

CYBER SUPER

Your child could work in cyber security in the future!

Hello,

This week your child learned about the exciting jobs available in cyber security by taking part in the Cyber Super programme.

Did you know that Northern Ireland has a growing cyber security sector with world leading companies? There are over 120 cyber security firms based in Northern Ireland employing over 2750 people and the sector is growing fast. The UK government believes there will be lots of opportunities for today's young people to work in cyber security when they leave school.

Cyber security careers are interesting and varied. Every organisation, large and small, now needs people who understand how to keep information and systems safe.

There are different ways young people can access a career in cyber security. Carrying on with either Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths post-16 will give them lots of options to specialise later. Often cyber security experts have degrees in computer science but many have other degrees such as software engineering or computer and communications engineering backgrounds.

Entry-level cyber security jobs are also available without a degree, for example working as an IT assistant on a helpdesk. There are also ways to work towards a certificate in cyber security that will help your child gain an entry level job. The industry also needs creative people who can think critically and who are excellent communicators.

With the cyber security sector growing in Northern Ireland, it is important to be aware of opportunities for young people in the future. Talk to your child about a career in cyber security.

With thanks,

The Cyber Super Team

Cyber Super is a Big Ideas programme co-funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency.



CYBER SECURE AT HOME

Think about your home and the devices you own. How cyber secure are you?

Follow these simple steps with your child to become a Cyber Security Home Hero!

1. Write a list of all the digital devices you use at home. This includes smartphones, tablets, laptops and smart watches.
2. Make sure you have created your own password for each device rather than keeping the settings it came with.
3. Think about how each device is locked. Is there a strong password, fingerprint recognition or facial recognition?
4. Think about the Apps you use, are these secure and do you use Multi Factor Verification where there are two steps to gain access for important ones such as online banking?
5. Check the privacy settings on each device and on the individual Apps that you and your child use. For example, you can limit access to social media accounts to known contacts only.
6. Check that your Wi-Fi password is strong and not easily guessable.
7. Make sure you run regular software updates so your devices can protect themselves from the latest online threats.
8. Install anti-virus software on computers and smart phones so they are better protected.

CyberFirst resources for your child

CyberFirst offers some fun and accessible resources your child can use at home to help them develop the skills they need to be cyber confident and safe.

For 7-11 year olds

CyberSprinters

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>

For 11-14 year olds.

CyberFirst Navigators

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cyberfirstnavigators>