



National Cyber  
Security Centre

a part of GCHQ



# CyberFirst Girls Competition 2019

Information pack  
for teachers

**Join  
cyber  
first.**

# Key dates

Registration opens

**10 December  
2018**

Online round

**21-28 January  
2019**

Grand Final

**24-25 March  
2019**

# CyberFirst Girls Competition 2019

An opportunity for girls to gain cyber skills, solve problems, work as a team and have fun with friends.

As the UK Government's lead technical authority on cyber security, the NCSC is committed to developing a talent pipeline to nurture the next generation of skilled cyber security professionals.

Women currently make up only 11% of the global cyber workforce.<sup>1</sup> At the NCSC, we want to play our part in changing this. We hope this competition will spark a lifelong interest in the girls, that could be turned into a fulfilling career in cyber security, helping to make the UK one of the safest places to live and do business online.

The first part of the competition takes place over one week and involves a series of online challenges.

Teachers, of any subject, can enter teams of (up to 4) girls aged 12-13 years.<sup>2</sup>  
No knowledge of IT is needed.

<sup>1</sup> <https://liamcybersafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/WomensReport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Year 8 in England and Wales, S2 in Scotland and Year 9 in Northern Ireland

# The online round



**Here is an example challenge from the networking category:**

On what date was the domain ncsc.gov.uk registered?  
Please give your answer in the format:  
CFG19:dd/mm/yyyy

Find out more at: <https://www.cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/girlscompetition/>



# Get involved

Do you teach girls aged 12 to 13 years\*  
**NO** — **OR** teach in a school with that year group?

Check out other CyberFirst courses at  
<https://www.cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/>

**YES**



Do you teach IT or have any  
knowledge of computer science?

**NO**

**YES**

Do you want to inspire the next generation  
of young women to pursue cyber careers?

**NO**

Did you know only 11% of the  
global cyber workforce is made  
up of women?

**WELL IN  
THAT  
CASE...**

**YES**



**NO** — Week commencing 21 Jan 19, are you  
able to be around to support your teams?

But check out last year's highlights at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujkHmpqfAio&feature=youtu.be>

**COUNT  
ME IN**

**YES**

You could be a **CyberFirst Girls Competition**  
team guardian and enter teams of up to 4 girls.

Register your school's interest and receive updates on the  
2019 competition by emailing [cyberschoolsoutreach@ncsc.gov.uk](mailto:cyberschoolsoutreach@ncsc.gov.uk)



\*Year 8 in England and Wales, S2 in Scotland and Year 9 in Northern Ireland

# Testimonials



“ I saw a big change in terms of mindset and confidence in the girls throughout the week, and I think that is one of the biggest issues stopping girls from doing computer science. As they started solving more and more complex puzzles they realised that they actually could do it, – and it is magnificent to see that kind of attitude in girls. ”

*Caroline, St Catherine’s College, Armagh, Northern Ireland*

The  
teachers  
say ...



“ A great thing about the competition is that you don’t have to be a Computer Science teacher for your students to enter the competition. Apart from registering your students, there is very little that you have to do in the online rounds - you’re certainly not allowed to help the students solve the problems! ”

*Pat, The Piggott School, Berkshire*

“ You don’t have to be amazing at cyber skills to enter, I didn’t know anything about code breaking when we entered, and we have made it to the final. ”

*Imaan, North London Collegiate School*

The  
girls  
say ...

“ I loved the scenario and problem solving, it was all very memorable. It’s an experience you’ll never get with anything else. ”

*Raphaella, Queen’s School, Cheshire*

“ Cyber security is really crucial for every element of our life. We need to solve the skills gap by getting young women interested in this subject. ”

This competition will definitely help to encourage more young girls to think about a career in cyber security because it is making it really tangible to them. They are solving real life problems. ”

*Steph McGovern, BBC*

Our  
supporters  
say ...





For more information, visit:

<https://www.cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/girlscompetition/>

