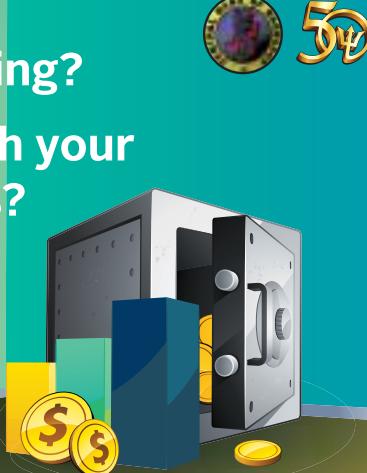
Acting director of the National Council of Science

and Technology, Charles Cyrus, said he was pleased about the programme for the sake

of females who should have a heavier presence in the particular field. (MR)

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