

1 February 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

**Safer Internet Day 2016** will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 9 February with the slogan 'Play your part for a better internet'.

Coordinated in the UK by the **UK Safer Internet Centre** the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

In school, we will be holding assemblies and discussion points during lessons to support the work of Safer Internet Day. We would like to encourage parents and carers to support our aims by discussing with their children how best to maintain a positive and respectful presence online. At Hampton College, we are very proud of the way that students uphold the Vision and Values of the College both within the school and in public forums; some sites do not support our community ethos and we hope that students will not create or 'follow' them.

The online safety landscape has evolved over recent years from a focus on creating a 'safer' internet to creating a 'better' internet. Whether we are children and young people, parents and carers, educators or social care workers, or indeed industry, decision makers or politicians, we all have a role to play:

**Children and young people** can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others) and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online. They can help to respond to the negative by being 'helpful bystanders': supporting peers if they encounter issues online, taking a stand against cyberbullying and reporting any inappropriate or illegal content they find. Above all, children and young people should be encouraged to take their stand as digital citizens of the future - participating in debates on the future of the internet and making their voices heard.

**Parents and carers** can help to create a better internet by maintaining an open and honest dialogue with their children about their online lives, by supporting them with their personal development online and helping them to deal with any concerns or issues, seeking out positive opportunities to engage with their children online and helping their children to find and use good quality digital resources. They can help to respond to the negative by staying engaged with their child's online activity (as appropriate to their age), by modelling positive online behaviours themselves and by also reporting any inappropriate or illegal content they find.

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Educators and social care workers can help to create a better internet by equipping children and young people with the digital literacy skills they require for today's world and giving them opportunities to use - and create - positive content online. They can help to respond to the negative by supporting young people if they encounter problems online and by giving them the resilience, confidence and skills that young people need to navigate the internet safely.

We hope that you will join with us and Safer Internet Day supporters across the globe, on Tuesday 9 February 2016 - and beyond - to play your part in helping to create a better internet!

Find out more about what is happening in the UK on Safer Internet Day at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day).

Join the conversation #SID2016.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Armour  
Assistant Headteacher

