

## CYBER CHAMPIONS – ISSUE 3

### Recognition Event at House of Commons

Since its launch in June this year nearly 1,000 schoolchildren have engaged and benefitted from the Cyber Champions initiative. This achievement was recognised at a celebratory event at the House of Commons in October along with an exciting announcement regarding the expansion of the initiative into universities with the launch of Campus Cyber Champions. Attendees included parliamentarians, public and private sector organisations, universities and schools. All were unanimous in their support and praise for Cyber Champions. The initiative runs online safety awareness workshops mobilising young professional volunteers motivated to make a difference to their local communities and the younger generation. Minister James Brokenshire emphasised the importance of developing effective online awareness to help the public protect themselves and benefit from online services. Chairman of the Parliamentary Internet, Communications and Technology Forum (PICTFOR), Alun Michael MP cited Cyber Champions as ‘a great example of UK Best Practice which we are looking to highlight at next year’s UN Internet Governance Forum in Baku, in Azerbaijan’. Other parliamentary supporters at the event included the Earl of Erroll, Lord Toby Harris, and Andrew Miller MP and Chairman of the Parliamentary Science and Technology Committee.

programme. ‘A demo at our own Centre for Secure Computing showed me how easily computers can be hacked, so we jumped at the opportunity to help raise awareness in schools. We have a very strong volunteering ethos; this initiative has encouraged students to help in the local community.’ said Professor Heidi Macpherson.



Tim Watson, Ruth Hurst, Minister James Brokenshire, Nick Gargan, Anu Khurmi, Andy Downton and Prof Heidi Macpherson



Minister James Brokenshire, Nick Gargan, Lord Errol, Jacqueline de Rojas, Andrew Miller MP, Anu Khurmi & Philip Virgo with Young Professionals

Ruth Hurst observed, ‘There is a requirement from Ofsted that school be more hands on in demonstrating what they’re doing within the area of safety, so there is a real demand now for this sort of collaborative activity. Universities are a natural fit.’ Craig Hughes added that, ‘Coventry University has bent over backwards with helping set up links to local schools including Lyng Hall here today.’

### Expanding the partnership

Cyber Champions count a growing number of UK and global companies as partners. Jacqueline de Rojas, Vice President of McAfee International spoke about how the “internet opens our children to new opportunities and risks. McAfee is really pleased to be part of this fantastic initiative that is harnessing the power of volunteers to help children and young people get safe online in an increasingly networked world.” Further endorsement came from Nick Gargan, CEO of the National Policing Improvement Agency who highlighted some of the challenges and stated, “It is absolutely right that we and the Association of Chief Police Officers should be supporting this initiative. The focus on schools is particularly appropriate and the engagement with young professionals is beneficial to us all including the police who are facing new and different challenges created by the explosion of social media.”

### Campus Cyber Champions

Some of the first universities to sign up for Campus Cyber Champions were represented. Andy Downton and Professor Heidi Macpherson, Pro Vice Chancellors at DeMontfort along with Tim Watson, Ruth Hurst from Cumbria, and Craig Hughes from Coventry, iterated their strong commitment to the



Jacqueline de Rojas and Nick Gargan with teacher Jean Claude and pupils from George Green School in Tower Hamlets

Cyber Champions Giselle Frederik, of Credit Suisse and Sophie Bialaszewski from Templar Executives spoke enthusiastically about their experiences with schools in Tower Hamlets. Giselle said, 'Working with young people and helping show them how technology works is close to my heart so the moment I heard about the YPNGlobal Cyber Champions initiative I was keen to join. We have had tremendous feedback from teachers and students.' This was endorsed by Jean Claude, Head of ICT at George Green School. "Teachers telling pupils about the issues is good, but when professionals like Giselle and Sophie come in and give the same messages that makes a fantastic impact," he said.



Giselle Frederik, Andrew Miller & Alun Michael MPs, Nick Gargan with Colin & Alex from Nexor and Crossdale School

Stephen Kingan, Managing Director of Nottingham-based security company Nexor, whose young professionals have been mentoring in local schools explained, 'Whilst it is critical to educate kids to make sure they are safe online, it is also important for graduates to work in the community and develop themselves; becoming Cyber Champions gives them this opportunity.' Cyber Champions Jayesh Bhadresha and Elliott Green from IBM also spoke about going back to Beal school in Redbridge and how, after delivering the online safety workshop, they were asked to spend time as role models with sixth formers to share their experiences of university and work since leaving the school.

## Young Options

Louise De-Hayes is Head of Young Options College in Shifnal, Shropshire.

*I am Head of a special school for 8 to 19 year olds; most have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and most are in care also. They come from Boroughs up and down the country and are extremely vulnerable as victims of society but also as potential perpetrators of crime towards others. I know that we are all aware of the potential dangers of social networking sites and the like, particularly as a medium to perpetrate bullying and harassment. Many of our students are all too familiar with this and yes, will have their own experiences to share. We have to educate them in the rights and wrongs of using the internet before it is too late. With Cyber Champions we can make a real difference in addressing this issue head on.*



Jacqueline de Rojas, Craig Hughes, Nick Gargan with Louise De-Hayes and Young Options College

## 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. You can get in touch with us at [contact@ypnglobal.com](mailto:contact@ypnglobal.com)



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