TechFirst Education EcoSystem Conference

Tuesday 10th to Wednesday 11th March 2026

Chesford Grange, Nr Kenilworth

We look forward to seeing you at our EcoSystem Conference!

Please read the following instructions carefully

to ensure you are fully prepared for the event.

If you can no longer attend, please contact: katherine@eventworkseurope.com

Kindly sponsored by

cds
Defence & Security

In this document:

The venue

We will be delighted to welcome you to:

Chesford Grange

B4115

Kenilworth

CV8 2LD

Please arrive via the Events Centre Carpark (what3words papers.called.donor)

Registration process & ID

Registration is from **1000-1100**.

You must bring:

- Your passport for ID

UPON ARRIVAL

Please use the **Events Centre** entrance (pictured).

EventWorks and NCSC Academia and CyberFirst teams will check your passport and give you your conference pass – these must be worn at all times and will be checked by security staff as you enter, exit and re-enter the Event space.

Baggage

Baggage on arrival
If you are travelling by car, please leave your overnight bags in your vehicle until after the conference closes for the day

For those arriving by public transport, hotel staff will greet you in the Event reception and take your bags – these will be taken to your room later in the day.

Laptop bags and handbags – if you wish to bring a bag into the conference, these will need tagging upon Registration

Baggage on Day 2
If you have your own transport, please take your overnight bags to your vehicle prior to check out at 1100.

Those utilising public transport may leave their luggage with hotel staff at the Event reception, to be collected upon conclusion of the Conference.

Laptop bags and handbags on Day 2 – these will need re-tagging (new colour) at the Event Reception.

Transport

By Train

The nearest stations to the venue are Warwick Parkway and Kenilworth. The hotel advises that Warwick Parkway is the better serviced by taxis and Uber.
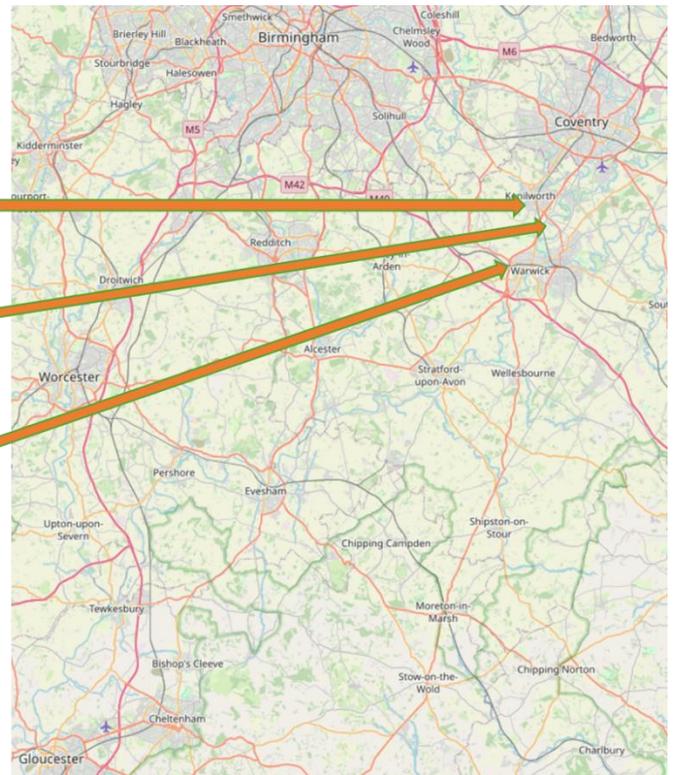

Aerial view of Chesford Grange

Kenilworth Railway Station

Warwick Parkway

By Car

There is an abundance of free parking at the venue – please use the Events Centre carpark (what3words papers.called.donor), and <u>not</u> the main hotel carpark.

Programme Day one *(Subject to change)*

Also available at [NCSC Cyber Security Education Ecosystem Conference 2026](#)

TechFirst Education Ecosystem Conference, 10-11 March 2026

Programme for day 1 Kenilworth Suite		**Othello Room (Lower Ground Floor)**	
07:00 onwards	Exhibitor setup		
10:00 – 11:00	Arrival and Refreshments		
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome, Housekeeping and Administration - Georgina F (NCSC Academic Engagement Team)		
11:10 – 11:25	Icebreaker (CyberFirst Team)		
11:25 – 11:45	Key Note - Andrew Elliot (Deputy Director Cyber Security, Innovation and Skills, DSIT)		
11:45 - 12:05	Robotics and Smart Technologies Team - Will Jones (Senior Mechanical Engineer, AWE) and Abi Jackson (Electronic Engineer, AWE)		
12:05 - 12:25	Educational Initiatives - Elizabeth Barr (Cisco Lead for Networking Academy) and Kathryn Baddeley (Cisco Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Inclusion)		
12:25 – 14:00	Lunch and Exhibitions		
14:00 – 14:15	Special Guest Speaker		
14:15 – 14:20	Cyber Resilience - Jonathon Ellison (NCSC Director for National Resilience Directorate)	14:20 - 15:00	TechFirst - Meet nations' and regions' TechFirst Leads - led by Suzanne Lowe (Head of Cyber Growth, Innovation and Regions, DSIT)
14:20 - 15:00	When the Worst Happens: Leading with Resilience Through a Major Cyber Attack - Heather Lowrie (Resilionix Managing Director)		
15:00 – 15:45	Cyber Security and Resilience Panel - Chaired by Natalie Coull (Head of Department of Cybersecurity and Computing, Abertay University)	15:05 - 15:45	HMG and Lancashire Combined Authority's outreach and skills development in NW England - led by James P (Head of People, HMG) and Dr Michelle Lawty-Jones (Director, Lancashire Skills Hub)
15:45 – 16:05	Refreshment Break and exhibitions		
16:05 – 16:30	Key Note - Sir Kevan Collins - Lead non-Exec Director Department for Education / Hg Foundation	16:05 - 16:50	TechFirst Volunteering - Mobilising support workshop - led by Lucy Hindmarsh (Tech Skills Policy Lead, DSIT)
16:30 – 17:15	International Cyber and Technology Education, Skills & Competencies Panel - Chaired by XXX		
17:15 – 17:25	Closing remarks - Georgina F (NCSC Academic Engagement Team)	16:50 - 17:35	TechExpert - EcoSystem for UK PhD researchers workshop - led by Cian Galvin (Head of Tech Skills, DSIT)
17:25 - 18:00	Explore the exhibitor zones		
		17:35 - 17:45	Closing remarks
		17:45 - 18:00	Explore the exhibitor zones
1900 - 1930	Pre-dinner drinks in the Grange Bar		
1930 onwards	Gala Dinner and presentations		

Programme Day two (*Subject to change*)

Programme for day 2	Kenilworth Suite		Othello Room (Lower Ground Floor)
09:00 – 09:05	Opening Remarks - Georgina F (NCSC Academic Engagement Team)		
09:05 – 09:25	Overview of Cyber Threat Landscape - Charlie S (NCSC Deputy Director Assessments)		
09:25 – 09:55	AI Risk and Mitigation - Gaven Smith (Professor of Cyber Security, University of Manchester)		
09:55 – 10:25	Girls Go STEM, Cyber Security Challenge (Cookie Crumblr) - Suhani, Alice, Jiya and Danisha (Students, Parkstone Grammer School)		
10:25 - 10:55	Coffee Break and Exhibitions		

Careers & Workforce Pathways in Tech		**Education & Teaching Practice**	
10:55 – 11:15	Influence that Lasts: Building Pathways through Teachers and STEM role models - Brendan Belk (Public Policy and Skills Manager, STEM Learning)	10:55 – 11:25	The BBC micro:bit - Next Generation campaign - Melanie Washington (Global Partnership Director, Micro:bit Educational Foundation) and Aimee Fagan (Strategic Initiatives, Micro:bit Educational Foundation)
11:15 – 11:45	From Education to Employment: AI Career Pathways - Stuart Munton (Chief for Group Operations and Technology, AND Digital)	11:25 – 11:45	The Evolving Role of AI in Secondary Education - Gareth Lister (Headteacher, Berkeley Green UTC)
11:45 – 12:15	AI Women in Leadership - Jo Bishenden (Group Chief Learning Officer and MD for Apprenticeships, QA)	11:45 – 12:00	Digital Culture in the Classroom: Measuring the Effectiveness of Integrating Social Media Content into Cyber Security Education, Bertie Muller (Associate Professor, Swansea University)
12:15 – 12:45	An Introduction to the UK Cyber Team - Katy Harrington (PhD researcher and Senior Team Captain) and Isaiah Rennalls (Cybersecurity Apprentice and Junior Team Captain)	12:00 – 12:25	Teaching Hackers and Managing Risks - Jamie O'Hare (Lecturer, Department of Cybersecurity and Computing, Abertay University)
		12:25 – 12:45	TechGovernor: a national pilot - Jess Bates (UK/I Skills, Employment and Education Lead, Atkins Realis)
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch and Exhibitions		

Skills and Professionalisation		**Outreach, Inclusion & Social Mobility**	
14:00 – 14:30	Cyber and Digital Skills - Employability from an Industry perspective - Martin Nash (Head of Cyber Security and Information Assurance Services, CDS Defence and Security)	14:00 – 14:15	CyberFirst Advanced: QinetiQ's Hub and Spoke Delivery with HEI Partners - Ben Tucker (Social Value Manager, QinetiQ)
14:30 – 15:00	CSE Connect workshop - Competencies	14:15 - 14:45	Cyber Horizons: Social Mobility in Tech - James Turner (CEO Hg Foundation), Claire Willis (STEM Programme Manager, RTC North)
15:00 – 15:20	Professional Titles and Fast Track Routes to Professionalisation - James Cairns (Quality and Performance Manager, UK Cyber Security Council)	14:45 - 15:15	Aspiration Digital: The Blueprint for Mobilising Industry to Inspire the Next Generation, Becky Simms (Founder and CEO, Reflect Digital)
15:20 - 15:30	Closing Remarks		
15:30 onwards	Coffee and Depart		

Exhibition Stands

Visit a wonderful range of stands from our Sponsor and partners across Industry, Academia, Government and the Charity sector in the Kenilworth Bar and the Grange Bar.

Dress Code

The dress code for the conference is informal - please wear whatever you feel comfortable in. You should refrain from wearing clothing with logos, slogans or markings that others may consider offensive.

Attire for the Gala Dinner is smart casual, but please don't forget to wear your delegate pass.

Food and Drink

Lunch will be provided buffet style on both days in the restaurant. There will be water available throughout the event, and tea and coffee refreshments during registration and the breaks.

Breakfast is served in the Restaurant on the ground floor from 6.30am. Please note that the conference starts at 9.00am on day 2.

If you noted a **dietary requirement** when registering you will be able to select appropriate choices at lunch and your dinner will be served to meet your needs.

If you are observing **Ramadan** a brown bag breakfast will be available to collect from the dedicated quiet / prayer room (The Prospero Room).

Accessibility

Available at the venue:

- Accessible parking outside of Event Centre
- Online agenda enabling you to zoom or print in advance if required
- Lifts – should you require use of the lift, please ask for assistance at the registration desk
- A dedicated quiet / prayer room (The Prospero Room)

WIFI

There will be a private, secure WiFi network available for you to connect your work devices. The password can be acquired on the 10th.

Photography

As this is a closed, private event, please do not take any photographs or make any video/audio recordings during this event. Should you wish to receive copies of presenters' slides, we will happily put you in contact with the presenters post event.

An official NCSC photographer and the Event organisers will be capturing the event for us. We will remove any sensitive images before sharing more widely. Presentations made during the Gala Dinner will be captured and shared with the winners. If you would like any

Please do not mention your attendance on any form of social media (even if only internal to your organisation), either before or during the event. Post event you are welcome to post about your participation in this DSIT / NCSC event.

Smoking or Vaping

Smoking, or use of vapes and e-cigarettes is only permitted outside the venue.

Code of Conduct

The NCSC Events Code of Conduct which you signed up to on registration will be strictly enforced. Please take a moment to re-read this two-page document: NCSC Events Code of Conduct

Should you be made to feel uncomfortable at any point during the event, by other delegates or venue staff, please don't hesitate to report it to Kat on the Registration desk or any other visible member of the events team.

Alternatively, please email: katherine@eventworkseurope.com with as much detail as possible.

Feedback

Please spare 5 minutes to provide us with feedback via:

Or TechFirst Education Ecosystem Conference, 10-11 March 2026 - feedback form – Fill in form