

You are a team of spies working for Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) running a top secret mission in London. One of your agents disappeared – probably because of his involvement in a dangerous international affair and needed to hide for the time being. In his room you have found a chest and a letter.

1 – letter (see page 1 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’ file which can be downloaded from here)

You managed to find the code and opened the chest. Inside the chest you have found:
Map of London with attractions clearly marked on it (see page 2 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)
Something written using weird symbolic cipher (see page 3 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)
A seemingly senseless text (see page 4 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)

Luckily, the chest not only contains incomprehensible messages, but also short descriptions (see page 3 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’). Try to find out, what the objects are (you can use the map to help you – places you need to find are all named and clearly marked). Once you have done this, you know most of the letters you need to use in order to decrypt the rest of the message. Still, there are some missing ones, but you can guess those (it may prove useful to print out ‘symbolic-decryption.pdf’ in case pupils get stuck. This file can be downloaded here)

2 – symbolic cipher (see page 3 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)

Important: make sure you remember the order of the objects – it is crucial you do.

Once you have read the postscript, you know the rule you need to apply to the other text in order to be able to decipher it; do it!

3 – Caesar cipher (see page 4 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)

The text after decryption turns out to be a manual of how to obtain information about the meeting place. Follow the instructions and when you are done, you will know where to go, don’t waste your time much longer!

You have found your friend at the meeting place. However, he gives you another letter instead of going home with you. And then runs away. What a weirdo.

4 – letter (see page 5 in ‘workshop-pupils.pdf’)

Do you know why the private key is not mentioned in the letter? Do you actually need it?

Well done! You’ve deserved a long break now. But first, please accept the certificates from MI6 for your job.