

Parent Bulletin—February 2023

Message from Mrs Carr—Headteacher

Thank you to all students and their families for a great half term. It has been a real privilege to be around school seeing the hard work and dedication of the students to achieve their best in all areas.



Please join us in congratulating the students with their fantastic attitude and effort. Outside of the classrooms, there have been some amazing and inspiring events this half term too, see below for information on just some of those which have taken place.



We wish you all a nice February half term Break:

Half term—Monday 13th February 2023-Friday 17th February 2023

We look forward to welcoming all students back into school on Monday 20th February 2023.

Brilliant Tutor Programme

96 students across Years 9,10 & 11 attended the Brilliant Tutoring Programme during the Autumn Term. This was an intensive programme - attending sessions in either Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry or Physics - from home via MS Teams, twice weekly for 8 weeks showing great dedication and resilience in order to achieve their very best. Feedback from the PHD tutors was excellent, they praised students for being so engaged during the programme saying they were a credit to the school. A huge well done!

Year 9 Options

Our Year 9 students are about to commence an exciting journey in selecting the options that they wish to take in Year 10. These choices will also support their future next steps when applying for sixth form, college or apprenticeships. We are proud to be able to offer such a wide range of GCSE and vocational subjects for students to choose from.

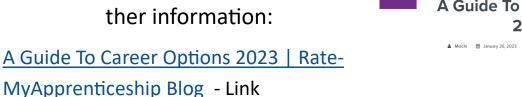
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To give parents more information about the courses, the process and to ask any questions we are holding an Options Information Evening on Thursday 2nd March 5-7pm. Further details will be emailed home shortly.

A Guide To Career Options 2023

Please follow the link below for fur-

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Absences/lates and Appointments during school time

Please be aware, if you need to inform us your child will be Absent, late or they have an appointment please contact the attendance office on (01484 463366— **Option 1**) or email: royds.attendance@sharemat.co.uk

We politely request that medical appointments are arranged out of school hours if at all possible to minimise disruption to the students learning, if this is

unavoidable please remember to:

- Call/email attendance and let them know so we are aware beforehand
- Write a note in your child's planner so that they can show their teacher who will then allow them to leave lesson to sign out—Thank you

<u>Reminder to Year 8 parents</u>—Please complete Locala consent form for the upcoming HPV vaccine. This has been sent via email. Thank you

National School Attendance Award!

We have achieved the national School Attendance award!

A huge thank you to all of our families, without whom we would not have such amazing attendance results! We have won this award through dedication from you all in recognising the utmost importance attending school has. It enables students to access the education they are entitled to and which will help them succeed in life.



A-Z of Mental Health

Positive mental health and wellbeing makes us feel content, peaceful and valued. Use these tips to improve your mental health one letter at a time.



OPTIMUS EDUCATION

Children's Mental Health Week

6th-12th February. Lots of activities and support have been on offer from our Wellbeing Team this week to raise awareness and to provide extra support, ideas and information regarding Children's mental health.



Phone ban—Thank you

Thank you for the messages and feedback we have received in support of the decision to ban the use of mobile phones during the school day.



The decision was made due to a rapid increase in the negative way that phones have been used in school. As of Monday 6th February, 2023, all mobile phones must be switched off before entering the building and must not be turned back on again until 3pm when leaving site. Phones must not be seen at all, even if they are switched off. If a phone is on show/taken out of a bag or pocket etc. it will be confiscated and the parent/carer will be required to collect their child's phone from school. Should your son/daughter need to contact you in an emergency during the school day, they will be allowed to use the school telephone at Student Services during their break or lunchtime. If you need to contact your child/



school in an emergency please call 01484 463366, leaving a voicemail if the lines are busy. You can also contact school by emailing: royds.office@sharemat.co.uk.

The positive impact this has had has been amazing to see. Students have been chatting more, playing cards and other games and getting plenty of fresh air during their social times this week!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

CROSS-PLATFORM SHARING OF INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Creepy characters like Siender Man or Huggy Wuggy. Dangerous online challenges. Songs or videos that aren't suitable for youngsters. When things like these begin trending online, it can be difficult to prevent children accidently stumbling across them — especially if they use a range of platforms, like online games, social media, streaming sites or messaging apps. A trend can originate in one online space and rapidly spread to other platforms or via chat apps. The frightening Huggy Wuggy character, for instance, first emerged as part of a game on Steam; now there are parody songs on TikTok, videos on YouTube and more than 45,000 results for #huggywuggy on Instagram.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNSUITABLE VIDEOS AND IMAGES

Anyone can upload footage to a video-shoring platform, which has resulted in clips that appear age-appropriate but actually aren't so innocent. The audience for Peppa Pig, for instance, is very young but there have been reports of Peppa cartoons with extreme violence spliced into them. Likewise, footage of the razor-toothed game character Huggly Wuggly has been inserted into numerous child-friendly videos (even on YouTube kids), scaring many young

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

on a similar theme, there is always the possibility that user—uplanded video content could include language which really isn't suitable for children. The on-screen imagery may fook child friendly, but if your child is wearing headphones, then you'll remain unaware of what is being said; some videos have featured songs containing explicit language or characters graphically describing violence.

COPIES OF LIVE STREAMS

Social media and messaging apps can inadvertently spread extremely harmful content very quickly. Feetage of vicent attacks (such as the recent sulfale supermarket sheetings) can often be viewed on multiple platforms as people start to share the video. Maderators try to react swiftly to remove upsetting content, but the rate at which it goes viral makes it difficult to prevent the steroof consciently.

ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE

Even if your child doesn't have access to social media platforms or video-streaming platforms (where the majority of issues arise), they might still use messaging apps to communicate with family and friends. There is always going to be a risk, therefore, of them seeing something which isn't child friendly; either shared by one of their seets or sont accidentally by a relative.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE SAFETY FEATURES

Enable safety settings like Google
SafeSearch and the optional restrictions
on video-sharing platforms like YouTube. Whenever possible, stick to YouTube kilds for young children, as the software will help to filter out unsuitable content. Remember that filters aren't always enough to block all inappropriate material – especially when child-friendly videos have been edited maliciously.

AVOID FAN-MADE CONTENT

If your child watches cartoons and shows on YouTube, spend time with them making a playlist of videos that you're comfortable with them watching. Always source videos from official channels, as opposed to fan-made content: you can never be completely confident about material that another user has created or uploaded.

LESS IS BEST

Manage the number of online platforms your child has access to, based on their age and maturity. Just because their friends use a certain game or app, it doesn't mean your child must have it too. Follow the age guidelines for games and apps, and check regularly that privacy settings are in place.

REACT CALMLY

If you hear or see anything unsuitable on your child's device, colmly ask them to turn off the game or video in question. Explain that they haven't done anything wrong, but that you didn't like what you saw or heard and you would much rather they watched or played something else

KEEP IT COMMUNAL

Encourage your child to stay in a communal tamily space when they're watching videos or playing online games on their devices—without headphones. If possible. This will make it far equier for you to keep one eye (and ear) on what they are seeing and hearing while they're online.

SUPPORT AND REASSURE

Remind your child regularly that anyone can post anything online — and that not everything online is real, if your child is sent something that scares or worries them, ask them to show you. Watch it alone (to avoid unnerving them further), then praise them for coming to you and talk about what upset them. Recommend a break from their device to do something which helps them feel calm and happy.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BC yberthwam, who has developed anni-bullying and cyber-nalety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and corried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and secting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.







Nos Online Safety* #WakeUpWednesday

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

Snapchat is a photo- and vide -sharing app which a sola llows users to chat with friends via text or audio Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram



GE RESTRICTION

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

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EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snape daily. Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through spippers of news stories through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear — and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first — users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'sellie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby — such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres — and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it dilows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

#NOFILTER

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list, explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identificable defails like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like Tittok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining cannections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send snaps directly to friends, but Steries are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). If's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the past.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving a sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting—and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annaying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

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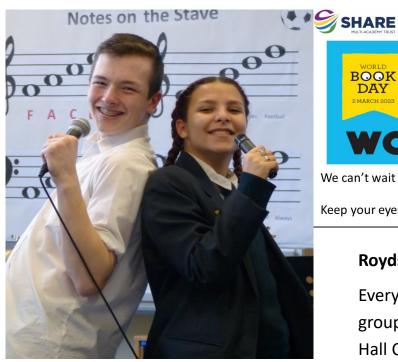
Meet Our Expert

addinic papers and carried out research for the Australian evernment comparing internet use and sesting behaviour of sung people in the UK, USA and Australia





#WakeUpWednesday









Join us on 2 March 2023



VORLD BOOK DAY

We can't wait to celebrate World Book Day this year at Royds Hall!

Keep your eyes open for World Book Day activities coming soon...

Royds Hall Choir—Every Friday

Every Friday students from all year groups are invited to attend the Royds Hall Choir to sing songs from the past and present. The choir is open to all students, those who have experience of singing or students who have never sung before and want to experience the magic of being part of a choir.



Mock Interviews— Year 11

All year 11 students took part in this event which involved them being interviewed by a professional associate of the school who had kindly volunteered their services for the day. All the volunteers were very committed to supporting our students to be the very best they can, in preparation for their interviews for colleges. Well done everyone.

