



The Digital Leaders Programme at Highsted Grammar School....

...do you want to help other young people stay safe online?

Young people can play a powerful role in educating their peers – the Digital Leaders Programme aims to capitalise on this by providing relatable and up to date advice for these leaders and shaping school ethos by acting as role models.

To help schools and other groups harness the power of youth voice and make e-safety learning fun and effective, the **Childnet Digital Leaders Programme** offers young people access to an exciting online community, where they will access training and support from Childnet's expert team, record achievements and progress, and collaborate and share inspiration with young Digital Leaders across the UK.

The Digital Leader programme is an opportunity for students to take part in a programme that will not only give them knowledge and understanding of a range of issues faced by students on the internet, but also to use that information within our school community to enable other students to make safer online choices.

The Digital leader programme gives us a chance to complete our online training and then continue to develop our skills by:

- meeting with our Digital Leader team on a regular basis to consolidate learning and plan how we can will make a difference in school;
- gaining badges and awards for working our way through the online training;
- gaining badges and awards for delivering activities in our school community;
- helping empower others by sharing what we have been doing as Digital Leaders.

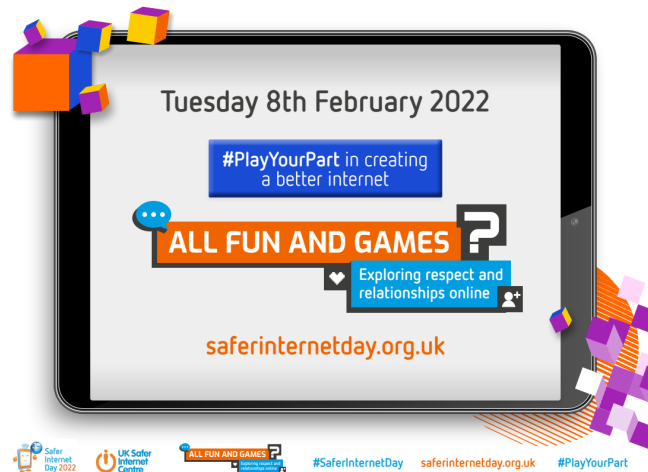
The first step of the programme is training

Our online training programme, provided by Childnet, has involved a six-week programme of training for all Digital Leaders on the programme.

This has included looking at issues such as: supporting other students who have been through bullying online; providing information for students about how stay safe online; giving students the know how to understand what they need to do if they have experienced online abuse; how what you post online could put you at risk of exploitation and unnecessary online exposure of your personal details.

It also gave us information about how spam emails are used to harvest our data – this would include Facebook seemingly harmless quizzes which are used to harvest data and could make our accounts vulnerable to hacking. Advice on keeping safe including clicking on links that can enable hackers to take over our accounts.

This term...



The team have worked hard together to produce an assembly for the whole school based on **Safer Internet Day 2022 – All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online.**

Safer Internet Day inspires a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively.

In our assembly, we remind students of how we treat others online and how this can make them feel. We are also promoting the importance of a digital detox season, where students can learn the benefits of cutting down on their time online and what they could be doing more productively offline, which would benefit their mental health and their physical wellbeing as well as their relationships with friends and family. We also consider the mental health consequences of being online too much.

Each term we, as Digital Leaders, will have a different focus and the team will lead assemblies and activities for students in the school, where we will use the knowledge gained from our online training and our meetings where we discuss issues facing young people online.

The reality is that young people will continue to explore online; we as the Digital Leaders want to give them the information and the tools to do this safely without negative impacts on their safety and mental health.