

CYBER CHAMPIONS – ISSUE 2

Launch Event at the Houses of Parliament

Over a hundred young professionals, partners and parliamentarians joined students and teachers to launch YPNGlobal's Cyber Champions initiative on 16th June. Keynote speakers at the event included the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP & Stephen McPartland MP, Chief Executive of CEOP, Peter Davies and Commissioner Adrian Leppard, City of London Police, who all spoke about the importance of the initiative and keeping safe online. School children and teachers praised the volunteer help they are getting from young professionals in raising online safety awareness. Parliamentary host Alun Michael MP highlighted the initiative as *"a superb example of the importance of older children acting as role models for the next younger generation"*.



Peter Davies, Adrian Leppard and Nexor with St Marylebone School

Cyber Champion Emily Woodfield said, *"The Cyber Champions initiative has proved an extremely beneficial and engaging experience for Hitherfield Primary school. The material was pitched at the right level and at a crucial time where they are at the cusp of really interacting and using the internet. I am very much looking forward to my next workshop."*

Cyber Champion Colin Powers stressed, *"Staying safe online is difficult even for my age group. I'm delighted to be part of something that teaches kids to protect their futures by really thinking about what they put online"*.

On the importance of online safety learning in schools, Deborah James, Deputy Head at St Mark's Catholic school said, *"Having external speakers such as Craig and Lee from IBM takes students out of their comfortable classroom environment and allows them to realise this is a real world issue and organisations really care."*



Rt Hon Alun Michael, Stephen McPartland and David Blunkett MPs, Adrian Leppard and Anu Khurmi, with Young Professionals

The day was a great success and the enthusiasm from partners and young professionals quickly turned to offers of action to help more schools and students benefit from Cyber Champion workshops.

Why become a Cyber Champion

Young professionals who have already volunteered as Cyber Champions spoke about the many reasons they had for getting involved and the additional benefits of networking with their peers, major organisations and key stakeholders in the security industry.

Cyber Champions Management Committee

The Cyber Champion's initiative will be driven by young professionals and we are looking to set up a Cyber Champions Management Committee. This is a great opportunity for young professionals to steer what is rapidly becoming a national campaign and work with some of the leading organisations in the cyber security sector. To apply please send a short outline of what you could bring as a member of the committee to cyberchampions@ypnglobal.com



Cyber Guardians: The Security Company (International) Ltd, Templar Executives and Get Safe Online, with pupils from St Marks

The Importance of Cyber Guardians

Commissioner Adrian Leppard observed *“The challenge with Cyber is that young people are already ahead of the game. We need to do all we can while they are still young to ensure they are able to look out for themselves and be safe in the online world”*. Andrew Fitzmaurice of security firm Templar Executives spoke about the importance of those from business and in positions of expertise mentoring young professionals and, in turn, becoming Cyber Guardians, *“It is our role to ensure the digital footprint of young people is a positive one and that they are aware of not only the great power of technology, but also how to use it safely.”*



1st row (left to right):

- Rt Hon Alun Michael MP addressing the audience
- Rt Hon Stephen McPartland MP with event host, Anu Khurmi

2nd row:

- Mr Peter Davies, Chief Executive, CEOP
- Commissioner Adrian Leppard, City of London Police

3rd row:

- Mr Andrew Fitzmaurice, Templar Executives
- Rt Hon Alun Michael and Stephen McPartland MPs with pupils

Jennifer's Story

Jennifer is a young professional and a Cyber Champion. Here is her story:

“I got involved with Cyber Champions because when I was twelve I was befriended online by a man of 40. I chatted to him on Bebo, because I didn't know any better and I was very naive. With hindsight he was a really creepy man and he was terribly obsequious.

We were in constant contact for some time; he sent my sister and I £50 worth of chocolates each. My Dad knew I had been talking to him, but was powerless to do anything but at this point the line had been crossed. My Dad phoned the man and threatened him with police action because it was so inappropriate for him to be contacting my sister and I (he also rented a flat in Dorset for my sister and had furnished it for her and tried to persuade her to move there with him).

About 18 months later the man was in trouble with the police anyway, as inappropriate material had been found on his computer. I really hope the scheme will help reach out to young people and make them realise how vulnerable they are online. Luckily my sister and I never heard from the man again, but I think things could have been a lot worse.

As more and more children have easy access to the internet, promoting internet safety and making young people aware of the risks of using the net is of paramount importance. I think this is a really fantastic scheme and so vital for future generations.”

Contact

If you want to make a difference and become a Cyber Champion or a Cyber Guardian, and get involved in the next recognition event, contact us now at cyberchampions@ypnglobal.com



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