

# Digital Guardians

## Update

Digital Guardians are a group of students who promote how to stay safe online, throughout school and the wider community.

The Digital Guardians have received CEOP training around the risk of social media and the internet, as well as practical advice that they can give to friends and peers about how to stay safe. They are supported by the Student Support Co-ordinators, Miss Louden and Mr Whitfield, the ICT Manager, Mr Ford, and the Head of Business & ICT, Mrs Lindop.

## What have we been up to?

### 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

On 11<sup>th</sup> June, all of the Digital Guardians met with Mr Ford, Mrs Lindop and Miss Louden, to discuss the 'IT Acceptable Usage Policy'. This is a document which every pupil signs when they join HHS about the use of IT equipment within school.

This is the first time ever that students have been asked for their input on writing a policy for the school, and they came up with some fantastic feedback which will be incorporated when the policy is updated.

### 5th June 2015

We were invited to participate in the first Young Persons Conference which was held at the Police HQ in Winsford, and was hosted by the Safeguarding Children in Education (SCiE) team and the Safer Schools Partnership.

We had been allocated the topic of 'Sexting' – which has become surprisingly common amongst young people. The Digital Guardians wanted to show that sexting happened between friends, as well as young people being approached by strangers online. They worked really hard and came up with a drama scene which showed how sexting can affect them, and how they would want to be supported if it ever happened to them.

There were lots of other schools and professionals attending the conference. The Digital Guardians performed in front of everybody, received fantastic feedback from professionals who attended, and even featured on Cheshire Police's Twitter feed!

“I was lucky enough to represent the Virtual School at the Children’s Conference last Friday and I just wanted you to know that the students from your school were fantastic. They did an excellent presentation to a mixed audience which was both factual and informative and then they dealt with some very challenging questions which they gave thought to and answered maturely. They also showed respect to the other young people presenting and asked age appropriate questions. It was agreed by all who attended that we should consider using young people in future training for staff, parents and other young people across different settings. Young people get so much bad press these days it is lovely to be able to feedback such positive news. Please pass on to the young people how well they did and what a positive impact they made.”



Jess M, Tara J, Olivia B and Seb L, with Miss Louden and Mr Whitfield at the Young Persons Conference

The Digital Guardians were then brave enough to deliver the presentation the following week to each year’s assembly, and showcase the fantastic work they have been doing.