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## Young coders encouraged to take part in this year's Festival of Code

Young children with a keen eye for coding are being urged to sign up to a major national coding competition.

The Festival of Code takes place across the UK this summer between 28 July and 3 August. The festival will see under 19s presented with real world problems, which they will be challenged to address through their self-taught hacking skills.

They will be supported by Young Rewired State's team of experts to help them create websites, prototypes and inventive applications, alongside peers with the same passion for coding.

This year, Plymouth University's i-DAT will be hosting the grand finale of the festival, where each of the 58 competition centres across the UK will descend for a supervised weekend of celebrations, and show and tell finale from Friday 1 August to Sunday 3 August.

i-DAT is an open research lab for "playful experimentation with creative technology", located within Plymouth University. It has been playing with code and hacking since 1998 through a programme of national and international arts and cultural activities.

The annual Festival of Code is organised by Young Rewired State, a not-for-profit organisation, whose aim is to find and foster every young person with a love of coding. Since its establishment, Young Rewired State has rapidly grown to an independent global network of young coders, and this year will be its 6th anniversary.

The festival this year is being supported by Google, American Express, The University of Plymouth, TalkTalk, Plymouth Council and The Met Office, among others.

Emma Mulqueeny, CEO of Young Rewired State, said: "The Festival of Code provides these young people with an environment that emboldens their passion for coding and programming.

"It gives them a chance to work in partnership with their coding peers, learn from the experts and create new digital solutions to problems we all face. The week will be very hands on with plenty of data to get stuck into, as well as the chance to hear from some top speakers from across the industry."

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