

Lancaster University:
*Stories of excellence,
inclusion, and innovation
in cyber security
education*

Welcome to our newsletter –
spotlighting the people, projects,
and progress shaping cyber security
at Lancaster University.

This publication is part of our
broader commitment to cultivating
a vibrant, inclusive, and impactful
cyber security culture. Across
research, teaching, knowledge
exchange, and community
engagement, our staff and students
are working together to address the
digital challenges of today – and
tomorrow.

April 2025 – June 2025



Leadership Reflections

Hear directly from ACE-CSE Co-Directors as they share updates on progress, challenges faced, and hopes for the future. This section includes reflections on lessons learned and highlights key achievements, providing a candid look at the journey so far.



Cyber security is no longer just a technical challenge—it is a defining feature of our modern society. At Lancaster University, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of cyber experts, equipping them with the analytical rigor and practical insight to address the complex threats of today and tomorrow.



The landscape of digital security demands intellect, creativity, and strategic foresight. Our mission at Lancaster University is to cultivate exceptional cyber professionals who can anticipate, understand, and mitigate emerging risks, shaping a safer and more resilient digital world.

Past & Future Activities

Here's a look at some of the exciting things we've been up to over the past quarter, along with a glimpse of what's coming next. From hands-on outreach activities to expert-led lectures, we're proud to be creating opportunities that inspire, inform, and connect our community around all things cyber and computing. Keep an eye out for more to come!

Lancashire Cyber Education Day - 5th February 2025

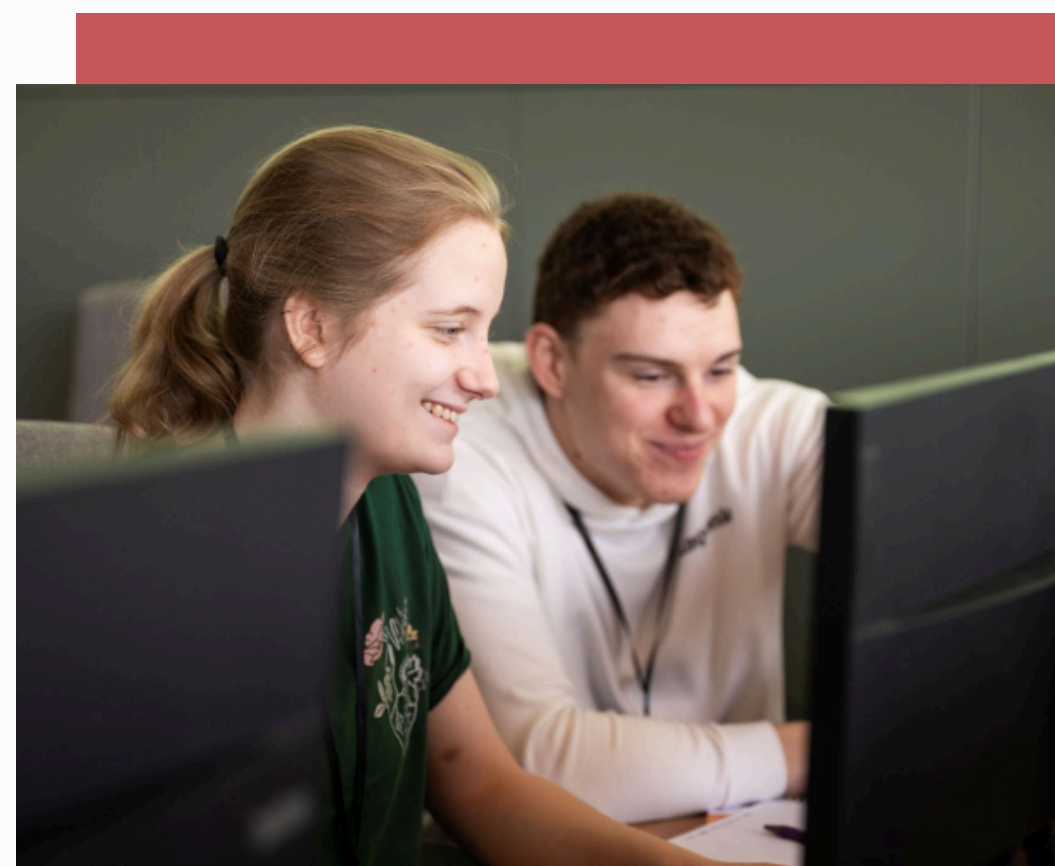


On February 5th, Lancaster University welcomed students from Blackpool Sixth, Blackpool & The Fylde College, and Lancaster & Morecambe College for Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week 2025. Students took part in interactive activities like a cyber escape room, encryption and Morse code challenges, and a cyber entrepreneurship game, gaining hands-on insight into careers in Lancashire's growing cyber industry.

Led by Dr Sophie James and Dr Isobelle Clarke, the day emphasized teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation. Highlights included the capture-the-flag competition, showcasing local student cyber talent, and exploring opportunities linked to the new National Cyber Force HQ. The event gave students a taste of Lancaster University life and inspired the next generation of digital professionals.

Hackathon - 26th March 2025

National Cyber Force, in partnership with IN4 Group and Lancaster University's Cyber Security team, hosted a hackathon for CyberFirst Bursary and STEM university students from across the North West. Participants tested their technical, problem-solving, and teamwork skills by designing a secure smart-home solution in response to evolving cyber threats. The event also included a panel with industry experts and a lunch-and-learn session on quantum encryption and AI, giving students insight into the future of cyber defence. A fantastic showcase of emerging talent tackling today's challenges to secure the digital world of tomorrow!



Cyber Girls First - 17th June 2025

We were thrilled to have hosted the Cyber Girls First event, welcoming 50 pupils from Fleetwood High, Carnforth High, Cartmel Priory C of E, and The Lakes School for a hands-on journey into cyber security and coding.

From cracking Caesar Ciphers to tackling a cyber Lego challenge, the day was packed with real-world tech experiences. Our brilliant student ambassadors led campus tours and highlighted the cutting-edge facilities on offer. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event so inspiring. We're proud to champion opportunities for young girls in tech and open doors to future careers in cyber and computer science!

TeenTech Festival at Edge Hill - 19th June 2025

We recently took part in TeenTech Lancashire, a one-day interactive STEM festival at Edge Hill University aimed at engaging Year 8 and 9 students with innovation, creativity, and technology. The event was a huge success! Students explored three themed zones – Innovation, Insight, and Challenge – with Lancaster University hosting a cybersecurity entrepreneurship game in the Challenge Zone, led by Anna Dyson and Dan Prince. Five schools participated, each bringing 15-20 students who developed incredible solutions to real-world customer challenges and ways to boost their gains. We look forward to being involved in this inspiring event for years to come!



Here's What's Coming Up Next!

- IOT Student's attending the Lancashire Cyber Festival - 1st July 2025
- Guest Lecture by Paul Withers - 24th July 2025
- Cyber First Advanced Summer School - 26th-29th August

Do you want to get involved in any of these events? If so, please contact Kate at k.jenkinson@lancaster.ac.uk.

Call for Contributors:

Join us on Wednesday, 24 July, 11:30–12:30 in Management School Lecture Theatre 3 for a guest lecture by Paul Withers, RAF Officer & Cyber Operations Specialist, on Hacking the Mind: Cyber Effects and Information Confrontation. Explore how cyber operations shape cognitive outcomes in modern conflict, including insights from the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Sign up by 23 July via this link: <https://shorturl.at/3Loyw>

Links to Blogs

Here's a selection of links to relevant blog posts that expand on the topics mentioned in this newsletter. Dive in if you'd like to learn more and explore practical tips and insights.

Enjoying what you've read so far?

We've covered some exciting events recently – take a look at our latest blog posts to find out more about the following events!

- Cyber Girls First – 17 June 2025
- TeenTech Festival at Edge Hill – 19 June 2025

Follow this link to read more on our website -

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/cyber-security-education/media/blogs/>

Cyber Security Training

Keeping our campus safe starts with us. This section offers up-to-date cyber security training info for staff, covering phishing, data protection, and best practices, provided by John Couzins [Lancaster's Head of IT Security]. Check here for upcoming sessions, resources, and tips to stay ahead of cyber threats.

Our new Metacompliance course provides Lancaster University staff with essential guidance on data protection and cyber security. From handling information securely to recognising phishing attempts and maintaining device safety, the course covers key practices aligned with university policies. Equip yourself with the knowledge to protect your digital information effectively and confidently.

This course is available exclusively to Lancaster University staff via this link -

<https://lancaster.metacompliance.com/View/Course/122052>

Closing Remarks

As we close this edition of the newsletter, a huge thank you goes out to everyone for your dedication and effort. Your contributions make all the difference! Stay engaged and keep participating—together, we're shaping a stronger, more positive future.