



January Edition | For Students, Parents & Educators Across Our Trust Schools

Career
Spotlight of
the Month

Cybersecurity Specialist

Cybersecurity Specialists protect organisations from cyber threats by securing networks, systems, and data. They play a vital role in keeping businesses, healthcare, and government services safe from hackers and cybercrime.

Top Roles:

Cybersecurity Analyst
Ethical Hacker
Network Security Engineer
Digital Forensics Specialist

Routes In:

A Levels in Computer Science, Maths, ICT
T Level: Digital Productions, Design & Development
Apprenticeships: Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Digital Support Technician
University Degree: Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Information Security.

Regional Need:

The Northeast is seeing rapid growth in digital and tech sectors, with strong demand for cybersecurity professionals in Newcastle, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Careers SEND students – Preparing for Digital Careers

Students with SEND can thrive in tech careers with the right support. Many employers offer inclusive recruitment and assistive technology.

Top Tips:

- Explore Supported Internships and Digital Traineeships
- Look for employers in the Disability Confident scheme
- Use assistive tools like screen readers, voice recognition, and ergonomic equipment
- Speak to your SENCO or Careers Advisor about workplace adjustments

Useful Resources:

- <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk>
- <https://disabilityconfident.campaign.gov.uk>

Provider Focus – Newcastle College

What they offer:

Newcastle College provides a wide range of courses in **Digital & IT**, including T Levels, apprenticeships, and higher education pathways. They are a key partner in the Northeast Institute of Technology, offering cutting-edge facilities for tech careers.

Courses include:

Digital & Cybersecurity
Software Development
Networking & IT Infrastructure
Business & Management

Why choose Newcastle College?

Strong employer links in the tech sector
Inclusive support for learners with additional needs
Opportunities for progression to higher and degree apprenticeships

Open Events:

6 February 2026 – 4:30–6:30pm
12 March 2026 – 4:30–6:30pm

<https://www.ncl-coll.ac.uk/events>

Labour Market Insight: Digital and Technology Growth

Digital technology is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the region. Cybersecurity, AI, and data analytics are creating thousands of new roles.

Top Growth Roles:

- Cybersecurity & Network Security
- Software Development
- Data Analysis & Cloud Computing
- Digital Health Solutions

Employers Hiring Locally:

- Sage (Newcastle)
- NHS Digital
- Accenture
- DXC Technology

Building Confidence in Career Choices – KS3 and KS4

Choosing subjects or thinking about future careers can feel daunting. Confidence grows when students feel informed and supported.

For Students:

- **Start with your strengths** – List what you enjoy and what you're good at.
- **Explore options gradually** – Use platforms like Unifrog to research careers at your own pace.
- **Try new experiences** – Attend taster sessions, clubs, or short work experience days.
- **Ask questions** – Talk to teachers, careers advisors, or family about different pathways.

For Parents:

- **Encourage curiosity** – Discuss different jobs and how they link to subjects.
- **Celebrate effort, not just results** – Confidence grows through trying, even if it's challenging.
- **Attend events together** – Open evenings and careers fairs help students feel supported.
- **Model positivity** – Share your own career journey, including challenges and how you overcame them.

Pathway Focus – T Levels

What Are T Levels?

T Levels are two-year courses for students aged 16+, combining classroom learning with industry placements.

They're designed to prepare young people for skilled employment, apprenticeships, or higher education.

Benefits:

- *Equivalent to 3 A Levels*
- *45-day industry placement*
- *Strong employer involvement*
- *Available in sectors like Digital, Health, Construction, and Education*

T Level Courses include:

- *Media: Broadcast and Production*
- *Business*
- *Digital*
- *Education and Early Years*
- *Health & Science*
- *Building Services*
- *Engineering for Construction/Utilities/Manufacturing*
- *Design, Surveying & Planning*
- *Criminal Justice and Social Welfare*

This is just some of the subject areas in which you could consider the T Level pathway

Why Choose T Levels?

They offer practical experience and a clear route into careers or further study. Perfect for students who want hands-on learning with real-world relevance.

You can find more information here:

[T Levels](#)

Subject Focus of the Month - Mathematics

Mathematics develops problem-solving, logical thinking, and analytical skills—essential for many careers.

Careers Linked to Mathematics:

- **Data Analyst**
- **Actuary**
- **Software Developer**
- **Engineer**
- **Financial Planner**
- **Cybersecurity Specialist**
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Activity Idea:

Explore how encryption and coding rely on mathematical principles. Try simple coding challenges or puzzles to see maths in action!

Parent Tip of the Month – Supporting Digital Skills

Digital skills are vital for future careers. Here's how you can help:

How Parents Can Help:

- Encourage coding clubs or online courses (e.g., Scratch, Python basics)
- Talk about online safety and responsible tech use
- Explore tech careers together on Unifrog
- Attend college open events focused on digital pathways

Why It Matters:

Digital literacy opens doors to careers in every sector—from healthcare to finance, engineering to creative industries.



“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”
— Alan Kay