

New Qualification: NPA Cyber Security

The internet and digital technologies are transforming our society by driving economic growth, connecting people and providing new ways to communicate and co-operate with one another. However, the rise of the internet has led to the rise of cybercrime, such as identity theft, fraud, and blackmail.

From 2017/18 Madras College Computing Science Department will be offering a National Progression Award (NPA) in Cyber Security at SCQF levels 4,5, and 6 in the Senior Phase (S4, S5 and S6). Pupils will gain knowledge and skills in data security, digital forensics and ethical hacking. There is currently a skills shortage in the field of cyber security to defend against cyber-attacks. The NPA Cyber Security awards have stemmed from the need to address the growing rise in easily preventable cybercrime.

The course is designed to raise awareness of cyber security and fill the current skills gap in this field. Pupils learn to improve their cyber hygiene and enable them to identify security weakness safely, legally and ethically. They will also help to contribute more safely to virtual communities.

The NPA Cyber Security is for any pupil who may have an interest in a career in Ethical Hacking, Digital Forensics and Data Security. It is a suitable course for pupils who have been recommended for Computing Science at any level in "Recommendations" of S3 reports or who at present are already studying Computing Science in the senior phase at any level. This course should not be seen as an alternative to Computing Science but as a course that would complement it. It would also be a good course for anyone who is thinking of joining the police force.