Computer Science in ACTION

Midlands

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2024

Computer Science in Action

For A-level, IB, BTEC Level 3 and T Level computer science students

Join us for an exciting day of informative discussions, interactive sessions and inspirational stories at Computer Science in Action this autumn. From advancements in AI to coding challenges, our experienced speakers across industry and academia, will shine a light on cutting-edge research and current issues from the world of tech.

The day will also include a special session on examination success designed to provide students with the tools that they need to excel. With polls and quizzes throughout the day and plenty of opportunities to ask the speakers questions, this is an unmissable day, and we look forward to welcoming you and your students. Book now for Computer Science in Action!

Host: Professor Matthew Leeke (University of Birmingham)

- Reddit in, Reddit Out: The Promise – and Perils – of Large Language Models
- The illusion of good software design
- Blurring Lines: Humans, Tech, and Tomorrow
- Reimagining Smart Cities
- Dare to Disrupt: My unexpected route into tech

University of Warwick,
Coventry,
CV4 7AL

Venue: £24 +VAT *

Plus one COMPLIMENTARY staff ticket per 10 students.

*VAT may be reclaimable. Please check with your finance department

Education in Action is the leading provider of inspirational, informative, Education in Action study days for A-level, IB, BTEC and GCSE students.

Award-winning, world-class speakers
Cutting-edge content
Thought-provoking demos and presentations
Examination hints, tips and guidance
Modestly priced to offer access to all
Complimentary staff ticket for every 10 students booked
Bookings can be amended up to 28 days before the event day

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Reddit in, Reddit Out: The Promise – and Perils – of Large Language Models /
Emma Byrne – Science Writer and Communicator

Large language models (LLMs) are seemingly inescapable. In this talk, Dr Emma Byrne will look at the raw input behind large language models, from murky datasets to dirty power stations.

Emma Byrne began her research career in computational neuroscience in the early 2000s. She is also an award-winning author and broadcaster on the topics of AI and neuroscience, and is the recipient of the 2025 Rosalind Franklin Lecture medal.

Reimagining Smart Cities /
Matthew Leeke – School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham

By 2050 we will have 7 billion people living in urban areas. What happens when the global population puts cities at breaking point? Starting from the humble beginning of an undergraduate lecture theatre, we will explore how leveraging machine learning and smart devices can solve some of the biggest problems facing our cities.

Matthew is a Professor and Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor at The University of Birmingham. He joined Birmingham as Chair of Dependable Systems in 2022, having spent 18 years at The University of Warwick.

The illusion of good software design /
Paul Curzon – Queen Mary, University of London

Using examples of good / bad healthcare device design (and illusions) we explore how programmers can prevent human error with good interaction design. When disasters occur, a person is often blamed, but when people make mistakes, don't blame the person, fix the program so they can't, and save lives.

Paul co-created the EPSRC funded magazine cs4fn. In 2010 he was made a National Teaching Fellow by the Higher Education Academy. The most prestigious award for university teaching.

Dare to Disrupt: My unexpected route into tech /
Amber Shand – Content Creator and Software Engineer

With an Economics and Accounting degree, Amber defied expectations by learning to code and now is an award-winning Software Engineer. Amber will share her inspiring journey, proving that a successful tech career doesn't have to follow a traditional path.

Amber Shand is award-winning software engineer, keynote speaker, and rising voice representing women in tech. She is the Founder and Community Lead for She Bytes Back which hosts regular online and in-person events for women in technology to build connections, break down barriers and create opportunities.

Blurring Lines: Humans, Tech, and Tomorrow /
Adah Parris – Futurist and innovator

Dive into the wild world of humans and tech. Explore themes such as ethics, nature, and environmental impact. Engage in the conversation about digital symbiosis and the influence on our digital footprints, shaping a sustainable future.

A renowned futurist, Adah Parris blends ancient wisdom with digital innovation through her concept of Cyborg Shamanism™. Described by ChatGPT as a "tech shaman", she has been listed among the top global futurists by Forbes Brazil. As Chair of Mental Health First Aid England, she also highlights the need for good mental health in our digital lives, urging us to think about our footprint and innovate thoughtfully.

Education in Action

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