



Could your child be the next *Minecraft* creator?

With Easter fast approaching, many of you will already be despairing of how you're going to get your child to spend less time glued to their laptop or mobile over the holidays.

This holiday, rather than turn screen and gaming time into a point of deep contention, why not turn it into a positive opportunity?

BAFTA (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) has launched their prestigious and very exciting **Young Game Designers Competition**.

The YGD competition, delivered in association with the Nominet Trust, is open to young people aged 10-18 years across the UK and provides a unique national stage for young talent to show case their game making skills.

There are two categories – the **Game Making Award** (which requires young people to create their own game from scratch using freely available software and their own coding skills) and the **Game Concept Award** (which is focused on creating innovative games ideas and narrative). Winners for each category will be chosen across two age groups (10-14 years old and 15-18 years old).

All finalists will be invited to a glittering awards ceremony at BAFTA HQ in London, with awards presented by top games talent. Winners will have the opportunity to see their game further developed and to be mentored by games industry professionals.

Entries are open until 5pm on Wednesday 3 May so the long Easter break provides the perfect opportunity for young people to get lost in a creative project associated with the hobby they're already passionate about. And the really good news is that while they're creating their game, they'll be developing vital Maths, Coding, Design and Computing skills as well as skills such as independence, resilience and ingenuity – all of which will be prized in the classroom and in their future careers.

So this Easter, instead of worrying about your child turning into a mindless zombie, embrace their games hobby as the gateway to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Who knows? You could have the next *Minecraft*, *FIFA* or *Pokemon Go* creator living under your roof! To find out more and enter the competition, visit www.ygd.bafta.org.

If your child is interested in a career in the games industry or in film or television, it's also worth them checking out BAFTA's newly launched interactive Careers Quiz at <http://guru.bafta.org/careers-quiz>, which matches their natural interests, passions and aptitudes to a variety of roles in the fast growing creative industries – many of which they might not even have known existed!

Here's to a happy, creative and productive holiday break.

The BAFTA YGD Team



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