Secondary School Assembly

Theme: Let's Create a Better Internet Together - #up2us

Background Information:

This theme has been chosen again by the INSAFE network as it remains highly relevant in today's ever changing technologically-capable society. As sometimes young people can't see the difference between their lives online and their lives offline, this theme encourages young people to think about how to use the powers of the internet to do good online and offline. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2015 highlights the issues and concerns that young people have when they're online, but the theme primarily focuses on practical solutions and digital good deeds so that we can 'create a better internet together'.

Slide 1:

This assembly is for Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day in the UK is run by the UK Safer Internet Centre and this year's theme 'Let's create a better internet together' is very practical. During this assembly, we're going to be thinking about what you can do yourself to make the internet a better place!

Slide 2:

There are lots of websites and apps online which make our lives better. You might recognise some of these popular apps/services that you might think improve your lives. Does Instagram improve the way you communicate with your friends? Does Xbox Live improve your gaming experience? Is using the BBC News App helping you access better and faster news?

Slide 3:

There are also websites and apps online that don't just improve the lives of one individual, but actually make the world a better place. For example, Volunteer Match is a website that points many people in the direction of a volunteering opportunity that suits them. Charity Miles lets you raise money for your favourite charity whilst running, walking or biking. Budge is an app that allows you to challenge your friends to a dare. Whoever loses the challenge has to donate some money to charity. Apps for Good is a great organisation that helps educators in schools and learning centres deliver their courses of coding and app development in the classroom. They also have an opportunity for students to become real-life entrepreneurs by encouraging them to enter a competition to create their own app.

Teachers note: you could personalise this part to put it in your favourite app/website which makes the world a better place)

Slide 4:

Social media is a very resourceful tool for spreading positivity right across the internet. From ice bucket challenges on Facebook to 'Wake Up To Syria' which celebrities are using to raise awareness about the conflict in Syria. These are only a few things that every day people are doing to help make the internet a better place.

Slide 5:

However, today we are going to be focussing on how we make the internet a better places in terms of safety. Unfortunately the internet isn't fun and games all the time. We do need to think carefully when we're enjoying our time online. Whether that's having a think about privacy settings on our favourite social networking site, or considering the impact a photograph may have if we post it online.

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Who do you think is responsible for making the internet a better place? Sure, all these people on this slide can help make the internet a better place in some way or another. But actually, it's important to remember that you as individuals are also responsible, and that's why during this assembly, we're going to be thinking about what everyone can do to make the internet a better place.

Slide 6:

Let's have a quick think now of some of the key risks and how they make the internet unsafe. For example…

Slide 7:

Digital footprints can sometimes be negative. Who do you think is responsible for making sure that people leave a positive digital footprint behind? There is also a lot of content online, some hurtful, harmful and inappropriate. Coming across this type of content online can be very upsetting and distressing, particularly for younger people. Who do we think is responsible for monitoring the amount of inappropriate content that is on the internet? Mean comments and trolling online is common on social networking sites. Cyberbullying isn't going away unfortunately. Who do you think is responsible for preventing cyberbullying online?

Slides 8 & 9:

We're going to look at some digital dilemmas now, and together we will think about what the people in these dilemmas can do to help improve the situation and in turn make the internet a better place.

Scenario 1: Joanna and Sarah were walking home through the park when they both received the same Whatsapp message. They opened it to see an inappropriate picture of a girl in their class, Rebecca. They were embarrassed to see it but they didn't know what to do as it was from a number they didn't know.

Then they received a follow-up message that said 'if you don't forward this on to at least 4 people, I will tell everyone you were the one who sent the photo of Rebecca'. Joanna and Sarah were scared. What should they do?

- Instead of sending the photo on, what should Joanna and Sarah do with the message instead?
- How can they support Rebecca in other ways?
- Talk to the person beside you to see what they should do to help make the internet a better place.

Slides 10 & 11:

Scenario 2: George is applying for a Saturday job and everyone at school knows that he has a questionable online reputation. He doesn't have any privacy settings on his social networking sites, such as Instagram and Facebook, and most of his pictures are pretty incriminating. Sometimes he even boasts on social media about how he cheats in homework. George doesn't think about his actions online and doesn't think it will have an effect on his life offline.

If pupils need some help with this question, here are some prompt questions:

- *How can you help George understand how his actions online can affect his life offline?*
- *Have you ever thought about your online reputation and how it can affect your future?*
- *Are you aware of your online reputation and the things you can do to protect it?*
- *Do you think it would ever prevent you from getting a job or college place in the future?*
- *How do you think George can create a better reputation online?*

Slides 12 & 13:

Scenario 3: You are on Instagram and a photograph of Aysha from school is being posted on many of your friend's Instagram profiles. The photograph of Aysha shows her doing something a bit silly, and all your friends are posting this photo with the hashtag '#regram'. All your friends are re-posting this image and you feel a bit pressured to the same on your Instagram profile. What action should you take? If you decide not to 'regram' the picture, what else could you do to help and support Aysha?

- What action should you take?
- What could happen if you share the picture on?
- If you decide not to 'regram' the picture, what else could you do to help and support Aysha?

Teacher's Note: *Some of these scenarios might not be suitable for all pupils. If you would rather use only the scenarios that are suitable and relevant for your pupils, then please feel free to delete or adapt where necessary on this assembly.*

Slide 14:

There are many ways we can improve the internet, there are so many positive steps to take in order to make it a better place. We've spoken about how big organisations help make the internet a better place. Before I finish today's assembly I'd like you to take a few moments to think about what you can do in order to carry out your good digital deed and in turn making the internet a better place.

For example, you could help a Grandparent set up a Skype account, you could tell your best friend how to privatise their Instagram account, or explain to a teacher about how Snapchat works. Today is the time to think about what you as an individual can do to make a safer, better internet. It really is up to us…

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