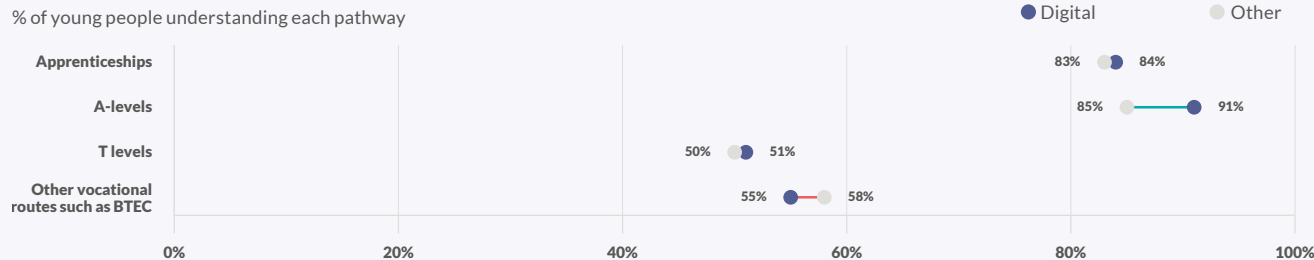


Digital sector

Fig. 1: Young people interested in a Digital career are more likely to understand A levels, Apprenticeships and T levels



Source: Futures Skills Questionnaire data, end of July 2025 (Year 11 responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842)

Sector demand landscape

- [1.8m workers in the Digital sector](#) (5.2% of UK employment)
- [Projected growth of 380,000 workers by 2035.](#)
- Only 16% of programmers, and just 22% of AI professionals in UK government are women, with [40,000–60,000 women leaving tech and digital roles annually.](#)
- [Digital skills are increasingly important in the modern economy](#), with basic digital skills being important to the majority (92%) of employers. This is evidenced through outdated curricula vs [modern requirements for skills relating to AI](#), etc.
 - › [Fewer than 1/3 of UK businesses confident in digital skills supply](#) (3–5 years).
- Structural barriers to uptake include complex pathways (certifications, portfolios, apprenticeships), uneven entry routes, and regional access disparities.

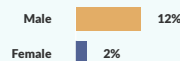
Young people's profile

Young people interested in a career in IT are interested in the following sectors:

- Research/science (22%)
- Finance/banking (19%)
- Media/broadcasting (18%)

They are stronger in **Problem Solving** (+8%pts) but weaker in **Leadership** (-12%pts) and **Listening** (-5%pts). Communication, skills [employers see as increasingly vital](#) in an AI-driven labour market.

Gender:

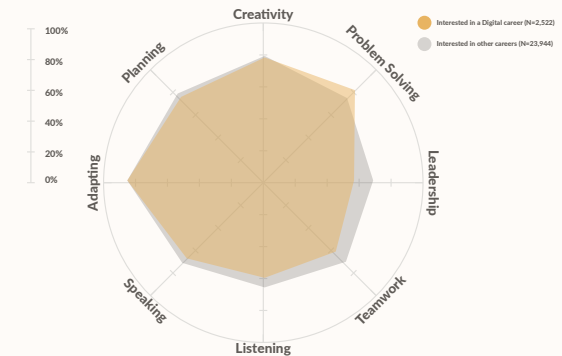


Economic disadvantage:



Fig. 2: They are more likely to be proficient in Problem Solving, but less likely in most other skills, and particularly in Leadership, Teamwork and Speaking

% of learners responding positively to



Source: Futures Skills Questionnaire data, end of July 2025 (Year 11 responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842) responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842)

Fig. 3: Interest in the Digital sector varies by region

% Year 11 learners expressing interest in the Digital sector, by region

