



The
GCHQ
Christmas
Challenge

14 DECEMBER



GCHQ

What is GCHQ?



We are the UK's intelligence, cyber and security agency.

Our mission is to help keep the country safe.



About the GCHQ Christmas Challenge



This year, we're inviting secondary school children (ages 11-18) to solve a series of festive challenges.

Your students' mission, should they choose to accept it, is to crack all seven puzzles in our Christmas Challenge to uncover our secret seasonal message.

At GCHQ, we bring together people with lots of different skills and perspectives together in our mission to help protect the country. From codebreaking to maths, from languages to analysis, it's our diverse mix of minds that enables us to solve seemingly impossible problems every day.



Take part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge



We've created a digital resource pack containing everything you need to take part.

It will be available to download from Monday 12 December from

gchq.gov.uk/xmaschallenge

Resource pack contents

- A printable version of the Challenge.
- A special good luck video from Director GCHQ, Sir Jeremy Fleming.
- A hints sheet for teachers to help guide students towards the answers.
- Printable certificates for both students.

Key dates



Resource pack available to download



Official launch date

Spread the word



For your social media channels:

- We want to see how you get on with the GCHQ Christmas Challenge. On 14 December, tag us in your posts and pictures (@gchq on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) and be sure to include the hashtag **#GCHQChristmasChallenge**.
- We'll be sharing posts from schools and colleges throughout the day. Share your top tips for other schools and let us know if you need a hint or two!

For your website / newsletter (suggested wording)

- *GCHQ is running its annual Christmas Challenge on Wednesday 14 December. Students will be set the task of cracking seven fiendish puzzles and using the answers to help uncover a hidden festive message! Feel free to have a go at home by downloading the Challenge from the GCHQ website.*

Images and video

- You can download the campaign graphics from [our Dropbox folder](#).

Good luck!



Any questions or feedback?

Please contact engagement@gchq.gov.uk