Beat: News

Top Secret Science Museum exhibition

100-year history of GCHQ

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USPA NEWS - Artefacts from the 100-year history of GCHQ, the UK's Intelligence, Security and Cyber agency, will be going on display at a "Top Secret" Science Museum exhibition this summer.

In a first for a UK intelligence agency, Top Secret: From Ciphers to Cyber Security, will explore a century's worth of intelligence through unseen artefacts, anecdotes, and the rich personal and technological stories that underpin GCHQ's role at the heart of the nation's security.

From Thursday 7 March free tickets will be available to book on the Science Museum's website ahead of the opening on 10 July 2019. It will run in London until February 2020, moving to Manchester's Science and Industry Museum in October the same year.

Announcing the unique partnership with the Science Museum, GCHQ's Director Jeremy Fleming said:

"GCHQ has been at the heart of the nation's security for 100 years. It has saved countless lives, given Britain an edge, and solved or harnessed some of the world's hardest technology challenges. It's a privilege to share the exciting story of our people and technology.

"This exhibition is critical - not just for GCHQ, but for engaging the UK public. We want to inspire the next generation of cyber security and STEM skills experts for the challenges of the next 100 years. We believe that with the right mix of minds, anything is possible.

"I hope that this unique collaboration with the Science Museum will encourage people of all ages and all parts of our society to think about the work we do and the role they could play in our future."

The exhibition - which coincides with GCHQ's centenary year - will take visitors through the history of secret communications, including the role Alan Turing and Bletchley Park played in breaking the Enigma code during World War II, revealing spy-craft developed during the Cold War, and investigating the technologies that will help keep the UK safe into the future.

Visitors will be invited to step inside this fascinating world and hear from the individuals carrying out top secret work today to defend against terror attacks and serious crime, and discover the challenges of maintaining digital security. As would be expected from the minds behind the best-selling GCHQ puzzle books, there will also be the opportunity to challenge friends and family to codebreaker challenges in an interactive puzzle zone.

GCHQ's work has never been more relevant, they pioneer a new kind of security in an ever more complex world. The changing threats the country faces will demand ever more of the ingenuity for which GCHQ is renowned. From its inception, the agency has valued different perspectives and diversity of skills, and GCHQ's history is full of ordinary people solving extraordinary problems.

Tickets and further information can be found on the Science Museum's website by clicking the 'More Information' link below

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