

RICHARD THOMAS

TTS STUDENT: 2009-2011

Current role: Doctoral Researcher, SCEPTICS Project, University of Birmingham

Career pathway:

Since leaving Thomas Telford School, I completed my BSc. in Computer Science, before undertaking my Masters in Computer Security at the University of Birmingham. I am now a Doctoral Researcher on the SCEPTICS Project, which looks at how we can protect our Critical National Infrastructure from cyberattacks. My research focusses on the protection of our rail network, working with Government and Industry to ensure that proposed changes to our Rail Network are 'Secure by Design'. My research has been presented to industry and at world-leading conferences to raise awareness of cybersecurity and the threats we face today and tomorrow.

Advice for students:

Be prepared for change - what you're taught today will be out of date tomorrow, but you'll take it in your stride. Cybersecurity is a rapidly evolving field, and you'll soon become an expert in your field, where everyone has a part to play.

Plans for the future:

I plan to continue into Post-Doctoral Research, as the field keeps changing, and this provides excellent exposure to industry and stakeholders to ensure our critical national infrastructure is safe.

Best memory of your time at Thomas Telford?

My best memory is being told that when you leave Thomas Telford School, it's only the beginning - it's a philosophy I apply, even today in our field.

