

Dear Parent/Carer

On **Tuesday 9th February** we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating **Safer Internet Day 2021**. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and more to join together in helping to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in Speyside High School, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day is **An Internet We Trust – Exploring reliability in the Online World** and online activities will feature the hashtag #AnInternetWeTrust.

Our S1 pupils have been following the **Be Internet Awesome** programme in Computing Science lessons, which promotes online safety and security. Safer Internet Day comes at the point where they have learned to Be Internet Smart and Be Internet Alert. Further information about the Be Internet Awesome programme can be found overleaf.

Some of the other activities we will be participating in to mark the day include:

- Learning from journalist Jack Goodman at BBC Reality Check
- S1-S3 pupils creating posters. Some of these will feature on our Twitter feed on 9th February.
- Helping to get Safer Internet Day 2021 into the Guinness Book of Records for the most pledges

We will be posting our useful online safety tips throughout the day on Twitter. Please follow us [@CompSciSpeyside](https://twitter.com/CompSciSpeyside).

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, you may be interested in downloading the free Safer Internet Day Education Pack for Parents and Carers which is available at: saferinternet.org.uk/sid-parents.

There are also [top tips](#), a [quiz](#) and [films](#) which you can use at home with your young person. Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet](#)
- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Guides on popular apps and games from [NetAware](#)
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media](#)
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters](#)
- Information and reporting of online grooming or abuse from [CEOP](#)

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we're committed to teaching our young people about.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's guidance teacher.

Kind regards,

James Bisset, Teacher of Computing Science



S1 Computing Science - Be Internet Awesome

When children are young, we do our best to help them get the most out of the Internet while protecting them from the risks and downsides of the online world.

As children mature into teenagers, our role shifts to helping them learn to make their own safe and thoughtful decisions as they navigate their digital lives.

At Speyside High School, we believe in partnering with parents and carers and preparing our young people to:

- Think critically and evaluate websites, email, and other content online.
- Protect themselves from online threats, including bullying and scams.
- Get smart about sharing: what, when, how, and with whom.
- Be kind and respectful toward other people online, including respecting their privacy.
- Ask for help with tricky situations from a parent or other trusted adult.

This term, our S1 pupils have been working in Computing Science lessons on *Be Internet Awesome*, a multifaceted program designed to teach young people the skills they need to be safe and smart online. Further information about this is provided below.

One of the resources in the programme, Interland, is a browser-based game that makes learning these skills interactive and fun – just like the Internet itself. Developed by Google in partnership with educators, researchers, and online-safety experts at The Net Safety Collaborative and iKeepSafe.org, Be Internet Awesome provides fun, age-appropriate learning experiences built around five foundational lessons:

- Share with Care
- Don't Fall for Fake
- Secure Your Secrets
- It's Cool to Be Kind
- When in Doubt, Talk It Out

Smart, safe technology usage can enable young people to help drive their own learning and help our school function better. We believe the Be Internet Awesome program will mark an important step toward our goal of ensuring that all our young people at Speyside High School are learning, exploring, and staying safe online, both inside and outside the school walls.

We invite you to check out the resources for families that are available at [g.co/BeInternetAwesome](https://www.google.com/BeInternetAwesome). We encourage you to ask your young person about what activities they are participating in and continue the conversation at home – and who knows, you just might pick up a few privacy and security tricks yourself!

Yours sincerely

James Bisset
Teacher of Computing Science

