

Seminar:

Media Awareness (presented by BAPS Care with financial assistance by Brent Council)

Location: YOGI Hall (Swaminarayan School)

Date: 29th November 2008

Time: 5:30pm to 7pm

Attendees:

Seminar was open to all ages, ideally suited to public who are users of technology. However parents who have had minimal exposure to PC's / internet were also catered for.

A full register was undertaken off attendees prior to starting the seminar.

Refreshments were provided to attendees at the start and at the end of the seminar.

The compare for the seminar was Alpesh Patel, who started by welcoming all attendees to the Yogi Hall. He briefly explained the need for awareness that we all have to undertake in today's world, where technology is all pervasive, before introducing the main speaker for the evening.

The main speaker explained the need for active participation throughout, by the audience.

The seminar commenced with the explanation of Media, which included Personal Computers (PC's), Internet, Email and Mobile Phones. An outline of positives & negatives for each of these technologies was covered.

PC - covered; the main components of the PC, the history of their development; the major points of awareness, to protect themselves from infection of 'viruses', 'malware/spyware' etc.

Internet - covered the types of Internet browsers that are available, with suggestions as to benefits of using different one to IE. Then, a brief explanation of the concept of Social Networking Sites, followed by run down of the history of this subject. Next the main security issues of these sites were shown, with particular emphasis on individual information processing.

During this stage of the presentation, CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) organisation was introduced and its objectives and the need for creation explained. A CEOP video further emphasised need for awareness about online protection for both parents and children. (Note: CEOP both approved and provided the material used this presentation). Posters about this organisation were also displayed on the walls of the venue.

Email – spam, phishing, rules, virus control – these terms were explained, with particular emphasis on points of importance.

Mobile Phones – explanation of the advances in mobile technology were shown, followed by a discussion on the main disadvantages with mobiles phones.

Finally, a summary of the items covered, and a list of the main steps that the attendees should be aware of for their protection, when using today's technology. This was followed by a Q&A session. All attendees were provided with leaflets about CEOP and agreement to email the full presentation.

Written by: Rohit Patel.

NOTE: This seminar will be followed by 3 further interactive, hands-on workshops during January and February 2009.