

School Children give Cyber Security Tips at Livery Company Showcase Event

“Don’t give out your personal information or accept a friend invite from someone you don’t know”

“Stay away from talking to strangers on webcam”

“Don’t share your password with anyone”

...these are just some of the “my top tips to stay safe on-line” volunteered by 13-14 year olds who visited the Cyber Champions stand at the Livery Company Showcase event on 20th March 2012. It was a unique opportunity to see and experience some of the skills and trades represented by the Livery Companies¹. The day was an exciting and interactive one with year 9 students from over 25 schools visiting the various stands. They learnt about different careers and engaged with experienced business leaders and professionals. The Cyber Champions stand was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT).

Cyber Champion volunteers were kept busy with enthusiastic students keen to share their on-line experiences and view the e-safety resources and presentation. Over 190 of them took time to complete a survey which asked questions to see if they proactively took steps to stay safe on-line and if they were aware of best practice using the internet.



CyberChampions stand at Apothecaries Hall



Students taking part in the survey



Journeyman Carl, Colin [Nexor] & Alister at CyberChampions stand

Overall the results from the students were encouraging; 80% were able to identify what constituted a secure password, 80% stated they would not open an attachment from someone they didn’t know or accept an invite on-line from a friend they didn’t know. However, it was noted that whilst most knew what was required to stay safe on-line, fewer knew the key steps they needed to take to ensure this; there is still much work to do here. Most students know what to do, less know how. Peer pressure, accepting social media and online gaming invitations from unknown friends of friends were also areas of concern.

Cyber Champions will be following up with the schools that participated to share the survey results and provide workshops to promote e-safety awareness. It will also be fun to share the top tips amongst the students themselves. This will be a great way to continue the dialogue and encourage them and others to stay safe on-line. Hopefully engendering habits in e-safety best practice early will stay with them into adulthood and their future careers.

Finally it was refreshing, to hear the views of one 14 year old, who sanguinely observed that making connections on-line is not a competition or popularity contest - *“It doesn’t matter how many friends you have as long as you know them”* – sound advice indeed.

For more information on Cyber Champions please contact us at cyberchampions@ypnglobal.com

¹ For more information on the Livery Showcase event reference <http://www.liveryschoolslink.co.uk/news.htm>