



**DIGITAL BIRMINGHAM**  
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**DIGITAL BIRMINGHAM HELPS BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS GET ONLINE FOR SAFER INTERNET DAY**

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Birmingham schools will be finding out all about staying safe online on international Safer Internet Day, Tuesday February 10th.

Excitingly, spearheading the events will be a talk to secondary age students by Microsoft's chief security advisor Ed Gibson.

Mr Gibson will be outlining the ways in which youngsters can use the internet in a safe, secure yet enjoyable way during a talk organised by Digital Birmingham at Sheldon Heath Community Arts College.

The emphasis will be firmly on promoting the internet as a fantastic educational tool but also on drilling in the need to be streetwise whilst surfing.

The talk will be filmed and then will be available for other schools to access at [www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk/sid](http://www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk/sid) .

Social networking sites and the dangers of talking to strangers online will be amongst the issues discussed. Mr Gibson, who prior to joining Microsoft worked in law enforcement including 20 years with the FBI, will be quizzed by the children during a question and answer session.

In other events taking place across the city, children at St John Wall Catholic School in Handsworth will be given to chance to turn reporter and question their fellow pupils about their views on internet safety. During the sessions they will be kitted out with video cameras in order to film the interviews.

Additionally, Digital Birmingham will be using Safer Internet day as a platform on which to launch its Digital Schools blog - a forum through which pupils can share their digital experiences. The blog can be found at <http://besafeindigitalbirmingham.edublogs.org/>.

Birmingham City deputy leader Paul Tilsley, who heads up the Digital Birmingham Partnership, said:

"For today's schoolchildren, the Internet is probably the most important digital technology of all - it's vital for their schoolwork, homework and, increasingly, their social life. Digital Birmingham is committed to ensuring that Birmingham citizens of all ages can make the most of the digital world and, most

importantly, that they stay safe and secure whilst doing so.

"Safer Internet Day is a great time to highlight the benefits of communicating online and for giving children and adults invaluable information to ensure they don't fall prey to any online dangers."

For more information about Safer Internet day, visit: [www.saferinternet.org](http://www.saferinternet.org). or

[www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk/sid](http://www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk/sid)

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Caption: Microsoft's chief security adviser Ed Gibson, who will be spearheading Digital Birmingham's Safer Internet Day activities with an exciting talk at Shenley Heath Community Arts College on Tuesday.

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Notes to editors:

Digital Birmingham is a strategic partnership of private, voluntary and public organisations that aims to establish Birmingham as a leading European digital city by 2010 and to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all in the city. It is a Birmingham City Council initiative that is being delivered by Service Birmingham. For more information visit: [www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk).

Service Birmingham is a strategic partnership between Birmingham City Council and Capita which will support a transformation in the way the council works; improving services and contributing to its efficiency agenda. The council intends to achieve efficiency savings worth £1.5 billion by 2016. This strategic partnership forms part of the council's objective to find better and more innovative ways of delivering services for the benefit of employees and citizens. The principle of this joint venture focuses on the provision of cost effective, sector leading, ICT services and in supporting the council in achieving its business transformation objectives.