

**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.

*September – December 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 today's interconnected world, cyber security is more than a technical concern—it is central to the resilience of modern society. We are dedicated to developing the next generation of cyber professionals, equipping them with the critical thinking and practical skills needed to navigate and counter the complex threats of the digital age.*



*Cyber security stands at the heart of our digital world, shaping how we live, work, and connect. At Lancaster University, we are dedicated to developing future leaders in this critical field—individuals with the technical expertise, strategic awareness, and ethical understanding needed to safeguard our digital future.*

# 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!

## Cyber First Event [1] with In4 - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

We had the pleasure of welcoming 29 Year 8 students from Furness Academy to Lancaster University for an action-packed CyberFirst session with our partners at IN4.

The programme was designed to spark curiosity in technology and cybersecurity, and the students enthusiastically took part in:

- Programming Sphero robots
- Cracking an encryption challenge with Dan Fretwell and Jessica Jay
- Debating the ethics of artificial intelligence
- Exploring The Future of Technology in a thought-provoking talk, followed by an AI-powered Kahoot quiz
- Hearing from Fred Binley about what makes Lancaster University such a great place to study

We were particularly proud to see a 50/50 split of girls and boys, along with students from diverse backgrounds, all engaging with the world of technology.

A huge thank you to Furness Academy, IN4 Group, and our Lancaster University colleagues for helping to make this such a memorable day.



## Engaging Future Scholars: MEGA Webinar with Fred Binley - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

On 7th October, Fred Binley, Head of UK Student Recruitment and Widening Participation, delivered a webinar for MEGA and their Scholars' Group, which was very well received. The session sparked lots of questions about Lancaster and our SCC programmes, and Fred has also offered the group a visit to campus. We look forward to welcoming as many students as possible in the future.



## Cyber First Event [2] with In4 - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

After such a great response the first time, we ran another CyberFirst Day! Queen Katherine School brought 30 Year 8 students to Lancaster University for another jam-packed day of technology and cybersecurity with our partners at IN4.

We're very grateful to Queen Katherine School, IN4 Group, and our Lancaster University team for making the day such a fantastic experience.

## Cyber Cadet Event, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

On 29th October, Kate Jenkinson and Lewis Newsham had the pleasure of attending a Cyber Cadet event, where they hosted the HexVenture game after being trained by the brilliant Chris Lowerson.

They delivered HexVenture three times, each to an enthusiastic team of cadets – and were blown away by their creativity and teamwork. From nuclear-powered barbecues designed to boost team morale to watch-based robots that manage crowds and handle ticket sales, the cadets' ideas were nothing short of inspiring.

It was an amazing event to be part of, and they loved being able to lead the sessions and see how each group approached the challenges in their own unique way. Such a valuable and rewarding experience!



## Cyber Girst First Event at Lancaster University, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

On 14th November, we welcomed 70 students to Lancaster University for our Cyber Girls First Sixth Form Event, an initiative aimed at inspiring more young women to pursue careers in cyber. The day gave students from diverse backgrounds the chance to experience university life, hear from alumna Wendy Parmley, and take part in interactive workshops and demonstrations. A huge thank-you to everyone involved for making the event such a success.



## Queen Katherine's Visit to Lancaster - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

On 24th November, we were delighted to welcome Queen Katherine School to Lancaster University for an immersive cyber experience. Students were fully engaged from start to finish, with a welcome that resonated and introduced Lancaster in a way they immediately connected with. The cyber escape room challenges designed and led by Sophie James and Ryan Hyland were a standout—fast-paced, relevant, and grounded in real-world scenarios—while the encryption activity delivered by Dan Fretwell and Jess Jay, with its historical context, was especially memorable. A visit to the Data Immersion Suite rounded off the day, leaving students genuinely amazed and inspired.



## Train the Trainer Session for HexVenture, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

On 26th November, we hosted a Hexventure training event led by Chris Lowerson, giving attendees a hands-on introduction to this innovative game-based learning tool. The session covered the theory behind the game, a cyber security primer, a live demo, and practical ways to adapt Hexventure for different teaching contexts. Participants explored how the game supports value creation, empathy mapping, and problem-solution fit—and feedback showed they absolutely loved the experience. All attendees left with their own copy of the game to use within their organisations. If you'd like to join a future iteration of this session, please contact Kate at [k.jenkinson@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.jenkinson@lancaster.ac.uk).



## Guest Lecture by Paul Foster, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

On 3rd December, Paul Foster delivered an engaging lecture on Operation CRONOS, the NCA-led international investigation that disrupted the LockBit ransomware once responsible for 25% of global attacks. Attendees gained unique insights into the operation's strategies, challenges, and lasting impact, followed by a lively Q&A. It was a fascinating glimpse into one of the most significant cybercrime interventions in recent history. A huge thank you to Paul for delivering this insightful session.

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



## Here's What's Coming Up Next!

- We are excited to be hosting 120 students as part of Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week on 4th February 2026. We are currently looking for engaging activities for the students. Do you have an activity that you could run for a group of students, or something suitable to showcase in the exhibition hall? If so, please get in touch and let us know!
- Cyber First Day's in collaboration with In4 Group - two being held between January and April 2026

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

- Cyber First Event [1] with In4 - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- Cyber Girls First Sixth Form Event - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Queen Katherine's Visit to Lancaster - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Train the Trainer Event - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Guest Lecture by Paul Foster, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 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.*

This short course highlights the risks of working remotely and provides practical steps to stay secure in public places. It covers how to prevent exposing sensitive data in open spaces and how to keep communications safe when using public Wi-Fi.

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

**<https://lancaster.metacompliance.com/View/Course/107648>**

# Closing Remarks

*As we close out this newsletter, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your dedication and support. None of this would be possible without you! Keep finding ways to get involved—together, we're shaping a brighter future and creating real impact.*

*As the calendar year draws to a close, all of us at Lancaster wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for being part of our community!*

