

cyber discovery

Parent / Teacher Information



HM Government



There is a national shortage of cyber security practitioners – the people that are able to defend computer networks and other internet-connected infrastructure against attack. This is of national importance due to the increasing scale and frequency of such attacks. To help secure our digital future, the Government has introduced Cyber Discovery.

Cyber Discovery will teach young people skills and techniques that will give them a significant advantage if they choose to pursue a career in cyber security. The programme also aims to raise the profile of the cyber security profession amongst school students, encouraging them to follow a career path that is potentially fun, challenging, interesting and rewarding – as well as being of vital national importance.

Cyber Discovery, HM Government's Cyber Schools Programme, is an extracurricular learning programme for students in years 10-13, designed to ensure that many more people enter the cyber security profession in the coming years.

How is it being delivered?

The Cyber Discovery programme is being delivered by a consortium selected by HM Government. The partners are BT, SANS Institute, Cyber Security Challenge UK and FutureLearn. All have experience in delivering similar training programmes and are committed to providing the best learning experience for young people in England. A large proportion of the learning is delivered and experienced online, meaning students can progress through the programme on their own and at their own pace.

What will they learn?

Ethical hacking, penetration testing, digital forensics, intrusion detection and coding are a few of the skills students will learn in Cyber Discovery. Throughout the programme, participants will be made aware of the important legal and ethical implications that come with such digital skills. The syllabus has been designed to ensure that young people remain on the right side of the law and act in a positive manner, never jeopardising and only enhancing their future career prospects.

How can I get involved?

For the programme to be a success we are asking teachers and parents/guardians to encourage as many Year 10-13 students as possible to take part. We intend to find hidden talent as well as those that already enjoy computer-related studies. Also, we are keen to establish a network of volunteers across the country to support and mentor young people as they progress through Cyber Discovery. That could involve hosting a Cyber Discovery club in your school or somewhere else locally.

What are the next steps?

Packs are available that include handouts and posters designed to provide information and inspire students to take part. Please use these to encourage as many young people as possible to apply to join the programme by taking part in CyberStart Assess. You can also volunteer to support Cyber Discovery by registering as a club leader. For more information please visit the site below.

“We want the UK to be the best and the safest place to live and work online and to do that we need the best people.

Our new Cyber Schools Programme aims to inspire the talent of tomorrow and give thousands of the brightest young minds the chance to learn cutting-edge cyber security skills alongside their secondary school studies.

I encourage everyone with the aptitude and the enthusiasm to take part, so that we can find the very best in this great national challenge of keeping Britain safe online.”

Matt Hancock,
Minister of State for Digital

www.joincyberdiscovery.com

Twitter and Instagram: @CyberDiscUK

Cyber Discovery, HM Government's Cyber Schools Programme, is an extracurricular learning programme for students in years 10-13 across England. Designed to be accessible to those without any pre-existing cyber security knowledge, the programme consists of four phases intended to inspire and find the next generation of cyber security experts.

We want to encourage as many young people as possible to take part. That includes those who do not study or excel at computer science and/or would not currently consider cyber security as a valid career. We don't know where we may find the next cyber security expert. Could they be sitting in your classroom?

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The background is a dark blue color with several yellow-outlined geometric shapes scattered across it. These shapes include rectangles, parallelograms, and irregular polygons, some of which are tilted or rotated. The shapes vary in size and orientation, creating a dynamic and modern aesthetic.

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