What is technology?

Skills that this session will develop: **Knowledge - Routes In and Commercial Awareness**
By the end of this session the mentee will be able to: ● **Describe what the technology industry is, as well as different routes into the industry** ● **Explain different areas/departments within a tech company**

Session Preparation:

1. Mentee to research:
    - the technology industry,
    - routes in (e.g. internship, grad scheme, apprenticeship), and
    - a few different areas/departments within a tech company (e.g. product development, business development, marketing, purchase, media & communication, HR, server & security).
2. Mentee to find out about an interesting tech product/development by Facebook. Mentor to think of the most interesting product they have been involved with.
 	
For more information on the insurance industry:
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/information-technology
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/information-technology/overview-of-the-uks-it-industry
https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/technology_sector.asp
https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/it-and-technology/286177-getting-a-graduate-job-in-it-and-technology-the-basics

Session Plan:
Review the information below and then complete the tasks together. The technology industry encompasses the research, development and/or distribution of technologically based goods and services. This industry contains businesses revolving around the manufacturing of electronics, creation of software, computers or products and services relating to information technology. The tech industry offers a wide arrange of products and services for both customers and other businesses. Consumer goods like personal computers, mobile phones, wearable technology

(e.g. the Apple watch), home appliances, televisions and so on are continually being improved and sold to consumers with new features.

On the business side, companies are dependent on innovations coming out of the tech industry to create their enterprise software (software needed to satisfy the needs of an organisation), manage their logistics systems, protect their databases, and generally provide the critical information and services that allow companies to make strategic business decisions.

The UK has one of the world's largest technology ecosystems with thousands of tech start-ups, built around a strong entrepreneurial culture. UK technology fuels our most successful sectors, including digital, healthcare, transport, creative, entertainment, financial services, cyber security, agriculture, and communications.

Now considered a key industry within the UK's fast-growing digital sector and with over one million people employed in the UK's tech industry, there is a huge range of tech careers available.

For instance, your job may involve creating applications or systems, solving problems with technology or supporting those who use it. Employers in the industry also require employees to work in their business, marketing, human resources (HR) and finance functions. Many tech professionals also choose to work outside the sector, such as in the IT departments of retail, finance, manufacturing and public sector organisations.

There are multiple routes into technology for school leavers and university graduates. For those who attend university, you could complete internships or a placement year during your studies (which may lead to a full-time job offer) or a grad scheme placement; for those looking for an alternative to university, you can enter the industry through an apprenticeship. Although employers usually provide training when you join them, relevant work experience with a tech company will be valuable in improving your chances to enter the profession.

Task 1: Together, discuss the mentee's research on the technology industry; fill in any knowledge gaps and answer any questions the mentee may have. Then, share your tech product examples.

Task 2: Together, discuss which area/department in the industry the mentee finds most interesting and why.