



Bishop Challoner Catholic College
Birmingham and Central Midlands

Your local
computing news,
events and
updates



Computer science is the fastest-growing STEM subject, but despite its growing popularity, girls remain significantly outnumbered by boys. Research shows that the roots of this gender gap can often be traced back to stereotypes formed during primary school years. To foster greater diversity both in classrooms and in future tech careers, it's crucial to show girls early on that they have a place in computer science.

The Secondary I Belong programme is here to support educators and leaders in identifying barriers to girls' participation in computing and developing actionable plans to break them down.



The free 'I Belong: encouraging girls into computer science' programme offers a series of activities designed to help you address the gender gap in computing at your school.

The certification process includes three stages:

- Completing a 2 hour short course
- Accessing free resources
- Increasing girls engagement through an activity

[Sign Up Here](#)





Encouraging girls into GCSE computer science

This live remote short course provides an overview of the current challenges in computing with a specific focus on gender balance, covering current research and existing barriers. Participants will explore curriculum design and specific in-class strategies schools can implement and embed in raising the engagement and uptake of computer science for all.

[Book your free place here](#)

Inspiring girls in computer science – GCSE options guidance



Educator Event

Date: Tuesday, 14th January 2025

Time: 4pm-4.45pm

Join the National Centre for Computing Education's Specialist Claire Garside and Pam Jones during this short webinar, where you can explore strategies for your upcoming GCSE option events. Claire will explore the research behind girls engaging with the subject and share guidance from the National Centre around the GCSE options process, which can help encourage more students, particularly girls, to choose the subject.

[Reserve a spot here](#)

Accessing free resources

Once registered on to the program, you can gain access to the following:



I Belong Secondary handbook

The I Belong program has a handbook to support you with increasing girls engagement with computing

[Log in to download](#)



Posters

Request your free set of posters to displayed in the classroom to promote STEM related careers

[Login in to request](#)

Activities to increase girl's engagement

Below are just some of the ways you could increase girl's engagement



Tech she can

Tech she can have a range of live webinars/assemblies for secondary students to inspire them about a future career in technology. These lesson can be watched live or you can watch the recording at a later date.

<https://techshecan.org/live-assemblies>

They have also just released a free series of 'Young Women in Tech' role mode posters. The posters not only highlight the achievements of these inspiring women but also encourage students to envision themselves in similar roles in the future.

[Explore the resources here](#)

Student Event: I Belong in Cyber Security (KS3)

Date: 17th December 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2pm-2.30pm

What exactly is Cyber Security?
What jobs can I do in Cyber Security?
What skills would I need?

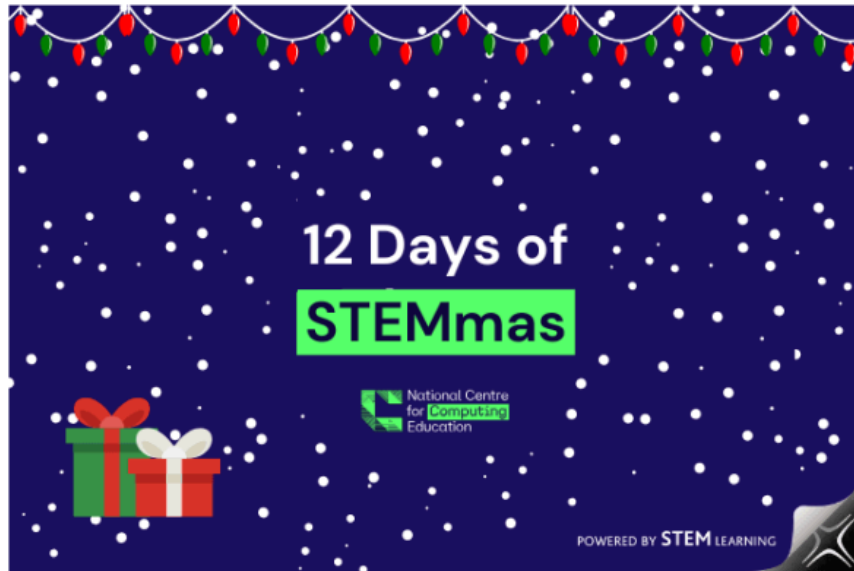
In this live online event, we'll explore these questions and meet inspirational role models working within Cyber Security. We'll find out what their day-to-day role looks like and what skills they use. Our role models will also share their tips for navigating your education and career next steps.

[Reserve a spot here](#)

How can we help

Want to discuss any aspects on how to complete the I Belong certificate?

Get in touch with [Pam Jones](#), our Secondary Computing Hub Lead, also the Gender and Inclusion Specialist for the NCCE to discuss further.



Step into the magic of the 12 Days of STEMmas

Deck your classroom with STEM wonders this season!

From Monday 2 December, we're thrilled to unveil the 12 Days of STEMmas, a virtual advent calendar packed with festive, hands-on STEM activities for two whole school weeks. Partnering with STEM Learning, we're bringing primary and secondary resources right to your screen and supporting you in injecting fun into your classroom.

[Read more](#)

Programme of Computing Courses for Secondary Teachers 2024-2025



Our Programme of Computing Courses for Secondary Teachers for 2024-2025 in the West Midlands and South-West England is live now!

[Click to view](#)

Venue Available to Hire?



We are seeking new venues to host our courses in order to increase our offer and make it accessible for more teachers. If your school has a suitable room to hire and you have the facilities to provide refreshments (subsidies are available to cover the costs) and possible photocopying if required, please contact us to discuss further:

teachcomputing@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Stay updated with Birmingham and Central Midlands Computing Hub!

www.bctsa.org/computing-hub

Contact us for further information:

teachcomputing@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

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Computing Hubs are part of the National Centre for Computing Education and are led by schools and colleges across England with excellence in teaching computing. These Hubs support schools and colleges to provide a high-quality computing education to all young people. © STEM Learning Ltd

