



18 October 2017

## Over 7,500 people take part in National Coding Week

The fourth National Coding Week – founded in the Channel Islands by former headteacher Richard Rolfe and tech entrepreneur Jordan Love – was a great success with record-breaking engagement, both at events and online.

In the UK, people from all walks of life attended sessions from coding for beginners to advanced skills over the course of the week (18-22 September). Locally, more than 200 people went to events held at Jersey Library and Guernsey's Digital Greenhouse, which ranged from augmented reality to women in technology. At least 2,400 children also gained a 'Digital Badge' for National Coding Week by taking part in an online course at school, learning essential skills such as password and social media management, and being aware of 'stranger danger'.

The week prompted over 7,000 Tweets, including engagement from the BBC Academy, GCHQ, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) OpenCourseWare and Cisco. There are now close to 3,000 Followers of NCW on Twitter. As well as the Channel Islands and UK, events were held in the US and Australia.

NCW's Head of Events, Jonathan Channing, said: "We have experienced a major surge in people getting involved this year, particularly from individuals and organisations that we didn't previously have a link with, from the Royal Mail to Goldman Sachs Careers. We were featured in numerous online publications such as Stem Magazine, BusinessCloud and even HuffPost.

"The events were informative and well attended and I'd like to thank our Channel Island partners for their enthusiasm. I'd particularly like to thank JT for its ongoing support; NCW simply wouldn't be possible without the backing of our sponsors."

Ed Jewell, Chief Librarian at Jersey Library, and Lucy Witham, Head of Digital Development at Guernsey's Education Department, were both National Coding Week Ambassadors this year.

Mr Jewell said: "National Coding Week introduced an exciting and interesting mix of digital activities to Jersey Library. From game design and augmented reality workshops to beginner coding and getting online sessions, it was great to see individuals from across the local community getting involved, playing, experimenting and learning in the Library."

Ms Witham said: "NCW has provided a great opportunity for learning, development and discussion about the importance of digital skills and pathways for all. Working in partnership with our key sponsors and local companies, a diverse range of people have gain an insight into the exciting world of technology."

Tamara O'Brien, JT's Head of Marketing, Brand and Distribution, said: "It is great to see National Coding Week go from strength to strength in the Channel Islands and beyond. Through our 4G and fibre networks, JT is doing all it can to put Jersey and Guernsey on the digital map; National Coding Week then teaches the skills to get maximum benefit from that investment. It is a natural fit, which is why we're proud to be a Platinum sponsor."

**ENDS**

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