



Our Year 10-13 IT and Computer Science students took part in an engaging careers session delivered by Heathrow's Cyber Security team. Students gained insight into apprenticeships and progression routes into the industry, explored real employee pathways, and strengthened their problem-solving through scenario-driven activities based on realistic cyber incidents. Year 13 students also benefited from mock interviews, giving them valuable practice and confidence for the next steps.

We are extremely grateful to the Heathrow Cybersecurity team for giving their time and expertise—your visit was truly appreciated by the school and made a real impact on our students.



Activity : Discuss the following

- Single Point of Failure & Third-Party Risk**
 - How did one software provider be attacked cause disruption across multiple airports and airlines?
 - What risks arise when many organisations rely on the same external system?
- Impact on Critical Infrastructure**
 - Why are airports considered critical infrastructure?
 - What are the real-world consequences of cyberattacks beyond financial loss (e.g. safety, public trust, travel disruption)?
- Ransomware Decision-Making**
 - Should organisations ever pay a ransom?
 - What are the short-term vs long-term consequences of paying or refusing to pay?
- Ethical, Legal, and Communication Challenges**
 - How transparent should companies be with the public during a cyberattack?
 - Who is responsible when a third-party system fails: the vendor or the airport?

Heathrow

The Heathrow airport

- London Heathrow Airport is one of the busiest airports in the world, handling **over 84 million passengers annually**. The airport operates **four passenger terminals (Terminals 2, 3, 4, and 5)** and is home to **over 300 shops, restaurants, and commercial outlets**, making it a major retail destination as well as a transport hub.
- Heathrow is also one of the UK's largest single-site employers, with **around 90,000 people working across the airport**. Financially, Heathrow generates approximately **£3.5 billion in annual revenue**, highlighting its significant contribution to both the UK economy and global travel.
- Due to its scale and complexity, Heathrow Airport relies heavily on **cyber security** to protect passenger data, safeguard critical airport systems, and ensure the safe and continuous operation of flights, terminals, and services.

