Press Release

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BCS launches e-safety animation competition for schools with Animation14

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, has joined forces with Animation14, an animation competition for school children run by The University of Manchester, to create the BCS e-safety award as part of the competition.

David Clarke, Group Chief Executive Officer for the Institute says; "We're very excited about this competition and working with Animation 14 to raise awareness among school children about the importance of online safety.

"We all think that because we can use PCs, tablets and smartphones, that we are digitally adept, however, we also need to understand the steps we should take to keep ourselves safe online, whether it is protecting ourselves against cyber- crime or bullying or ensuring our devices are protected against viruses."

The new BCS e-safety Award will see entrants create a one minute animation film where children explain the top tips of how to keep safe online including such advice as:

- Check and use privacy settings on your social media sites
- Keep your personal details safe, don't share them online
- Only accept 'friend' invites from people you know in the real world
- Think before you post; be careful about what you post online, it's very easy to post something you will regret later and it can be difficult to remove it

- Talk to your parents or teachers if you see something that upsets you; they can help you block it or remove it
- Don't reply to any bullying messages, keep the messages and show your parents or teachers
- Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- Be careful and treat others as you would like to be treated
- If you wouldn't say it or do it in the real world, then don't do it online
- Don't reply to spam texts, emails or messages
- Be careful if you're downloading music, films or images to avoid breaking copyright or downloading viruses

Now in its seventh year, Animation14 is the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition. It aims to enthuse schoolchildren about computer science, and to use computers creatively. The competition is free to enter and is open to students aged 7-19 at UK schools and colleges. The competition winners will be announced at a summer Animation Festival and Inspirational Computer Science Day, held at The University of Manchester on 11 July 2014.

Toby Howard, Chair, Animation14, Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Computer Science at The University of Manchester says: "We're very pleased to be working with BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT to award entries on the theme of e-safety with the special BCS e-Safety Award."

Kate Russell, journalist, broadcaster and author of 'Working the Cloud' says: "This is a fantastic all round project that brings together programming and animation skills so children can get hands with a creative project learning them. But more than that the message they will be spreading, how to stay safe online, has to be one of the most important messages of our time and there can be no better way for children to learn this than from each other."

More information about Animation 14, including details on how to enter can be found at:
http://animation14.cs.manchester.ac.uk/#

ENDS

Editors

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Our vision is to be a world-class organisation for IT. Our 70,000 strong membership includes practitioners, businesses, academics and students in the UK and internationally. We deliver a range of professional development tools for practitioners and employees. A leading IT qualification body, we offer a range of widely recognised qualifications.