**Summary of the CyberFirst Horizons Programme:**

The CyberFirst Horizons programme is structured to provide a comprehensive and engaging introduction to the world of cybersecurity, combining employability skills, a hands-on industrial placement and specialised training. Each week is based in Newcastle City Centre.

To apply students must submit the following by **31st *May 2025*:**

* Complete the EOI form.
* Complete parent/carer consent form
* Provide a teacher reference, using the provided form.

Students must meet at least 1 of the following eligibility criteria.

* Have household income/s below £40k
* Receive bursary or discretionary payments at school
* Have previous Free School Meal entitlement
* Are the first in family to have higher education
* Or demonstrate other extenuating circumstances

Parents/carers must confirm students meet the eligibility criteria via a parent/carer consent form, we will not be asking for evidence to support this, the word of the parent/carer is sufficient.

Qualifying students will receive financial support in terms of travel expenses, £150 and a grant, £150

The format of the programme is as follows:

**PHASE 1: Week 1: Employability Skills Course ( 7th – 11th July)**

Focused on developing key workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management.

Activities include workshops, group exercises, and guidance to prepare students for success in a professional environment.

* Induction/Introduction to the programme.
* What to expect during the programme, how to guide for reflective workbook/log
* Public Speaking, presentation skills
* Interview preparation
* Careers Insight
* Mock Interviews
* Personal statement, application & CV writing
* Year 13 mentoring & support
* Hacking Game to end your first week

**PHASE 2: Weeks 2 & 3: Industrial Placement: (11th-22nd August)**

Students will immerse themselves in authentic real-world Cyber Security and tech environments, collaborating with various industry hosts in professional office settings. They will undertake team-based projects to be completed and present at the end of the two weeks.

**From Monday to Wednesday** Cyber professionals from multiple organisations will lead explorations of Cyber Security topics and scenarios at our Newcastle City Centre venues.

On **Thursday’s and Fridays** students will engage in full day site visits to companies such as Aspire, Waterstons, Northumbria Water & Sunderland.

Activities will encompass analysing cyber threats, participating in ethical hacking simulations, understanding diverse industry roles, and utilising industry-standard tools. Students will document their progress in daily logbooks/workbooks, which will be provided by us and are designed for them to reflect their learning experience.

**PHASE 3: Week 4: NCSC Cyber Defenders Course: (26th-29th August)**

A specialised training week designed to deepen students’ understanding of cybersecurity concepts.

The course is a valuable introduction on how to build and protect small networks and personal devices. It helps increase your awareness of cyber security, whilst also equipping you with a set of relevant practical skills you can apply in your own life.

Then we go a step further to help you visualise yourself in a cyber security career, guiding you to the technology-related qualifications you’ll need.

On our CyberFirst Defenders courses, you’ll learn about:

* Identifying the source and impact of common cyber security threats
* Defining and applying first-line cyber defences
* Constructing, configuring and securing a home network
* Taking steps to manage personal digital footprints

On the final day Palo Alto will join us for a Capture the Flag Challenge, and on the afternoon, we will hold our Celebration event where students will be invited to talk about their experience.