

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.

July – September 2025



Leadership Reflections

Hear directly from ACE-CSE leaders 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.



In an era defined by digital complexity, cyber security demands both deep understanding and creative problem-solving. At Lancaster University, we strive to empower our students to become insightful, adaptable leaders capable of navigating and securing the digital landscape of the future.



The challenges of modern cyber security are multifaceted, requiring both strategic vision and technical mastery. Our goal at Lancaster University is to mentor and inspire the next generation of cyber specialists, preparing them to safeguard critical systems and advance innovation across society.

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!

IOT Student's at the Lancashire Cyber Festival - 1st July 2025



As hosts of the Lancashire Cyber Festival, we invited IoT students to take part in activities specifically tailored for them. These included the Welcome to Lancaster talk delivered by Fred Binley, the HexVenture activity hosted by Anna Dyson and Chris Lowerson, and a talk by Chris Lowerson. In addition, the students also participated in the festival's welcome and keynote sessions, as well as a roundtable discussion focused on future opportunities in Cyber and Tech across Lancashire.

This tailored experience provided valuable insights and inspiration, reinforcing our commitment to preparing students for careers in the rapidly evolving tech sector.

Guest Lecture by Paul Withers - 24th July 2025

On 24th July 2025, we had the privilege of hosting an incredible guest lecture by Paul Withers, a Royal Air Force officer with over 30 years' experience in cyber operations and intelligence.

Paul explored how cyber operations can shape cognitive outcomes and contribute to broader information confrontation.

Drawing on real-world case studies—including the conflict in Ukraine—he introduced an analytical framework examining effects, intentions, integration, and timing.

Currently pursuing a PhD at King's College London, Paul brought deep insight and clarity to a complex and evolving topic.

A huge thank you to Paul for delivering such an engaging and insightful session for all who attended.

This was the inaugural event in our new cyber lecture series—stay tuned for more thought-provoking sessions to come!



CyberFirst Regional Knowledge Share Event - 5th August 2025

On 5 August 2025, Chris Lowerson and Kate Jenkinson attended the CyberFirst Regional Knowledge Share in Cheltenham – a day of creativity, collaboration, and cyber innovation.

Highlights included regional programmes like Ignite Bootcamp and CyberFirst Horizons, interactive learning such as the HexVenture board game and Cyber Heist Briefcase, and university partnerships aligning learning pathways with accreditation.

Sharing HexVenture sparked great interest, showing how gamified learning inspires the next generation of cyber talent.

This event proved that when regions connect, the future of cyber education is unstoppable!

Successful Clearing Engagement at Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School - 14th August



A huge thank you to Kimberley Edwards (Widening Participation Officer at Lancaster University) for her outstanding efforts on 14th August, engaging with students and parents during Confirmation and Clearing at Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School. Her work has already helped two more students consider Lancaster for 2025 entry – a fantastic result! This initiative is part of our ongoing partnership with Star Academies colleges, and we look forward to deepening our collaboration even further. Currently, 11 students from Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School plan to join us in September 2025 – a 67% increase on 2024. We look forward to seeing these partnerships and the cyber initiatives continue to thrive.

Cyber First Advanced Summer School - 26th-29th August

We were proud to host the CyberFirst Advanced course on campus from 26–29 August 2025 in collaboration with QinetiQ. As part of a Hub and Spoke Delivery model—with QinetiQ as the hub and Lancaster University alongside University of Greenwich and University of the West of England as spokes—this course combined streamed content from Malvern with hands-on activities delivered locally.



The course covered key topics such as digital forensics, encryption, OSINT, and penetration testing, featuring lectures from experts in their fields. We welcomed 20 students aged 16–18 from Winstanley College, TIGHS, TIBHS, Blackpool Sixth, and Lancaster Girls' Grammar.

On campus, students participated in activities including campus tours, a DIS demonstration, competing in LU's Encryption and Bot or Not AI detection games. The week was a great success, inspiring the next generation of cyber talent!

Here's What's Coming Up Next!

- Cyber Girls First Sixth Form Event – 14th November 2025
- Cyber First Day's in collaboration with In4 Group - two being held before 2026
- Train the Trainer Event for HexVenture

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: Showcase Your Cyber Work at the Next Cyber Girls First Event!

The next event in collaboration with **Cyber Girls First** is set for Friday **14th November**, and this time it's aimed at sixth form students. We're excited to welcome around 60 Year 12 and 13 girls to campus for a day focused on inspiring futures in cyber and tech.

As part of the day, we're planning a 1-hour exhibition-style session from 14:00–15:00, where students can explore the amazing work happening across our cyber community.

Do you have something to showcase? Whether it's a 5-minute tech demo or a hands-on activity, we'd love to hear from you!

We're excited to launch the **HexVenture Train-the-Trainer initiative** and invite staff from high schools and colleges to join a special session at Lancaster University on **Wednesday, 26th November 2025 (1:00–4:00 PM)**. Attendees will see and play the HexVenture board game, learn how to run it with students, and take away a free copy to use in their own school or organisation. Developed with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), HexVenture is a cybersecurity-themed educational game for Key Stages 3–5 that encourages creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and entrepreneurial thinking. For more information or to attend, please contact

If you're interested in taking part in any of these events, please contact Kate at k.jenkinson@lancaster.ac.uk.

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

- Guest Lecture by Paul Withers - 24th July 2025
- CyberFirst Regional Knowledge Share Event - 5th August 2025
- CyberFirst Advanced Summer School - 26th-29th August

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 updated travel advice pages now provide clear guidance for managing information security for our staff while on the move. From protecting data abroad to securing devices on the go, the resources are designed for anyone who travels for work or personal reasons. Navigate your journeys with confidence, knowing your digital information is safeguarded.

These resources are available exclusively to Lancaster University staff via the provided link.

[Information security when travelling abroad | ASK - Lancaster University](#)

Closing Remarks

As we wrap up this newsletter, we want to sincerely thank everyone for their hard work and support. We couldn't have achieved all this without you! Keep getting involved wherever you can—together, we're building a brighter future and making a real difference.