

# SUNDERLAND DIGITAL CAREERS

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## WELCOME

Welcome to our April issue of the Sunderland Digital Careers Newsletter.

This month we are showcasing all things digital: from careers and skills to opportunities in the sector.

Digital in the North East, is one of our favourite topics to talk about. There are some amazing opportunities right on our doorsteps driven by an array of brilliant companies.

For example, did you know that we have local games companies working for Marvel? How about small businesses that are creating robots?! There are lots of things going on, and we hope that this newsletter will give you a little taste of what is happening in the region!

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please get in touch:

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## WHAT ARE DIGITAL SKILLS?

Digital skills are defined as the ability to find, evaluate, use, share, and create content using digital devices such as computers and smartphones. Being able to use the tech relevant to your STEM job or studies is essential for success - I bet you have more skills than you think!

Some digital skills include:

### DIGITAL FOUNDATION SKILLS

The ability to: turn on a device, use the available controls, connect to a safe and secure Wi-Fi network, open an internet browser to find and use websites, and keep passwords and personal information in a secure space.

### COMMUNICATING

The ability to: set up an email account, communicate with others digitally using email and other messaging apps, use word processing applications to create documents, share documents with others by attaching them to an email, communicate with friends and family using video tools, and post messages, photographs, videos or blogs on social media platforms.

### HANDLING INFORMATION AND CONTENT

The ability to: use a search engine, evaluate which information may or may not be reliable, understand cloud storage, use the internet to legally access content, and use bookmarks to save and retrieve information.

### TRANSACTIONING

The ability to: register and apply for services, buy and sell goods and services, and administer and manage transactions online.

These are just a few examples of digital skills. Click the image to find out more.

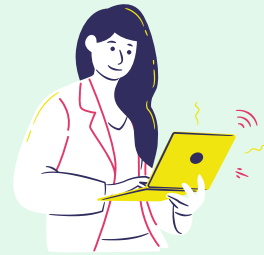


## WHAT JOBS REQUIRE DIGITAL SKILLS?

Most jobs nowadays require some form of digital skills.

Examples include:

- Teacher
- Engineer
- Games Designer
- Animator
- HR Advisor
- Doctor
- Social Media Executive
- Marketing
- Project Manager
- Web Developer
- Retail
- Vet



## WHAT OTHER SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT?

STEM jobs aren't just about digital skills. Other important skills you will need are:

- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Analytical
- Organisation
- Logical thinking

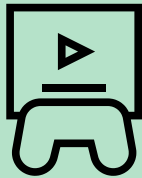
# INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY

On 28th April, we celebrate International Girls in ICT Day! The day aims to inspire young girls to study and pursue careers in technology, and to help balance the gender gap within the tech workforce.



## CAREER HIGHLIGHT

In light of International Girls in ICT Day, we have chosen to highlight the role of a Games Designer.



## GAMES DESIGNER

As a game designer, you'll bring ideas, build prototypes, create interactive narration and develop the game's mechanics. You'll design systems that are easily maintainable, expandable and comfortable to use, while injecting fun into the user experience. As a game designer, you may work on a design that you've conceived yourself or from a pre-approved idea, such as a game based upon a film.

Although you don't need a degree to become a game designer, the majority of game designers do have a degree. Games-specific degrees are particularly useful. Relevant subjects include: computer games art, computer games design, computer games technology, computer science, interactive media and mathematics.

## DIGITAL COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Sunderland College

T Level in Digital Production, Design and Development

Sunderland College is offering a new T Level course at its Bede campus. T Levels are new courses that follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels. They combine classroom learning with 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

To support the T Levels, Sunderland College has a number of virtual reality environments which enable students to train in VR. This is supported by a 360-degree immersive visualisation 'dome'.

The College also features an amphitheatre-style seated area, and a number of innovation suites and flexible spaces for employer led training.

To apply for this amazing course, you will need:

5 GCSEs 9 - 4 (This must include maths and English)

A passion for the digital industry  
Good logical and problem solving skills

For more information on anything covered in this newsletter, please contact:

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