

27 April 2011

Dear Parents

CEOP's Event – Wednesday 11 May

I am delighted to be able to invite you to a unique opportunity to hear from one of world's authorities on children's safety on the internet, Helen King. Helen is a former pupil and is currently Head of Education at Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre and features regularly in the press and on television.

Helen has worked extensively in child protection and the internet safety arena both in the UK and the developing world. With a background in teaching and youth work she joined Childnet International in 2003 to manage their education and outreach programmes before being seconded to the National Crime Squad in 2005. Here, she led on developing an Education programme for the Virtual Global Taskforce and the creation of CEOP's ThinkUknow agenda.

Helen now heads up CEOP's Children and Young People's department, creating new and award winning programmes for young people, parents, educators and professionals using intelligence from national and international cases.

The recent survey of the PGS community raised both a growing awareness of the need to monitor and educate young people but also that many parents feel that they lack sufficient knowledge and experience to support their own children. The survey has produced some statistics which we hope will be of interest:

- 89% of parents who responded have spoken to their children about how to use the internet safely but only 67% of pupils claim to have discussed the matter with their parents.
- 67% of pupils feel that their parents take an interest and have some monitoring of how they use the internet. 50% of pupils however use mobile devices to access the internet outside of school and home.
- 99.6% of families have access to the internet at home. 48% of pupils claim to spend more than an hour every day on the internet.
- Just over 50% of parents who responded have a Facebook page and 64% of these are friends with their children so have some access to their profile. 97% of pupils who answered have a Facebook page.
- 62% of pupils with Facebook have more than 250 friends with access to their profile. Only 2% of parents have more than 250 friends.
- 550 pupils admitted to posting images of themselves online and 262 have posted videos.

The growing use of mobile devices coupled with the flourishing use of social networking is both exciting but also poses some challenges for parents in educating and protecting their

children. I hope that the evening will help equip you with practical advice and knowledge and also provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have.

We have a limited number of spaces and would therefore ask that should you wish to attend you email reception (receptionist@pgs.org.uk) by 5 May 2011.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SL' with a flourish underneath.

Simon Lockyer
Second Master