

**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](#)

**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*