



# Media Release

30<sup>th</sup> July

## The countdown is on: 50 days to go until National Coding Week

The fourth annual National Coding Week (NCW), organised by Codex and sponsored by JT, will begin on **18 September** and it promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Events will be held across the Channel Islands, including free “learn to code” sessions where members of the public can find out how websites are built, gain digital skills training, and attend cyber-security talks on how to keep safe online.

An online digital skills course, in association with JT, will also return. The free course was successfully launched last year and is designed for anyone who wants to learn how to write computer code.

New for 2017 is the National Coding Week Rising Star Programme. Headteachers and Principals of schools and colleges can nominate up to five Rising Stars. These will be students who have excellent digital skills and who share their passion by helping to organise events and teach others these essential key skills.

NCW was devised in the Channel Islands but its popularity has grown. Since it was created in 2014, over 8,000 people have attended sessions in the UK, USA, Australia and beyond.

NCW founder Richard Rolfe said: “With 50 days to go, it is time for Islanders to make a note in their calendars and prepare to learn some relevant and potentially life-changing skills. NCW has grown rapidly in the past four years and the national and international interest has been overwhelming with some big players in the technology sector getting involved, including Sky Bet, Cisco and Barclays. It goes to show that adults as well as children want the opportunity to learn digital skills”.

“This year we would also like to encourage more Channel Island businesses to take part by organising talks and taster sessions at their offices or at their local library, hub or school. Please make contact and let us know what you are planning.”

“I would like to thank our sponsor JT because without their support NCW couldn’t take place. I am also grateful to partner Barclays for their Digital Eagles-supported events in Jersey and Guernsey and to Jonathan Channing from Cobra Coding, who is spending many hours coordinating the events.

[www.jtglobel.com](http://www.jtglobel.com)

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Tamara O'Brien, JT's Head of Marketing, Brand and Distribution, said: "NCW continues to raise awareness of the importance of learning digital skills and that can only be a good thing, both for the individuals who participate and the islands' economies as a whole. An ability to code is already a useful tool and one that is set to become essential in our workforces as technology advances.

"Having built and invested in bringing the Channel Islands among the fastest mobile and broadband networks in the world, JT is keen to promote digital skills wherever it can and NCW is a great partnership initiative for us. We firmly believe that NCW will grow and grow and we're proud to be a part of it."