NCSC Cyber Skills Newsletter

December 2026

National Cyber Security Centre
Cyber Skills



Welcome to the NCSC Cyber Skills Newsletter.
Our aim is to help teachers, students and the wider public to learn more about cyber security. We'll share the latest updates, resources and opportunities to help you learn, keep yourself safe and understand more about cyber security.

News You Can Use

Passkeys
The NCSC is encouraging the use of passkeys instead of passwords. Passkeys are more resistant to phishing attacks and make accounts safer & easier to access.
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/passkeys

Keeping Your School Safe Online
Schools are a frequent target for cyber criminals. The NCSC has free resources to help schools strengthen their cyber resilience and improve staff awareness.
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/education-skills/cyber-security-schools

Dates for your Diary

November 2026 – 15th January 2027
TechFirst Scholarship applications open

10th December 2026
GCHQ Christmas Card
https://www.gchq.gov.uk/xmas2026

21st December 2026
Cyber Leaders Challenge applications close

March 2027
Careers Week (dates tbc)

Student Corner

Apply for the TechFirst Scholarship here:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/techfirst-undergraduate-scholarship

Cyber Leaders Challenge
A national cyber strategy competition for higher-education students. Teams of 4 advise senior decision makers during a non-coding cyber incident exercise. Apply by 21st December.
https://cyberleaderschallenge.com/apply



Spotlight Talks
New talks coming soon! All previous recordings are on ShareHub (https://sharehub.cseconnect.org/ncsc-cyber-skills), with these 2 being highly recommended:

- Hacking Colin the Caterpillar https://bit.ly/4zfMn3d
- Netflix vs Your Best Friend https://bit.ly/4zon2Ew

Did You Know?

Around Christmas, you may come across more scam texts and suspicious links. You can report by:

- Forwarding scam texts to 7726
- Emailing report@phishing.gov.uk

7726

Read here if you've already clicked on a suspicious link:
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-text-message

Resources Section

Defenders Now Available!
Our Defenders course content, aimed at 14-15 year olds, is on the free IBM SkillsBuild platform:
https://students.yourlearning.ibm.com/activity/ALM-COURSE_4076308?isT=true&mgr=2460870REG&org=0556

Trailblazers & Adventurers Now Available!
This modular content, aimed at 11-14 year olds, is on ShareHub, also a platform free to use:

Activity Leader: https://bit.ly/4iT3qlI

Student Activities: https://bit.ly/4AyRsVG

Learning Pathway
Unsure which steps to take next to develop your cyber skills? Have a look at our learning pathway to find out:
https://bit.ly/4znEtoK

Cyber Resilience and You! Training Course
Cyber security awareness training developed by CyberScotland for non-technical students in higher and further education institutions:
https://student.cyberscotland.com/

Puzzle Pieces

Complete our feedback form to find the answers!
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mWhUtwnTtj

🎅 **Santa's Secret Caesar Cipher**
🔐 DECRYPT SANTA'S MESSAGE
Santa has shifted every letter **one place forward** in the alphabet.

NFSSZ DISJTUNBT GSPN ODTD DZCFS TLJMMT
Can you reveal the message?

🔐 **The Secret Keeper**
❓ WHO AM I?
I keep your accounts locked up tight,
You use me by day and by night.
Make me long and hard to guess,
And I'll help protect your festive mess!



cyberskills@ncsc.gov.uk

Give us your feedback!
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mWhUtwnTtj

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyber-skills