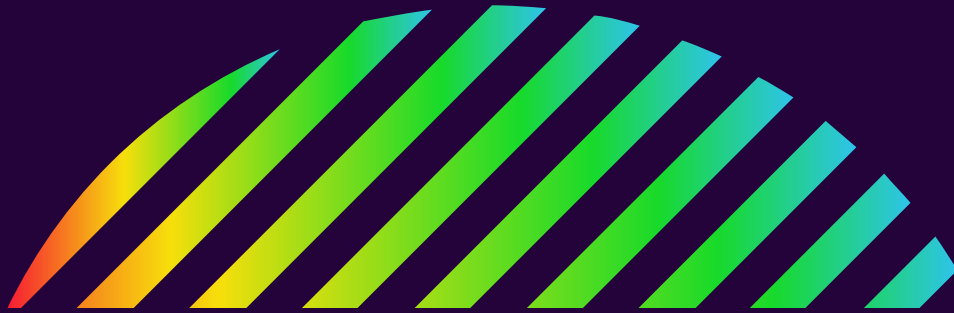




Cyber Leaders Challenge

Inspire | Empower | Connect



2026 UK Cyber Leaders Challenge

National Finals



BAE SYSTEMS



FCA FINANCIAL
CONDUCT
AUTHORITY



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Here**

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Welcome to the 2026 UK Cyber Leaders Challenge National Finals!



Welcome to all our Finalists teams, their coaches and our supporters across government and industry to the magnificent BT Tower for what I am sure will be a brilliant two days.

From over 100 teams, you have already beaten some tough competition to make it through to the National Finals. So, first of all, well done and congratulations.

This event would not be possible were it not for our fantastic Sponsors, Partners and Champions from across government & industry as well as the brilliant organising team. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to grow this initiative, with students from each of the home nations competing and this year we have reached over 450 students!

It might seem strange for the Competition Director to say this, but the next two days are so much more than just the competition element. We have crafted the next two days for your benefit. Please enjoy them, engage fully and meet as many people as you can. Be inspired, get connected and be empowered to take the next step in your career and become a future cyber leader. Good luck and may the best team win!

Robert Black | Director, UK Cyber Leaders Challenge



The UK Cyber Leaders Challenge is delighted to be recognised as a partner of the NCSC's CyberFirst programme.

The CyberFirst programme is the UK Government's recognised brand for Cyber Security education, training and development. Working in partnership with Government, Academia and wider sectors of Industry, CyberFirst has created a cyber-ecosystem that nurtures and develops talented individuals as well as providing pathways into cyber security careers. This is exactly what we are doing and aim to achieve with the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge.

Through the provision of the necessary skills, knowledge and opportunities, CyberFirst is inspiring a diverse future generation of cyber security professionals to keep the UK the safest place to live and work online. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our role as part of the CyberFirst community and are delighted to be supported by the NCSC and our other government champions.



Welcome



Cyber-attacks can be ambiguous, conflicting and the potential consequences unclear. Preventing and responding to incidents is about protecting what matters – and knowing what matters requires not just technical insight, but perspectives on attacker intent and business impact.

BAE Systems is proud to have supported this competition for many years. We believe it acts as a catalyst for bringing some of the best talent into the cyber security community and demonstrates that you need diverse minds and teamwork to succeed.

Sam Kirby-French | Group Chief Information Security Officer, BAE Systems



Inspire. Empower. Connect.

Three words that continue to sit at the heart of the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge and capture exactly what brings us all together again this year.

As BT's champion for the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge, I'm absolutely delighted to welcome you to the National Finals at our beloved BT Tower. Reaching this stage is a brilliant achievement and over the next couple of days you'll be stepping into a scenario that mirrors exactly what real cyber leaders face: pressure, pace, complexity and the responsibility to communicate clearly when it matters most.

Take every moment in. Ask questions. Build connections. Learn from each other. Whether you're presenting your thinking to senior stakeholders or navigating fast-moving information, this is your chance to show not only what you know, but who you are as future leaders in cyber.

Whatever happens in the competition, I hope you leave feeling proud, energised, and excited about what lies ahead. Everyone at BT is cheering you on and we can't wait to see the ideas, skills and leadership you bring to the challenge.

Wishing you the very best of luck and enjoy the experience!

Laura Price | Cyber Skills Partnerships Lead, BT





Cyber

Supporting cyber missions
relied on by governments

Cyber threats are constantly evolving - becoming
collaboratively with organisations to protect, the
cyberspace and across the cyber ecosystem.

Today our focus is on supporting nations in the
in supporting organisations as they build strate
reducing reputational risk.

We track 130+
Advanced Persistent
Cyber Threat groups

We're
hand
cyber

Developing next generation skills

A world-class cyber security sector depends on world-class skills. In the UK, our cyber graduates and apprentices are contributing to this national endeavour, accelerating the advanced technologies and capabilities needed to protect the nation. Since 2020, we've invested £1bn in education, skills and training, developing people and helping communities prosper across the UK.

Discover more about career opportunities in cyber:
careers.baesystems.com/areas-of-work/cyber

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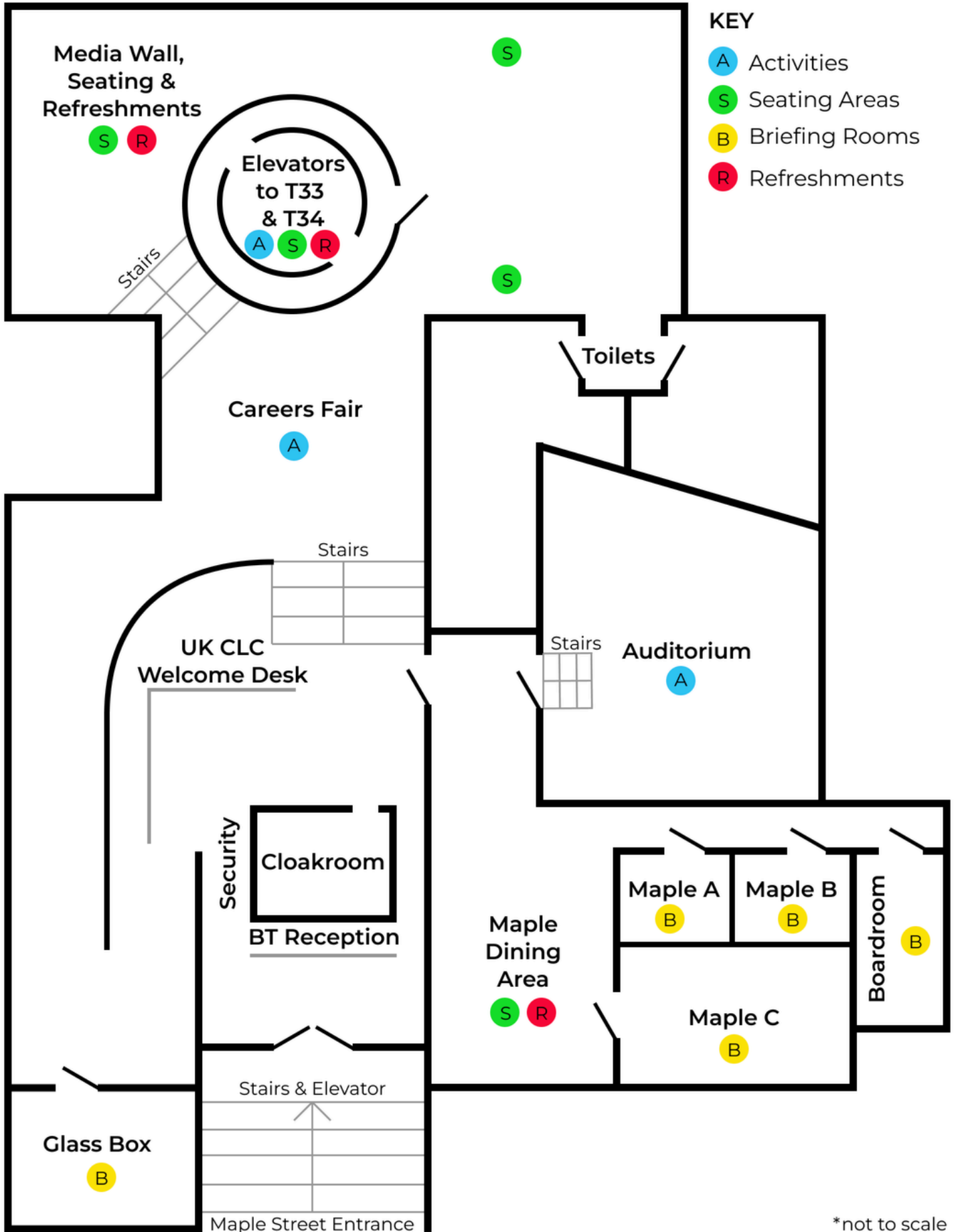
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BAE SYSTEMS

BT Tower Map



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Time	Auditorium	Competition Rooms	T34
0800	ARRIVALS & BREAKFAST		
0845	Welcoming Remarks		
0945	Student Briefing	Judges Briefing	
1000	BREAK		
1015		Quarter-Final Round 1	CyberEscape Rooms led by BT
1115		Quarter-Final Round 2	FCA Workshop & Mentoring
1215	LUNCH		
1315	Santander & RBC Keynote		
1345		Quarter-Final Round 3	CyberEscape Rooms led by BT & Mentoring
1445		Quarter-Final Round 4	BAE Systems Workshop & Mentoring
1545	BREAK		
1600	Keynote		
1615	Career Ikigai with BT		
1645	NCSC Keynote		
1655	Announcement of Semi-Finalists		
1715			Networking Reception
1815	Close & Release of Scenario Stage 3		
1900	VIP Reception at the FCDO <i>(for judges & coaches)</i>		

There is **Careers Fair** throughout the day on the Ground Floor & a **lockpicking station** on T34. A quiet space is available on T33. Judges may use the Glass Box, except from 1015-1115, for work meetings.



0845 | Auditorium | Welcoming Remarks

UK Cyber Leaders Challenge Director, Rob Black, kicks off the National Finals with an overview of what to expect over the coming days. This will be followed by the student briefing, hosted by Jenny McCullagh & Sophie Powell. In parallel there will be a judges briefing hosted by Sofia-Liemann Escobar & Lindsay Wojtula in the Maple Boardroom.

Rob will be joined by guest keynote speakers from:

- Chris E | Higher Education Engagement Lead, NCSC
- Lee Stephens | Security Advisory Services, BT
- Alex Crompton | BAE Systems



Lee has over 30 years of experience in IT and a decade in cybersecurity. He helps businesses stay secure with clear, practical advice — no jargon, just solutions that work.



With 25 years across CNI, government and defence sectors - Alex runs the Security Consulting Practice at BAE Systems. He works with UK & overseas CNI, Defence and Governments on cyber defence & resilience.

1015 & 1345 | T34 | CyberEscape Rooms Led by BT



Have some friendly competition and learn about a positive Security Culture!

Working in groups, Charlotte and Aimee from BT will show you the power of team building with some interactive, immersive 'Born Secure' training! You'll cover some key cyber security concepts and have some fun along the way.

Please bring a phone or a laptop with you to this session.



1115 | T34 | Safe and Responsible Use of AI in the Modern Workplace Led by the FCA



Artificial intelligence is increasingly embedded in everyday tools and workflows, shaping how colleagues draft, analyse, and make decisions. As AI becomes part of routine work, it introduces new considerations around safe use, responsible judgement, and the handling of information that are not always well understood. This talk provides a practical introduction to using AI safely at work, helping colleagues build confidence in how AI can support their roles without creating unintended risks.

The session focuses on the most common AI-related challenges that arise in day-to-day working environments. These include unapproved or “shadow” AI use, accidental data leakage, over-reliance on AI outputs, and the risk of inaccurate or misleading results. Through practical examples, the presentation shows how these issues can emerge during normal tasks and why safe AI use is a shared responsibility across both technical and non-technical teams.

Finally, the presentation connects these risks to practical safeguards, governance, and recognised standards that support responsible AI use. It highlights how clear controls, good judgement, and repeatable assurance practices help colleagues use AI securely, ethically, and transparently enabling innovation while maintaining trust, accountability, and confidence across the organisation

1315 | Auditorium | Santander Keynote



Thomas Harvey is a cyber and information security leader with over 20 years' experience across UK national security, critical infrastructure, and global financial services.

He has served as Chief Information Security Officer & Head of Fraud Prevention at Santander UK, and earlier as Global Head of Cyber Defence for the wider Santander Group. Prior to this, Thomas held a number of cyber roles at GCHQ and later joined BP as Global Head of the Cyber Emergency Response Team.

He serves on the UK Government Cyber Security Advisory Board and holds an MSc in Intelligence and Security Studies. He has also completed executive education in cybersecurity leadership at Carnegie Mellon University. Outside of work, Thomas is interested in exploring resilience and leadership through expedition and adventure.



1330 | Auditorium | RBC Keynote



Charlie Timblin is Global CISO recognised in the top 100 for building high-impact cyber programs & translating complex threats into clear business strategies.

1445 | T34 | Strategic Threat Intelligence – Business, Geopolitics and Technology Led by BAE Systems

BAE SYSTEMS

Understanding the cyber threat landscape and its impact on business is critical for multinational organisations to maintain the safety and security of their business ventures and people. In this session, Rob will discuss how BAE Systems integrate business strategy, geopolitical analysis and developments in technology to advise senior leaders on the impact of the changing cyber threat landscape on business activities. Rob will then highlight some key events in the last 12 months which have driven significant changes in advice and guidance to senior leaders, and reflect on how future cyber leaders can tackle these challenges in similar roles.

1600 | Auditorium | Keynote

Following the completion of the final Quarter-Final Briefing Round, we will wrap up the first day of the National Finals with a series of keynotes.

In these sessions, you'll hear from a variety of real cyber professionals exploring different aspects of the cyber profession.

1615 | Auditorium | Cyber Career Ikigai: Finding Purpose in a World Full of Possibilities



Following on from his captivating talk at the North-West Regional Qualifier, BT's Lee Stephens will explore what it means to have a purposeful career.

Cyber security is one of the most exciting places to build a career today — a field where curiosity, purpose and impact meet. It's a profession that rewards expertise, offers room to grow quickly, pays well because the work matters, and gives you the chance to do genuine good in the world.



But with so many paths available, the hardest part is often choosing where to begin. This talk introduces a clear and practical take on ikigai — the idea of finding purpose through what energises you and where you can create value. Rather than starting with job titles or trends, we start with you: what inspires you, how you think, and which problems in the digital world you care about most?

Along the way, I'll share my own journey — including how, at 52, I'm still refining what purpose means — and why passion is the strongest starting point.

You'll also hear how cyber thrives on diversity. Not as a slogan, but as a strategic truth: we solve complex problems better when people with different backgrounds, stories and perspectives work side by side. Whatever your path so far, there is space here for you.

You'll leave with a clear, grounded way to move forward: notice what genuinely energises you, define the problems you want to contribute to, align your learning and networks with those problems, and take the next small step with confidence — knowing that purpose isn't something you start with, but something you grow into.

1645 | Auditorium | Closing Keynote & Semi-Finalist Announcement

Day 1 of the National Finals closes with our final keynote speaker, a senior representative from the NCSC.

This will be followed by competition director, Rob Black, reflecting on the day, running through what to expect on day 2 and announcing the 10 teams progressing to the Semi-Final Round on Thursday morning.





> CYBER SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS _ _



Scan QR code
to find out more

Agenda | Thursday

Time	Auditorium	Competition Rooms	T34
0800	ARRIVALS & BREAKFAST		
0845	Welcoming Remarks		
0905	Student Briefing	Judges Briefing	
0920	BREAK		
0930		Semi-Final Round 1	Ctrl Alt Defeat Game & Mentoring
1015	Fireside Chat with Geoff White		
1045	BREAK		
1100		Semi-Final Round 2	Ctrl Alt Defeat Game & Mentoring
1145	FCA Keynote		
1200	Panel Discussion		
1245	BAE Systems Keynote		
1255	Grand Finalist Announcement		
1300	LUNCH		
1345	VIP Judge Introduction & Scenario Update	Finalist Teams Wait in Holding Room	
1400	Grand Final Round		
1545	BREAK		
1600	NCSC Keynote		
1615	Awards Ceremony		
1700			Networking Reception
1930	CLOSE		

A quiet space is available on T33. Judges may use the Glass Box, except from 0930-1015 and 1100-1145, for work meetings. There is a **lockpicking station** on T34 throughout the morning.



0845 | Auditorium | Welcoming Remarks

Day 2 of the National Finals kicks off with competition director, Rob Black, introducing the day ahead. We know that Wednesday will have been a long night for many teams, so Rob will bring his usual enthusiasm to energise all ahead of the final day of the 2026 UK Cyber Leaders Challenge.

This will be followed by the student briefing, hosted by Jenny McCullagh & Sophie Powell, and the judge briefing hosted by Sofia-Liemann Escobar & Lindsay Wojtula.

0930 & 1100 | T34 | Ctrl Alt Defeat Game

Ctrl Alt Defeat - the NCF's Responsible Cyber Operations Game. This will be an opportunity for participants to gain an understanding of the basic mechanics of an offensive cyber operation, the UK's approach to responsible cyber operations and a chance to discuss the ethics of cyber operations in a global context.

1015 | Auditorium | Fireside Chat with Geoff White



Geoff White is an author, speaker, investigative journalist and podcast creator, with world-leading expertise on organised crime and technology.

He's worked for the BBC, Audible, Penguin, Sky News, The Sunday Times and many more. In a career spanning over 20 years, Geoff has covered financial crime, money laundering, cryptocurrency and the emergence of cybercrime as one of the primal threats to modern society.

Notable works of Geoff's include the podcast '*Cyber Hack: The Lazarus Heist*' as well as his books: '*Crime Dot Com*', '*The Lazarus Heist*' and '*Rinsed*'.

1145 | Auditorium | FCA Keynote



Ali Shepherd is the CISO and Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for the FCA, providing independent security and technology advice to ExCo (Executive Committee), with over twenty years of experience in the domain.



1200 | Auditorium | Panel Discussion: Skills You Need to Thrive in a Tech Dominated Age

With the rapid rate of innovation driving significant technological change in our society, one of the challenges for individuals considering their future career paths is how best to ensure they remain effective as new technologies come online.

This discussion will explore ways people can maintain their expertise and develop necessary skills that enable them to thrive in today's tech dominated age.

Chaired by Sophie Powell (UK Cyber Leaders Challenge) with panelists:



Thomas Harvey | CISO, Santander UK



Vic Djondo | SRO, Security Culture & Education, BT



Ali Shepherd | CISO, FCA



Harriet Rogers | Strategic Cyber Threat Specialist, BAE Systems

1245 | Auditorium | BAE Systems Keynote



Harriet Rogers is a Strategic Cyber Threat Specialist at BAE Systems, advising on the global cyber threat landscape and delivering strategic cyber threat intelligence. Before that she was in the RAF.



1345 | Auditorium | VIP Judges & Grand Final

From applications opening back in October, 114 teams invited to the Regional Qualifiers and 17 teams competing at the National Finals - we are down to the final three teams.

With just 15-minutes to read Scenario Stage 4 & prepare their 10-minute Briefing, they will compete live in the BT Tower auditorium in front of a panel of VIP judges. This session will be hosted by UK Cyber Leaders Challenge scenario team member, Lindsay Wojtula, with the update to the scenario presented by our scenario lead, Sofia Liemann-Escobar.



Sam Kirby-French

Group CISO, BAE Systems

Sam joined BAE Systems 10 years ago and has spent much of that time delivering cyber security transformation programmes for BAE System's Government and Critical National Infrastructure customers, many with significant Operational Technology estates.

Sam is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Information Security (CIIISec) and a Member of the UK Government's Cyber Security Advisory Board.



Pete Cooper

Chair, Cyber Leaders Challenge

General Manager, EMEA, Customer Security Management Office, Office of the CISO, Microsoft

Pete is a passionate cyber leader that has been at the forefront of tackling some of the most critical and complex cyber challenges at the same time as working hard to mentor and bring forward the next generation of cyber leaders. In his current role, Pete leads Microsoft security engagements with some of the most critical organisations across the region.

With a diverse military, private sector and government background, Pete's work career has included founding and leading the Aerospace Village at DEF CON, serving as Deputy Director Cyber in Government Security Group within the UK Cabinet Office, founding Cyber 9/12 UK and now the chairing of the Cyber Leaders Challenge.

He has a Post Grad in Cyberspace Operations from Cranfield University and was awarded 'Cyber Citizen of the Year' at the National Cyber Awards in 2023.





Paul Chichester MBE

Director of Operations, NCSC

Paul Chichester has worked in the UK Government Intelligence and Security community for nearly 35 years. He's had a wide range of roles during that time, many of them having a cyber flavour (even before the word or the topic became popular!) and has been involved in every major UK Government cyber investigation from MOONLIGHT MAZE in the late 90s to the present day. In 2005 Paul was awarded the MBE for his ground-breaking contribution to the field of cyber security and in the recent King's Birthday Honours Paul was awarded the CMG for his contribution to National Security.

Paul is currently the Director of Operations at the UK's National Cyber Security Centre where he is responsible for managing nationally significant cyber incidents (such as WannaCry) and ensuring UK Government understands and can counter a wide range of state and non-state threats.



Yasemin Mustafa

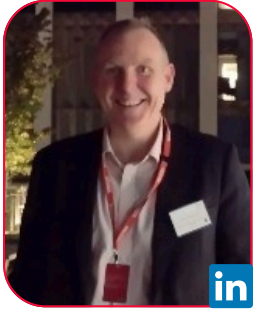
Cyber Security Product Director, BT

Yasemin Mustafa is Cyber Security Product Director at BT, responsible for leading the strategy and development of security services used across the UK's public and private sectors. She oversees a portfolio that helps organisations of all sizes stay protected while supporting their growth ambitions and enabling them to embrace digital transformation.

Known for her commitment to making cyber security accessible to all, Yasemin focuses on turning complex threats and market insight into solutions that deliver real-world value. She uses a customer-first approach to innovation, working closely with clients and industry analysts to ensure those solutions meet today's challenges and anticipate tomorrow's needs.

Yasemin is also a strong advocate for diversity and equality in the cyber industry. She is committed to creating a more inclusive environment and championing greater representation across all levels of the sector





Tom Ashbridge

Commander Defence Cyber & EM Force, MOD

AVM Tom Ashbridge grew up in Northern Ireland and has served in the RAF for almost 30 years. Following the Strategic Defence Review in 2025, he has been charged with establishing the Defence Cyber & EM Force, responsible for defending Defence's digital enterprise from Cyber and EM threats.

His early career was focussed on tactical communications delivery, including time with Joint Helicopter Command, Tactical Communications Wing, and embedded into an Army Signal Brigade Headquarters; he completed several operational deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Mid-career, his focus shifted to operating in the Cyber & EM domain.

He was fortunate to enjoy two years on exchange during the early days of United States Cyber Command, where he was responsible support to US Combatant Commands and helped grow the US Military's Cyber Mission Force. He then commanded the joint military intelligence Unit. As an OF5, he led Defence's Cyber Capability Development and as Senior Air Staff Officer for the Royal Air Force's 11 Group, helped refocus the RAF's operational headquarters for global operations.

In 2024, he was appointed as Director Digital Operations on promotion to Air Vice-Marshal. Tom is excited about being at the heart of operating the Digital Enterprise that gives Defence its edge and leveraging the whole force community to defend that Enterprise in the face of growing threats.



Nihal Newman

Director, Security and Resilience Policy, Ofcom

Nihal is Director of Security and Resilience Policy at Ofcom. With a background in business management, has extensive regulatory and policy experience delivering strategic programmes spanning telecoms and media, transport and infrastructure, and travel and tourism. She led Ofcom's Women in Tech pledge and serves as a Patron of the Institute of Telecoms Professionals (ITP), championing skills development and professional growth.

1600 | Auditorium | Closing Keynote & Awards Ceremony

The 2026 UK Cyber Leaders Challenge is brought to a close with our final keynote from a senior representative at the NCSC, followed by the awards ceremony.



Briefing Schedule | Day 1

Time	Boardroom	Maple A	Maple B	Maple C	Glass Box
1015	CyBeR_Pengu1nz	Phishin Impossible	Networkin' it	Transformers	QS3c
1115	PARK	MBK	The Bee-Cryptors	404 Brain Not Found	
1345	Glaswegian Chip-monks	QSec Phishermen	Least-privileged Users	Cyberella	
1445	University of Birmingham Cyber Sirens	Cyberfox	Warwick CyBears	nullInv0id	

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Semi-Final Round

Time	Boardroom	Maple A	Maple B	Maple C	Glass Box
0930					
1100					

Grand Final Round

First to Brief	Second to Brief	Third to Brief


At **Santander**, we are proud to sponsor the **UK Cyber Leaders Challenge**, and even prouder to empower our customers and society to thrive in a **safer digital world**.



Passwords are often more obvious than we think. Make sure yours isn't.



Champions

 Mentoring Sessions with BAE Systems

THE NATIONAL
CYBER AWARDS®

Tickets to the NCA Awards Ceremony



Invitation to Join the NCF Cyber Effects Network Early Stage Career Fellowship programme

Runners Up



2 Day Visit to Beazley's London Office and Lloyds of London



SANS On-Demand Course

Third Place



A site visit with BT - Location TBC



Fully Funded Place on SEIDEA's AI Bootcamp in Autumn 2026

All Grand Finalists



Visit Day to FCA HQ in London



½ Day Visit to Santander's Security Research Lab in London


Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology

Cyber Policy Day in Whitehall


Department
for Work &
Pensions

Visit to DWP's London office



Visit to the US Embassy London, for a Policy Roundtable




Other Awards

 SudoCyber **Best Briefing** | University CTF run by Sudo Cyber

 **Best Briefing Note** | Access to Virtual Routes Online Cybersecurity Introductory Courses

 **Best Teamwork** | 3 Cyber Books Each - Including a Geoff White Signed Book

 **The Future COBR Briefers** | 3 Cyber Books Each - Including a Geoff White Signed Book

 **Most Engaged Award** | Opportunity to Write a Blog for Forensic Focus

 **Best Team Name & Emblem** | A Signed Book from Geoff White

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It's your career. Your life.
Where do you want to go?

Your life is shaped by your ideas. You want a career that helps you realize those ideas and an employer that supports your aspirations. Whether it's developing new skills, opportunities to innovate and grow, or the flexibility to enjoy moments that matter, RBC is a great place to build your career and life.



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Partner

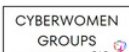
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Our Partners



Platinum Sponsor

BAE SYSTEMS

We provide some of the world's most advanced, technology-led defence, aerospace and security solutions. We are a workforce of more than 110,000 highly skilled people in more than 40 countries. Working with our customers and local partners, we develop, engineer, manufacture and support products and systems that deliver military capability, protect national security and keep critical information and infrastructure secure.

In the UK we operate from more than 50 sites; integrating defence systems across land, sea, air and space and delivering cyber security solutions for defence and commercial customers. We design and build submarines, warships and satellites, develop some of the world's most advanced military aircraft systems and meet service and maintenance needs, maintaining and upgrading the Royal Navy's warships at Portsmouth Naval Base and supporting the Royal Air Force's Typhoon fast jet fleet for 24/7 security operations.

Our people and our operations make a significant economic and social contribution to the UK, delivering £13.7 billion to UK GDP in 2024. Between 2020 and 2025 we invested more than £1bn in education and skills.



Strategic Partner



As one of the UK's most trusted providers of secure digital infrastructure, BT plays a crucial role in protecting the nation's connectivity. Our networks underpin everything from government and emergency services to the NHS, air traffic control, global businesses, and millions of people at home. With cyber threats evolving every day, we combine sovereign UK capability with global intelligence to keep our customers and the country safe.

BT's security teams work closely with partners such as the NCSC, law enforcement and international cyber agencies, using real-time insights to detect and disrupt attacks before they do harm. It's one of the fastest-growing parts of our business, powered by experts who are always learning, adapting and thinking ahead.

That's why the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge matters to us. The skills on display here technical agility, creative thinking, leadership under pressure are exactly what the UK needs to build a strong, diverse and resilient cyber workforce.

Good luck to all the teams competing in the National Finals over the next two days.

We're excited to see what you'll achieve, both in this challenge and in the future of UK cyber security.



Gold Sponsor



We regulate financial services firms in the UK, setting standards for firms to meet and holding them to account if they don't.

Our work helps underpin the UK's reputation as a leading global financial centre – one where consumers are well served, and firms can operate and innovate with clarity and certainty.

We regulate the conduct of around 42,000 businesses.

We prudentially supervise around 41,000 firms.

Around 17,000 firms are subject to the prudential standards in our Handbook.

We were established on 1 April 2013, taking over conduct and relevant prudential regulation from the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

We work across the UK with a head office in London, offices in Leeds and Edinburgh, and colleagues in Belfast and Cardiff.



Santander | Bronze Sponsor

Santander UK is a leading financial services provider supporting millions of customers, businesses and communities across the UK. We offer a wide range of personal and commercial banking products and services through our nationwide branch network, as well as telephone, mobile and online banking channels.

As a digitally enabled bank, technology and innovation play a central role in how we serve our customers and operate our business. Our teams work across a broad range of areas including cyber security, technology, data and digital transformation to help keep the bank and its customers secure in an evolving digital landscape.

Find out more about careers at Santander UK: www.santander.com/en/careers

Ideas Happen Here | Bronze Sponsor

Here in Europe, The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) offers 3 world-class financial services. These are comprised of:

- **RBC Capital Markets**: Covering Global Investment Banking, Global Markets and Corporate Banking, RBC helps leading organizations achieve their financial goals with innovative products and services, forward-looking advisory, and excellence in execution. From origination and structuring through to sales, trading, and risk management, we deliver capital solutions that support client ambitions.
- **RBC Global Asset Management**: RBC GAM provides investment management with industry-leading management capabilities providing a comprehensive range of domestic and global solutions.
- **RBC Wealth Management**: Specialists in helping individuals, families, corporate executives, and business owners achieve financial success, by developing customised plans to help you realise goals and provide support.



| Corporate Sponsor

No one wants to be at the sharp end of a cyber-attack. Beazley's Full Spectrum Cyber solution keeps you ahead in the battle against cyber risks with a unique 'always on' cyber ecosystem that integrates insurance, incident response and cyber security to maximise your cyber resilience. We've managed thousands of cyber incidents and we know that businesses with robust risk management services are better equipped to manage and respond to cyber threats. As the world becomes more complicated, Beazley, a leading, global specialty insurer, harnesses the power of expertise to support its clients navigate an era of accelerating risk.



| Corporate Sponsor

Argo DevOps is a UK based technology company who specialise in secure, scalable software and hardware for public and private sector clients. Our remit spans DevOps, cloud engineering, cybersecurity, and infrastructure as code. Argo is the place where zero-trust architecture, air-gapped systems, or security-by-design thinking is applied. We deliver high-quality products at speed using agile engineering practices and developing research solutions across multiple technology readiness levels. Argo are committed to social value and are proud supporters of the Armed Forces Covenant.

| Corporate Sponsor

Halcyon, the leading anti-ransomware solution provider is purpose-built to defeat ransomware attacks. Our technology takes an end-to-end approach to proactively disrupt threats at every stage of the attack lifecycle, from pre-execution to data exfiltration and encryption. With a 24/7 expert team that does the heavy lifting for you, and a robust ransomware warranty, Halcyon eliminates the need for ransom payments, ensures operational continuity, and protects businesses from data extortion. Learn more at halcyon.ai.



| Corporate Sponsor

Palo Alto Networks (NASDAQ: PANW), the global AI cybersecurity leader, protects our digital way of life with a comprehensive portfolio of cybersecurity solutions & platforms across Network, Cloud, Security Operations, AI and Identity. Trusted by 70,000+ customers and powered by Unit 42 threat intelligence, our AI-driven platforms eliminate complexity, empowering enterprises to modernize with confidence and securing the speed of innovation. Explore the future of security at www.paloaltonetworks.com.



Partners



CREST is an international not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents the global cyber security industry, working with governments, regulators, academia, training providers, professional bodies and other stakeholders to build and raise standards in the industry.



The CDA is a shared operational capability that supports a close alliance of financial institutions deliver individual and collective cyber defence, cyber security, cyber resilience and digital fraud.



The Cyber Scheme train and assess technical consultants at the highest levels defined by NCSC for Government schemes and, as a Licensed Body for UKCSC, assess individuals for Professional Titles.



UKC3 drives cyber innovation and growth as the central hub for public and private organisations in order to shape a secure digital future for the UK.



CyberWomen Groups C.I.C. aims to create and uphold an inclusive community within cyber security. They run events and workshops throughout the year for anyone to attend and join them in creating a community that anyone can feel a part of.



Forensic Focus is the leading hub for digital forensics professionals worldwide, delivering breaking news, job vacancy round-ups, cutting-edge interviews, event listings and much more.



The Global Cyber Alliance (GCA) is an international nonprofit organization that mobilizes collective action to tackle the Internet's greatest challenges and build a safer digital world for everyone.



Partners



ISACA London Chapter support London's global leadership in the digital economy by enhancing professional education and development in Governance, Risk, Information Security, Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Assurance.



The National Cyber Awards serve as the UK's premier independent platform for honouring the individuals, organisations, and innovative breakthroughs dedicated to reducing cybercrime and protecting citizens online.



The Cyber Resilience Centre is a trusted, not-for-profit venture between North West Police forces and Manchester Digital. Their ambition is that every business within our region will have the skills & knowledge to protect themselves from online attacks.



RANT was originally set up by senior end-users, researchers and influencers in cybersecurity wanting to debate specific topics in a transparent, open way. They provide a place for pragmatic people to cut through the noise & learn from their peers.



The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) is the world's oldest and the UK's leading defence and security think tank.



The Security Awareness Special Interest Group (SASIG) is a subscription-free networking forum for the cybersecurity industry.



Seidea is dedicated to empowering Black and Minority Ethnic Women and Girls in cybersecurity, fostering diversity, and building a more inclusive industry.



Partners



The SFIA Foundation is a global not-for-profit organisation that develops and maintains the SFIA Framework for the Information Age (SFIA); a trusted, internationally adopted, framework defining the professional skills and competencies needed to deliver digital capabilities.



The UK's technology trade association. Championing technology's role in preparing and empowering the UK for what comes next, delivering a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.



The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists is the 100th livery company of the City of London. They provide IT skills and training to improve lives across the UK and beyond.



The UK Cyber Security Council is the self-regulatory body for the UK's cyber security profession. It develops, promotes and stewards standards for cyber security in support of the UK Government's National Cyber Security Strategy.



Virtual Routes tackles the impact of digital and emerging technologies on global affairs through research, education and public engagement with policymakers, industry, civil society, and the general public.



WiCyS UKI, an affiliate of WiCyS Global, is committed to advancing gender diversity in cybersecurity across the UK&I.



A special thank you to QA for the donation of laptops for the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge.



Judges



Harriet R

Strategic Cyber Threat Specialist, BAE Systems

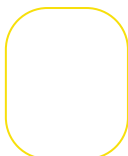
Harriet is a Strategic Cyber Threat Specialist at BAE Systems, advising on the global cyber threat landscape and delivering strategic cyber threat intelligence. Before that she was in the RAF.



Junior K

Cyber Delivery Manager, BAE Systems

Highly motivated individual with 10 years experience in IT and I've recently moved into Cyber within the last year, hoping to share my knowledge and experience with contestants.



Harry B

Head of Cyber Security Services and Operations, BAE Systems



Alex C

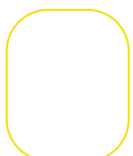
Head of Security Consulting, BAE Systems

25 years across CNI, government and defence sectors. Alex runs BAE Systems' Security Consulting Practice, and work with UK and overseas CNI, Defence & Government on cyber defence & resilience.



Rob F

Head of Threat and Incident Response, BAE Systems



Iain L

Director of Managed Security & Cyber, BT

A varied career across technology, business and security roles in the Telco and MSSP sectors. Away from work, I love music, reading non-fiction and climbing in the Scottish mountains.



Judges



Lee S

Security Advisory Services, BT

Lee has 30+ years in IT and a decade in cybersecurity. He helps businesses stay secure with clear, practical advice — no jargon, just solutions that work.



Rich E

Cyber Security Operations and Intelligence Director, BT

Rich owns the operational defence of BT Group itself. He has spent most of his career in UK GOV, with senior operational roles in the NCSC (UK) and Head of Cyber Security for Nationwide Building Society.



Ali S

CISO, Financial Conduct Authority

Ali is the CISO and Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for the FCA, providing independent security and technology advice to ExCo., with over twenty years of experience in the domain.



John B

Deputy CISO, Financial Conduct Authority

20+ years leading cyber and information security teams and strategies within the financial sector, embedding a strong growth mindset to develop others. Outside of work you'll find me restoring cars!



Antony H

Manager - Governance & Human Risk, Financial Conduct Authority

29 years experience working in various roles within Cyber & Information Security in the Financial Sector. Outside of work I love keeping fit either via running or going to the gym.



Judges



Richard T

Cyber and Information Assurance Manager, FCA

Experienced Senior cyber and information assurance leader with over 25 years in financial, government and information services, specialising in cyber risk management and regulatory security practices within highly regulated environments.

Richard has worked across UK govt, including cyber and data roles supporting the Cabinet Office, 10 Downing Street and the Ministry of Justice.



Daniel C

Global Head of Cyber Security Research, Santander Global

Now a creaking old hacker who's seen the world wide web come in, broke lots of things and now works with gov and others to make the internet far more secure (well, trying at least).



Thomas H

CISO, Santander UK

Thomas Harvey is CISO at Santander UK with 20+ years' experience across national security, critical infrastructure and finance. He champions leadership development through adventure and expeditions.



Charlie T

CISO, Royal Bank of Canada

Global CISO recognised in top 100 for building high-impact cyber programs & translating complex threats into clear business strategies - support crew for a teenage daughter at Uni in her spare time!



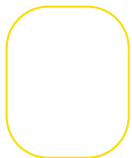
Christian T

VP Cyber Services International, Beazley Security

Previously a CISO, information security consultant, and co-founder of two successfully exited B2B service companies, prior to joining Beazley in early 2022, where I run an incident management team.



Judges



Brigette M

IT Department Manager, ArgoDevOps

Former military professional with a strong cyber security background. Passionate about technology, family-oriented, and an active choir member who values teamwork and resilience.



Wayne S

Head of Growth & Strategy, Argo DevOps

25-year Defence strategist & national leader. He designs elite cyber exercises and pioneers immersive tech to scale national capability. He champions the next generation through youth engagement.



Oli N

Chief Strategy Officer, Halcyon

Chief Strategy Officer at Halcyon, driving a strategy to eradicate ransomware globally. Previously, was Global CISO for Barclays and prior to that Chief Technology Officer for BT's Security division.



Carla B

Senior Director, Public Policy, Palo Alto Networks

Carla is Senior Director of Policy at Palo Alto Networks. A UK Cyber Security Council Trustee and techUK Co-Chair, she previously held roles at Symantec and across several UK government departments.



David B

Chief Security & Resilience Officer, Nationwide Building Society

Held CISO roles across the public and private sectors. Fellow of the British Computer Society. Author of security standards. Works closely with Electric Umbrella and The Cyber Helpline charities.

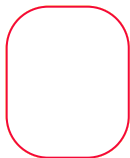


Polly C

CISO



Judges



Grace B

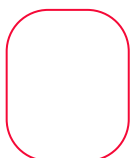
*Negotiations policy Officer,
FCDO*



David M

Chief Information Security Officer, Sellafield Ltd

David Marshall is the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Sellafield Ltd, responsible for protecting one of the UK's most complex civil nuclear sites.



Jonny G

*Cyber Fast Streamer,
UK Civil Service Fast Stream*



Victoria F

Advisor, WILD Learning Ltd

Victoria Ferrier is a strategic advisor specialising in human capability and behavioural science in the context of technology, with 30 years in senior corporate and Chief People Officer roles.



Jennifer B

*Minister Counselor for Economic
Affairs, U.S. Embassy London*



Catherine OK

*Deputy Director Cyber Security &
Cyber Operations, NHS England*



Organising Team



Robert Black
Director, UK CLC
Senior Advisor, KPMG
Cyber Citizen of the Year,
2024



Pete Cooper
Chair, UK CLC
General Manager & CSMO
EMEA Lead, Microsoft



Sofia Liemann Escobar
Scenario Lead, UK CLC
Associate Consultant, Crisis
& Security Strategy,
AnotherDay



Ben Wainwright
Operations Lead, UK CLC



Alex Blinda
Scenario Team, UK CLC
Incident Response Lead,
Starling Bank



Lindsay Wojtula
Scenario Team, UK CLC
Security Operations Analyst



Jenny McCullagh
Comms Lead, UK CLC
Cyber Security Consultant
Co-Founder & Director,
CyberWomen Groups C.I.C.



Sophie Powell
Scenario Team, UK CLC
Cyber Security Consultant
Co-Founder & Director,
CyberWomen Groups C.I.C.



Alan Ross
Timekeeper, UK CLC
Security Manager, Capgemini



A Final Thank You

There is something magical about when the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge National Finals is underway.

The BT Tower is buzzing with energy, conversations are deafening and everyone is enjoying themselves. People are connecting, getting inspired and empowered to become future cyber leaders and we are helping shape student careers.

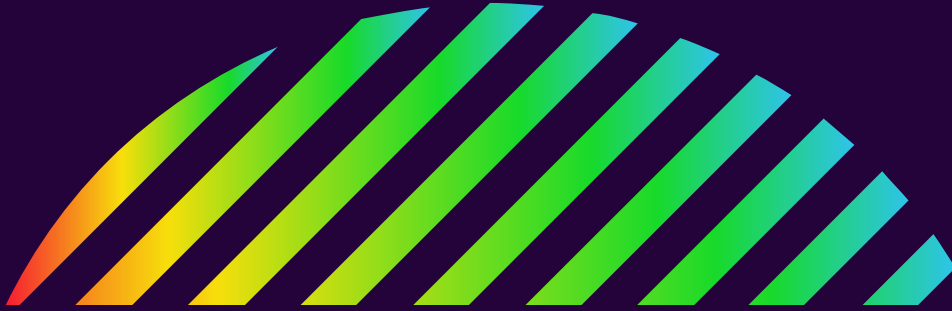
I am so proud to be part of this community and what we are building. Cyber is so much more than just deep technical skills and we are showcasing the breadth of opportunities. There is a diverse pool of quality talent ready to step up and defend the UK and society, and it is great to feel that we are helping you realise your mission.

Thank you to everyone who has given their time and effort to help as Sponsors, Partners or others championing the initiative and for you students for choosing to get involved. Special thanks must go to Ben and the organising team, who do so much to ensure this initiative continues to flourish with over 74 universities and 450 students involved this year alone. Brilliant stuff team!

Enjoy the two days, engage in all of the activities, connect with each other and, of course, add me on LinkedIn!

- Robert Black & the UK Cyber Leaders Challenge organising team





Cyber Leaders Challenge

Inspire | Empower | Connect

