IT/Computing Department Newsletter Dec 2020

First Edition - Read all about it

Welcome to the first edition of our Department Newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this edition, we have included all the highlights of our first term. We hope to showcase some of the work that the students in the various year groups have been busy working towards. Students have also been able to contribute to the development of this Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we have enjoyed putting this together.

Warm welcome to Miss Fox who joins us this year, we are very lucky to have Miss Fox in the school, and she has certainly made a fantastic start to this school year.

Year 7

In this section of the Newsletter we want to share with you what the Year 7's have been up to since arriving at Challney Girls. We wanted to make sure that right from the first lesson our students would enjoy their experience in the classroom. We take digital awareness and safety very seriously.

You will not be surprised that our first topic was the **Digital World**. Students spent the first term learning about some of the dangers of online activity and how to stay safe, cybersecurity where they looked at code breaking and using a Cipher Wheel to Crack codes. Then onto the four areas of Computational thinking which are at the heart of the computing curriculum. We want to make sure that all our students understand how these four strands help to develop their ability to understand problems and create solutions.

Feedback from students so far has been very positive. They are enjoying their lessons and developing much-needed skills for their future.

Student feedback

Maryam

" We do something new and it is really different from all the other lessons"

Humayrah

"I love my computing lessons we learn something new all the time, it's fun and creative."

Work to date..

The year started off with us looking at how to stay safe online, how computers work, and how hardware and software make it all happen.

We really enjoyed all the lessons as we learn so many new things and use so many different applications to make our learning enjoyable. We also get plenty of homework to keep us busy even when we are not in school.

Year 8

In this section of the newsletter, we will focus on Year 8 and look at what they have been up to. Again we wanted to make sure that the students would be able to settle back into their work after their long absence from school. During lockdown, many of the students were working very hard from home completing a range of activities and tasks that were made available to aid their on-line learning and career development.

EDT Industrial Cadet Challenge

Two of our students who have successfully completed the EDT Industrial Cadet Challenge. Well done to Nuha Nilam and Alesha Choudhury for all their efforts in completing the industrial cadet challenge.

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EDT Stem Challenge

We have been very fortunate due to our on-going support work with the EDT to have been selected to trial their Stem Challenge, two forms in Year 8 have been given the opportunity to participate in this STEM CHALLENGE. The students from each of the participating classes will then nominate a winning team whose presentation will be sent to EDT for judging.
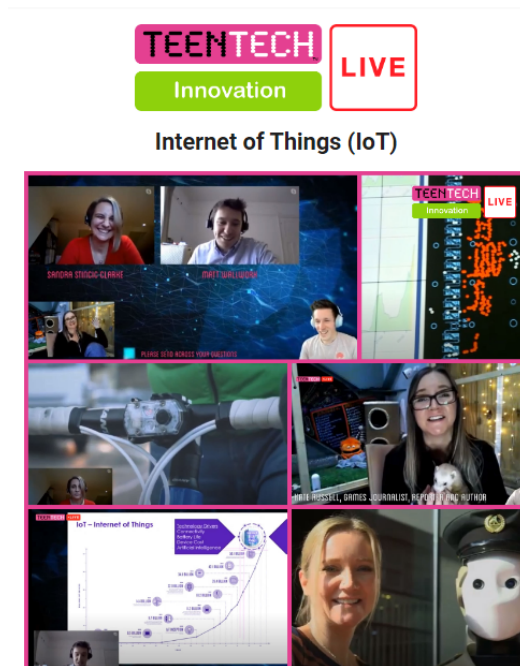

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Teen Tech Live Sessions

We have signed up for a number of TeenTech sessions, these give our students a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into the way in which Technology affects us, as well as being able to meet with individuals from a range of industries and ask them questions based on the information.

Each session includes a challenge for the students to complete, we have had some very creative responses to the challenge and fantastic questions

posed to the panel. Again a brilliant opportunity for the students to become involved with and gain vital careers information.

Year 8 have settled well into the new school term, we have made some adjustments to the curriculum to ensure a smooth transition into the new school year. Students started the year by looking at aspects of our digital world topic and moving swiftly to our next topic which is computer hardware.

All the resources are accessed via Google Classroom making this easier for the students to locate all their work. If you would like to see how this works please ask your daughter for a tour of their classroom.

Diamond Shares her thoughts...

In lessons, the teacher asks us questions regularly and I like the freedom we have in lessons to do our own research instead of there being limitations to our learning. My peers and I enjoy the lessons when we are working in teams or individually without too much support from the teachers although the teachers do assist us when we find the tasks difficult. One of the most helpful parts of computing that you don't find consistently in other lessons is how many different ways we can present what we learn e.g. Google slides, Google docs, Word, posters, etc. I enjoyed it when we wrote what we learned from Google on the whiteboards around the room because I found out a lot of different information from my classmates.

Over the course of a year, I would like to expand my knowledge by educating myself on more advanced techniques of computing. I would also like to learn how to do simple things of higher quality (like creating a website that functions smoothly and has extra features). Every lesson I learn something new and computing is an intriguing and vast topic to learn about especially in an encouraging learning environment.

Year 9

Year 9 have made a very good start to the year, they have settled into the new way of learning really well and have been very quick to get into the lessons and complete the work we have prepared for each lesson.

They started the term by developing their understanding of computer hardware and networks. We have been able to incorporate a TeenTech event to increase their understanding of cybercrime all made possible through the increased use of networks.

We have also been able to include 2 of our Year 9 forms into the EDT trial. This has been a very busy term.
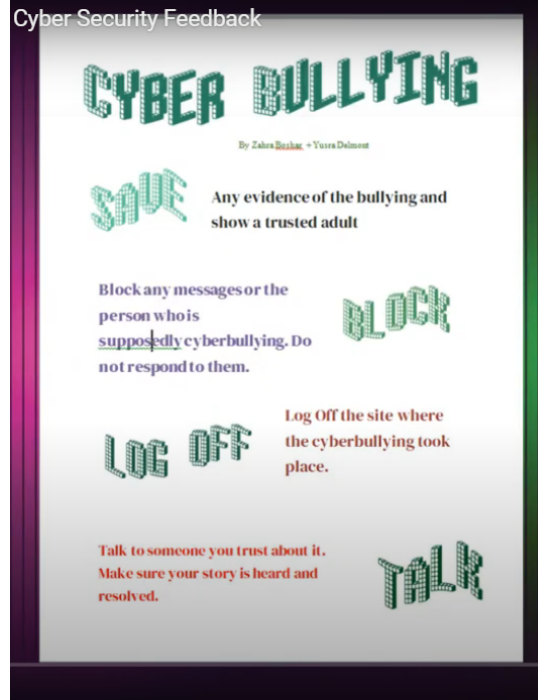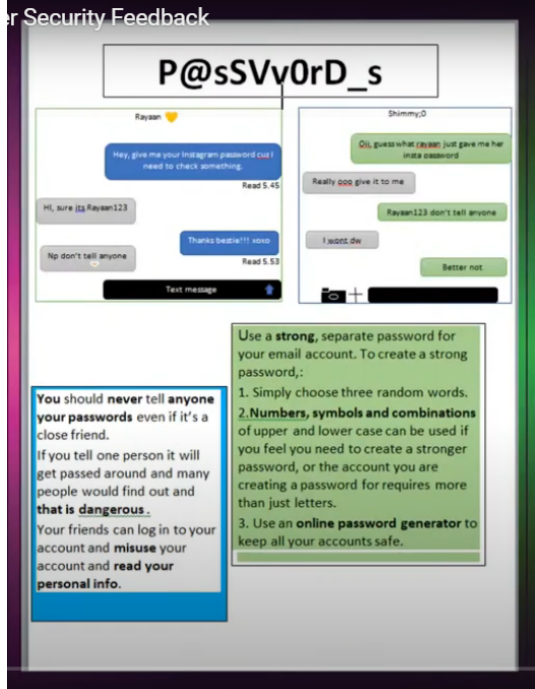
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Teen Tech Live Sessions

We kicked off **TeenTech Live** this morning with an Innovation session on Cyber Security with industry experts, Dr Jessica Barker and FC (Cygenta) and Claire Vandenbroecke (Northumbria Police), with live questions coming in from schools and students at home!

Each session includes a challenge for the students to complete, we have had some very creative responses to the challenge and fantastic questions posed to the panel. Again a brilliant opportunity for the students to become involved with and gain vital career information.

Congratulations to TeenTech Challenge Winners

Well done to Sidra Mohammad in 9I for this winning entry. The presentation was praised for its creativity and innovative style in encouraging people to ensure their passwords are secure.

Well done to Zahra Boshar and Yusra Delmont both in 9T for their winning entry which was featured in the TeenTech Cyber Security review session. The panel loved their ideas and creative presentation when putting forward a very important message.

All students with winning enteries have been sent a copy of the video to share with friends and family.

EDT Stem Challenge

We have been very fortunate due to our on-going support work with the EDT to have been selected to trial their Stem Challenge, some of the students in Year 9 have been given the opportunity to participate in this STEM CHALLENGE.

The winning entry was made by Aalia Yaqub, Harum Ehsan, Amna Zafar, Hagra Tasadduq and Ayesha Khan in 9A.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, we would like to wish all our families and students a safe and happy holiday.

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