



Edexcel

Women in Tech Dina St Johnston

September 20, 1930 – June 30, 2007



Founder of the UK's first independent software house

Dina St Johnston was a ground-breaking computer programmer who founded the UK's first software house in 1959. Despite leaving school early, she worked at the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association and studied part-time at Croydon Polytechnic and Sir John Cass College. Dina then joined Elliott Brothers Ltd., where she helped develop a computer to calculate missile trajectories. To enhance her skills, she took a programming course at Cambridge, where she excelled.

In 1959, Dina founded Vaughan Programming Services, marking the start of the independent software industry in the UK. Her exceptional skills were admired by all. Dina went on to develop software for major companies like the BBC and Unilever, as well as flight simulators for the RAF. Her career is a testament to how passion, dedication, and innovation can shape the future of technology and inspire others to pursue their dreams.

Do you...

- ➔ Like playing video games and figuring out the best strategies? **You have problem-solving and critical thinking skills!**
- ➔ Love planning fun activities with your friends? **You have teamwork and organisation skills!**
- ➔ Enjoy solving puzzles and brain teasers? **You have analytical and mathematical skills!**

You could be the future of tech like Dina!

Find out more

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