

Blackout Assembly Pack

This assembly pack contains a series of five assemblies designed for secondary school students. It is a flexible resource, primarily aimed at KS3 pupils, with optional slides included to introduce more complex concepts if desired.

Schools can use and adapt these assemblies in whatever way best suits their needs. The pack covers the following topics: AI - What It Is and How to Use It Responsibly; Healthy and Respectful Relationships Online; Tech Basics - Understanding the Digital World; How to Have a Positive Experience Online; and Digital Footprints.

Below is a short summary of each of the five assemblies to help staff better understand the content of each session and decide when it may be most appropriate to deliver them.

AI - What Is It and How to Use It Responsibly

Summary

This assembly introduces students to artificial intelligence (AI) and explores how it is already part of everyday life. Students are encouraged to reflect on where they may already encounter AI, including streaming recommendations, social media feeds, smart home devices, online shopping suggestions and chatbot tools. Students learn that AI works by recognising patterns in large amounts of data to generate responses, suggestions or predictions, and must be used responsibly and respectfully.

Objectives

By the end of the assembly, students should:

- Understand what artificial intelligence is in simple terms.
- Recognise where AI is used in everyday digital platforms.
- Understand that AI can support learning but should not replace independent thinking.
- Recognise that AI responses may not always be accurate or unbiased.
- Know the importance of not sharing personal information with AI tools.
- Understand the importance of human skills such as communication, empathy and critical thinking in an AI-supported world.

When This Assembly May Be Most Useful

- When introducing students to AI and emerging technologies
- During digital literacy or computing-themed activities
- When discussing responsible use of AI for schoolwork

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Healthy and Respectful Relationships Online

Summary

This assembly explores what healthy behaviour in online relationships looks like and how students can stay safe when communicating in digital spaces. Students learn that healthy online relationships should be respectful, honest, supportive, and free from pressure. Students are also introduced to warning signs of unhealthy online behaviour.

Objectives

By the end of the assembly, students should:

- Understand the key features of healthy and respectful online relationships.
- Be able to identify warning signs of unhealthy or unsafe online behaviour.
- Recognise the importance of respecting boundaries in digital communication.
- Understand how to respond if they feel uncomfortable or pressured online.
- Know that they should report concerns or speak to a trusted adult.

When This Assembly May Be Most Useful

- As part of PSHE or Relationships Education
- When discussing online safety or digital communication
- Following concerns about online behaviour among students

Tech Basics – Understanding the Digital World

Summary

This assembly helps students understand some of the basic technologies behind the apps and websites they use every day, including algorithms, cookies and app permissions. Students learn how these systems influence what they see online and how their data may be used by digital platforms.

Objectives

By the end of the assembly, students should:

- Understand what algorithms are and how they shape online content feeds.
- Know what cookies are and how websites use them to remember information.
- Understand what app permissions are and what access they allow.
- Recognise the importance of pausing and reading before accepting permissions or cookies.
- Develop greater awareness of how their data may be used online.

When This Assembly May Be Most Useful

- During digital literacy or computing lessons
- When discussing data privacy and online platforms
- As a foundation for wider online safety education

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How to Have a Positive Experience Online

Summary

This assembly encourages students to reflect on how their online habits affect their wellbeing and how they can take control of their digital spaces. Students explore both the benefits and challenges of being online, recognising that while the internet supports learning, creativity and connection, use can sometimes negatively affect wellbeing.

Objectives

By the end of the assembly, students should:

- Recognise both the positive and negative impacts of spending time online.
- Identify signs that their online use may be becoming unhelpful.
- Reflect on how online content can affect mood, confidence and sleep.
- Understand practical ways to create a healthier and more positive online experience.
- Feel empowered to take control of their digital habits.

When This Assembly May Be Most Useful

- During wellbeing or mental health awareness activities
- As part of PSHE or tutor time discussions
- When discussing healthy screen use and digital balance

Digital Footprint

Summary

This assembly introduces students to the concept of a digital footprint and how their online activity can shape their reputation and future opportunities. Students learn that a digital footprint is the record of everything someone does online, including posts, comments, photos and messages.

Objectives

By the end of the assembly, students should:

- Understand what a digital footprint is and recognise that it remain visible even if content is deleted.
- Understand how online behaviour may affect future opportunities.
- Identify ways to build a positive digital reputation online.
- Develop the habit of thinking carefully before posting online.

When This Assembly May Be Most Useful

- When discussing online responsibility and reputation
- As part of careers or future pathways education
- During online safety or digital citizenship lessons