

parent/carers News Bulletin

Friday 20 October 2023

Principal's Blog

Dear Parents and Carers,

We approach the end of the first term and it has certainly been successful in many ways. The Guilsborough Way is our passion as we believe it enables our students to be their best and most successful selves. Our drive to tidy up uniform has been fantastic and it is great to say that nearly all students have nailed it. We ask that parents/carers support our raising standards by using half term to rectify any issues.

We are developing a real community spirit in the Academy and it is important that all students feel part of that. We continue to urge students to report any concerns regarding inappropriate language, "banter" or the conduct of others. All of our students deserve the right to feel safe and comfortable at school. If it is reported, we will deal with it - see it, say it, sort it.

Wishing you an enjoyable half term.

Mr C Hancock
Vice Principal
Raising Standards – Quality of Education

Dates to Remember:

- 31 October** Engineering Club (Group 1) trip
Cummins Engineering
- 2 November** Sixth Form Open Evening
6-8pm
- 3 November** Sixth Form Applications Open
- 6 November** SEND Parent Forum
- 7 November** NEC Birmingham Year 12 & 13
- 8 November** Graduate Apprenticeship
Engineering Show - Derby Arena
Year 12
- 15 November** Year 12/13 Media trip to Media
City Manchester
- 16 November** Festo Engineering trip

Extra Curricular

View our Extra Curricular Timetable [HERE](#)



I Think You Should Know

Itthinkyoushouldknow@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

This email address has been established to encourage students to report incidents and issues they may feel uncomfortable raising face-to-face. The emails are only accessed by Mr Woolridge who then liaises with key staff to take appropriate action to address the concerns raised.

We offer parent/carer
counselling.

For further information
please email Mrs Rowinski
drowinski@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk



Assemblies - Term 1

- 30 October** Attendance
- 06 November** Remembrance
- 13 November** Anti-Bullying Week

Reports / Assessments / Exams

- w/c 30/10** Year 9 Reports out
- w/c 6/11** Year 12 Reports out
- w/c 13/11** BTEC PSA Year 10&11
- w/c 20/11** Year 11 Assessment PPEs



Rewards and Behaviour Update

The slide below shows the components of 'EMPOWERED' and how it celebrates students' individual successes, as well as our collective community ethos.

The graphic features the text 'EMPOWERED ME' in large, bold letters. 'EMPOWERED' is in blue and 'ME' is in white on a blue shield. Surrounding the text are various phrases: 'Students, staff and parents/carers' at the top left, 'What does it mean?' at the top center, 'Us together as Guilsborough Academy' at the top left, 'Ambition' at the top right, 'Capable' at the middle right, 'Who do you want to be?' at the middle left, 'You' at the middle left, 'Working together' at the middle right, 'Confidence' at the bottom left, 'Strength' at the bottom center, and 'Your best self' at the bottom right. A vertical banner on the left says 'Learning Without Limits'.

The assemblies introduced the thresholds required to meet our new awards:

1. Form Tutor – 250 points
2. Assistant Head of Year – 500 points
3. Head of Year – 750 points
4. Senior Leadership Team – 1,000 points
5. Vice Principal – 1,250 points
6. Principal – 1,500 points

REWARDS

We've launched our new rewards system 'EMPOWERED' in the first celebration assemblies of the year.



We were thrilled to have awarded our first Form Tutor and Assistant Head of Year rewards and extremely proud that 68% of our Year 7 cohort and 32% of our Year 8 cohort have already achieved their Form Tutor award. These students were entered into a prize draw and won Amazon and WHSmith vouchers, as well as our sought after 'jump the queue' cards and sweet treats from our canteen.

As the year progresses, points mean prizes and students will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win an iPad mini. There are also many smaller prizes to be won such as entertainment vouchers for bowling, cinema and restaurants.

Congratulations

A big congratulations to all of our students who were nominated as a 'Student of the Term' for fulfilling the Academy's RARE values, achieved 100% attendance or have amassed an impressive amount of positive points already this year.

The Guilsborough Way

As a reminder, we have 4 key expectations that we call 'The Guilsborough Way' and these are:

1. Attend all lessons on time
2. Wear the correct uniform
3. Have the correct equipment
4. Use appropriate language

Uniform

By accepting a place at Guilsborough Academy, parents are committing the student to wear the agreed uniform.

All students must wear the academy blazer and tie, and a white shirt with either tailored trousers or a pleated knee length skirt. Students may wear a plain black V-neck jumper as well as, not instead of, an Academy blazer.

The following are not acceptable forms of footwear:

- Boots (in severe weather these can be worn to and from school and when outside)
- Plimsolls, canvas shoes, sliders, sandals or flip-flops. This is due to Health and safety reasons surrounding the lack of protection that these and similar canvas shoes give the foot.
- Trainers and branded sports wear (eg Nike, Adidas, Puma or Converse wording or logo imprints, stitched detailed or labelled on the tongue of the shoe). Nike Air Force 1 are not considered school shoes by the Academy.

The only jewellery and piercings we allow is one pair of sleepers or studs in each ear. Face piercings, ear spacers, nose studs, lip or tongue piercings are not allowed. Fake nails are also not allowed.

We expect all our students to attend lessons with the equipment they require for learning, and we will challenge them when this is not the case.



A full list of the necessary equipment is listed here:

- Black pens (x2)
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler (preferably 30cm)
- Reading book for years 7-9
- Calculator (the academy recommends a Scientific Calculator (Casio fx-83GTX))

I am fundraising for BBC Children in Need, and I'd really appreciate your support.

I'm doing 1000 Burpees over thirty days - try it, they're not easy!

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to BBC Children in Need, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to their [JustGiving page](#) by clicking [HERE](#)

JustGiving sends your donation straight to BBC Children in Need and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support!

Stephen Flanagan



SEND DEPARTMENT PARENT FORUM



You have been invited to our first SEND Parent Forums of the year. We will discuss the whole school SEND Provision and focus on the support provided to all SEND Students.

To express your interest in the first forum that will be taking place on **Monday 6th November at 17.00pm** please send your name, your child's name/tutor group and your email to the following email address:

SENDAdministrator@guilbsborough.northants.sch.uk

Please send this information **before**

Thursday 2nd November 2023

If you have any questions regarding this forum, please use the email above.

Thank you

Guilbsborough Academy SEND

Department.



Guest Speaker

WEST NORTHANTS
SEND INFORMATION
ADVICE SUPPORT
SERVICE (IASS)

YMCA Trinity Group Webinar: What is your child telling you?

Please join us on the 1 November 2023 at 7pm to attend this free webinar for all professionals and parents.

When: Nov 1, 2023 19:00 – 20:00

Q & A – 20:00 – 20:30

Topic: What is your child telling you? -
Seeing beyond the behaviour

Register [HERE](#) in advance for this webinar



If you have any questions get in touch by emailing us at mentalhealthtraining@ymcatrinity.org.uk

Visit our [training calendar](#) for all other workshops and full day courses.

Year 10 Holocaust Assembly

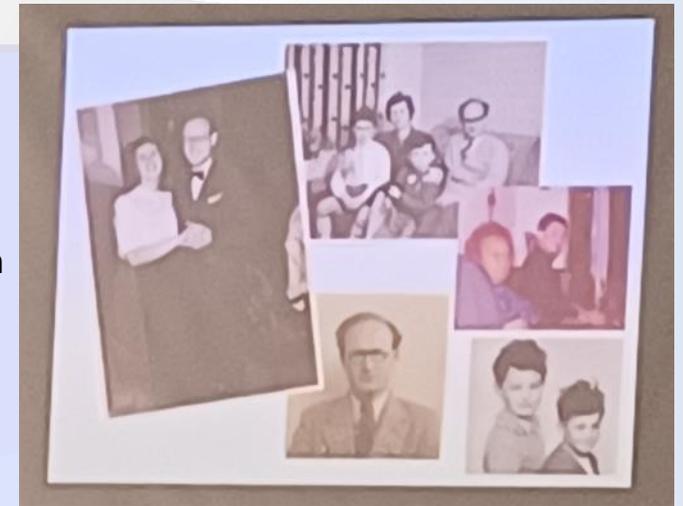
On Thursday afternoon, the son and daughter-in-law of a Holocaust survivor came in to speak to Year 10 about the experiences of their mother, Kitty Hart-Moxon, in Auschwitz during World War 2. They spoke to us about when it all started when she was just 13 to when she was in the concentration camp at 16 to present day.

Kitty lived in Poland with her family at the outbreak of the War and were trying to hide from the Nazis for 4 years until 1943 when Kitty and her mother were found and sent to Auschwitz.

We found it interesting when they showed us the videos of her returning to the Camp in 1978 as we heard her speak about her experience personally. Also, we learnt about the jobs and conditions of the prisoners including Kitty's job working in [The Canada](#). This was where she had to sort through belongings and clothing items of people in the gas chambers that then got sent back to citizens in Germany. Kitty and the other workers got told what they needed to find and wear that day by one of the officers, but they also tried to smuggle jewellery and clothes to sell in exchange for explosives from the officers.

It was shocking to hear about the conditions of the toilets and the sleeping situations, but the assembly was a very educational experience for all the students.

**Autumn Baker,
Emily Britton and
Eliana King**



Year 13 Art Trip to London

On the 28 September, Year 13 Art and Photography students went to London to visit the National Gallery and the Tate Modern to help support their course-work.

We visited the National Gallery first which is the centre of visual art, education and culture. In this gallery we saw 'A lady in a garden having a coffee with children' by Nicolas Lancret. This really made me appreciate the detail, time and effort put into the paintings. This gallery also houses Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers, which was really interesting to see.

We were then given time along the Strand to explore the shops and stop somewhere for lunch and take time to reflect what we did in the National Gallery and think about what we want to get out of visiting the Tate Modern.

After that we visited the Tate Modern which is a more modern art museum, and it houses the United Kingdom's national collection of international modern and contemporary art. This gave us an insight to a completely different style of art and how to present art in a more dramatic way creating meaning about each piece of art.

Overall, this trip helped us to gain ideas to contribute to our A-level personal investigations and related studies.

By Sophie Jennings



Tips For Wellness:

CONNECTING

Making a connection with other people can feel AMAZING! Connecting with others makes you feel like you belong, you are important and you are valued. Feeling a sense of belonging helps raise your self-esteem and is linked with increased mental health and wellbeing.

You can connect with people in lots of different ways. Try and connect with someone every day by using the tips below!

Our tips for connecting:

- 1- Encourage others to join in with you at break time. If you see someone without a friend on the playground, ask them to join in with your game, or invite them into your conversation. You might even make a new friend!
- 2- Give positive feedback to someone (e.g., say thank you when someone holds the door open for you or does something nice for you).
- 3- Ask your parent/carer to help you contact a family member or friend. Remember you can connect virtually if they live far away (e.g., video chat or phone call).
- 4- Try switching off the TV or phone for a short time while you're with your family or friends. This will help to strengthen your connections without distractions!
- 5- You could also bake something delicious to share with others (e.g., family, neighbours, or friends).

#ThanksKids recognises the efforts and kindness of children and young people, and thanks them with personalised #NHSStars certificates. If you know a child or young person that deserves recognition for going above and beyond, don't wait, nominate!

thankskids@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays. Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

Undergraduate Visit

On Friday 29 September our Year 13 History class was lucky to have a visit from alumna Rachel Baker in order to help us with our A-Level History Coursework. She provided us with useful tips and advice on how to tackle the workload as well as valuable revision techniques. Rachel also took time to give us one to one advice on our Causes of World War 1 investigation and challenged us to think about evaluating the different historians we were using. She is currently studying History at Leeds University so we were very grateful for her taking the time to come and visit us.

We hope that she will come back and help us again soon!

Emma Copland and Noah Scull



BLUE DOT

4 ITEMS for £2.50

COLD DELI

A Selection of Rolls:
Cheese, Tuna, Ham

DRINKS

Generation juice 200ml
Small 250 ml water

HOT BLUE DOT

Pizza Melt Bap
Pizza Quesadilla
Garlic Bread

4OZ POTS

Selection of fruit pots
Selection of jelly pots

HOMEBAKES (Varied Daily)

Mini Flapjack
Mini Brownie
Mini Shortbread
Mini Muffin

Whole piece of fruit:
Apple, Banana, Orange

Innovate...

We hope your child is enjoying the offers from our new supplier 'Innovate' in the Canteen and wanted to share with you that the new system is unable to allow students to go into debt or have a negative balance. Accounts should be topped up and have sufficient funds in them at least 24 hours in advance to allow the system to update overnight.

The value of a free school meal is £2.50 per day, this will be rolled over each day until Friday, this means any unspent funds during the week can be spent at a later date that same week.

Students are able to access their free school meal balance at break and lunch time. This means any snacks they are purchasing at break are deducted from their £2.50 balance. If they then purchase items at lunch, they will need to have sufficient funds paid for by parents to make up the balance. If there are insufficient parent payments, they are unable to go into a negative balance on the tills.

The best value for money School Meal is available during the lunch period and are either:

- **Main meal plus a dessert OR fruit OR water**
- **Blue dot meal**

Further information on the offer from Innovate and a copy of the menu's can be found on our website [here](#).



All students in Year 7 & 8 use Accelerated Reader/Star Reading

A Parent's Guide to Renaissance

What is Star Reading?

Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level. It is a computer based assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer correctly, the difficulty is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick a physical book that falls within their ZPD level. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication the child has understood what has been read.

If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

What is ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)?

A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each child will receive a ZPD, or reading range, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

What are book levels?

These are ways of matching children to suitable books. All books with an Accelerated Reader quiz have been levelled based on difficulty of the text to enable a quick match to children who should be able to read & understand them.

Visit AR BookFinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to search through all the available books on the Renaissance system with AR quizzes.



Welcome to Bookbuzz 2023!

Once again, we are participating in the Bookbuzz reading programme from BookTrust, that aims to help inspire an excitement for reading.

As well as being fun, reading regularly has a significant positive impact on wellbeing, imagination, and language skills.

During their LRC lessons over the last two weeks, each student in Years 7 & 8 have had the chance to decide which free book they would like.

There have been 16 titles for them to have a look through and these books will arrive after the half term break for your child to enjoy.

For more information,
visit
booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz



what's on



Eco Committee

Students and staff of any age are welcome to join us.

We meet in A15 Thursday lunchtimes.

Current activities:

- We are completing our environmental review and will be deciding our main 3 environmental topics to improve in the school.
- We have lots of plants to put into classrooms but need drip trays. Please bring to A15 any old saucers you have or the cut off bottoms of large drinks bottles.



- Do you know of any local environmental activities we can help with? If you do please e mail fsheldrick@guilborough.northants.sch.uk

A-Level English Support



EVERY WEDNESDAY IN B9

WITH LIZ MILLS

3.20PM - 4.20PM

3D PRINTING CLUB



LEARN HOW TO DRAW USING INDUSTRY STANDARD CAD AND PRINT PRODUCTS ON OUR BRAND NEW 3D PRINTER!

EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME IN D5

ASK MR SPILLER FOR DETAILS

BRING YOUR LUNCH

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

FEEL-GOOD FEST!

Free!

Saturday 21 October
11am - 4pm

Parker E-ACT Academy
Ashby Road - Daventry - NN11 0QF
(Hall and Gym)
W3W: Mavericks.Horses.Monk

NEW VENUE!

A day of Hobbies, Sports, Clubs, Creativity and much more, join in, discover, learn and Feel-Good! For every body and mind! Plus warming food & drinks to purchase!

TEEN CLINIC DAVENTRY

FREE ANNIVERSARY EVENT

FREE GOODY BAG TO FIRST 30 VISITORS*

FREE FILM @ 1PM*

LEARN ABOUT THE TEEN CLINIC & GET FREE ADVICE*

FREE POPCORN & A DRINK*

*For 11-18 Year-Olds
Under 12s need an accompanying adult to attend the film.

12-4.30pm on Thursday 26 October

Arc Cinema, Mulberry Place,
Daventry NN11 4GU

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

Scouts

Spratton

Every Thursday evening during term time

BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts are aged between 6 & 8 years old.
Beavers meet at Spratton Scout Hut from 19:45 to 19:00 every Thursday.

For more information contact Carol.
Phone: 07581 029057
email: carol.constable@gmail.com

cubs

Cub Scouts are aged between 8 & 10½ years old.
Cubs meet at Spratton Village Hall from 18:30 to 20:00 every Thursday.

For more information contact Ruth.
Phone: 07870 686607
email: sprattoncubs@gmail.com

SCOUTS

Scouts are aged between 10½ & 14 years old.
Scouts meet at Spratton Scout Hut from 19:30 to 21:00 every Thursday.

For more information contact Graham.
Phone: 07740 855011
email: grahamsmith8hh@btinternet.com

Visit our Facebook page

Or come along at the start of a meeting. We'd love to see you!

SPORT NEWS

TRIALS OPEN FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS

TOTAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY



U12 TEAM PLAYING IN UNDER 13 A-LEAGUE
NORTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE
PATHWAY TO ACADEMIES
CONTACT: COACH.CM.TF-ACADEMY@HOTMAIL.COM
TRIALS ON SATURDAY MORNINGS AND THURSDAY EVENINGS
DETAILS PROVIDED ON ENQUIRY

INSTAGRAM.COM/TFACADEMY19

District Cross Country competition

Students in Years 7-11 have been emailed with the details of the competition.

The event takes place at Courteenhall on the 22 November.

Any interested runners need to notify Miss Boyer by October half term
boyer@guilbsborough.northants.sch.uk

Miss S Boyer
Head of Physical Education



KS1 Multi-Skills Invasion Festival

On Monday 9 October, 17 Guilbsborough Sports Leaders supported the running of the KS1 Multi-Skills Invasion Festival at Guilbsborough Playing Fields.

The event saw the leaders guide Year 1 and 2 pupils from West Haddon Primary and Crick Primary around 6 different activities linked to 4 invasion sports; Football, Rugby, Hockey and Basketball.

The event went really well in some very warm October conditions and all of the leaders did a fantastic job with lots of positive praise for them coming from the teachers.

Well done.



Netball Fixture Results Guilbsborough Academy v Moulton



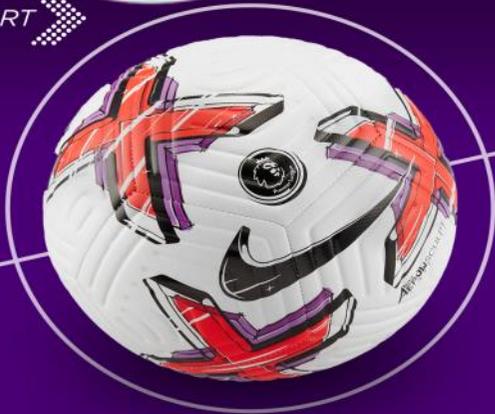
Year 9
Lost 19-4
Player of the match; Eleanor A

Year 8
Lost 12-9



SPORTS

AIMSTRONGSPORT
Developing Physical Literacy



HALF TERM FOOTBALL, MULTI-SPORTS & SAQ* AGES 6-14 GIRLS & BOYS

10AM - 3PM @ WELFORD SPORTSFIELD, WELFORD

TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER

THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER

QUALIFIED MALE & FEMALE STAFF INCLUDING FIRST AID, SAFEGUARDING & DBS CHECKED

DAILY ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE FOOTBALL TRAINING & MATCHES, COMPETITIONS, PENALTY SHOOT OUTS, SAQ-SPEED, AGILITY & QUICKNESS.

www.saqinternational.com
www.aimstrongsport.com

SAQ



Welford Sportsfield, Newlands Road, Welford

£17.50 PER DAY OR
£45 FOR 3
FULL DAYS

* SAQ TRAINING UNDERPINS THE PROGRAMME HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP KEY MOVEMENT SKILLS IN AN FUN AND ENGAGING WAY

BOOK NOW AT

W: AIMSTRONGSPORT.COM
E: INFO@AIMSTRONGSPORT.COM
T: 07580101510
T: ANTHONY RAISBURY - 07545002743

AIMSTRONGSPORT

Developing Physical Literacy



TABLETENNIS
Active

New Term New Club!
Monday 5:30 – 6:30pm at Welford Village Hall
5 Weeks (3 weeks off 6-20TH Nov) starting 30th October 2023 Finish 18th December

New players booking all 5 Sessions receive a free TT Bat!

£25 for 5 or £6 per session
Book now at www.Aimstrongsport.com

SAQ



Long Buckby HOCKEY CLUB

JOIN OUR GROWING HOCKEY CLUB
LBHC ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR ADULT AND JUNIOR SECTIONS!

Where?

The Parker E-ACT Academy
Ashby Rd, Daventry
NN11 0OF

When?

Training: Wednesday 7:30-9PM
Junior Training: Sunday 10-12PM
Games: Saturday

Cost

Club Membership- £55
Training Sessions - £3
Games - £7 (adults) £5 (students)



Interested? Contact us on: longbuckbyhc@gmail.com



LONG BUCKBY HOCKEY CLUB



longbuckbyhockey



@LongBuckbyHC

Online Safety and Wellbeing

Support Sheet

This support sheet is to coincide with a recent conversation or email around safeguarding children and young people online. Below are a number of useful resources but not an extensive list that we have put together to support keeping young people, children and families safe online.

- Ideally don't ban, block or restrict children or young people from technology, especially gaming and phones. This could exasperate the problem and the dangerous behaviour could get more secretive. We recommend building an agreement or a safety plan. Safeguarding children online is all around challenging behaviour and not technology. We have provided more information on page 2.
- Check out our [YouTube videos](#) for parents and carers there is also great training session full of expert speakers around online safety, gangs county lines, CSE and building resilience.
- [Internet Matters](#) also offer some great resources to support families, children, and young people online.
- For teaching resources, parent information or 1 2 1 resources around online safety please check out.
 - o [Childnet International](#)
 - o [Think U Know](#) (set up an account for free)
 - o Childnet also have some great resources for [Social Workers](#)
- For some great guides around social media, gaming, online safety concerns and trends for professionals and parents set up a free account with [National Online Safety](#) and download some of their parent guides.
- [Report Harmful Content](#) is a great tool that again you can go over with families, young people and professionals. Obviously if a child is in immediate danger contact the Police.
- Concerns around sexting (nudes) need to be handled sensitively and as above if a child or young person is in immediate danger, please contact the Police. [Report Remove](#) however is a great resource around nudes and image sharing and could help get an image removed.

For more information around online safety and wellbeing or workshops please email: onlinesafety.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Don't ban, block, or take away

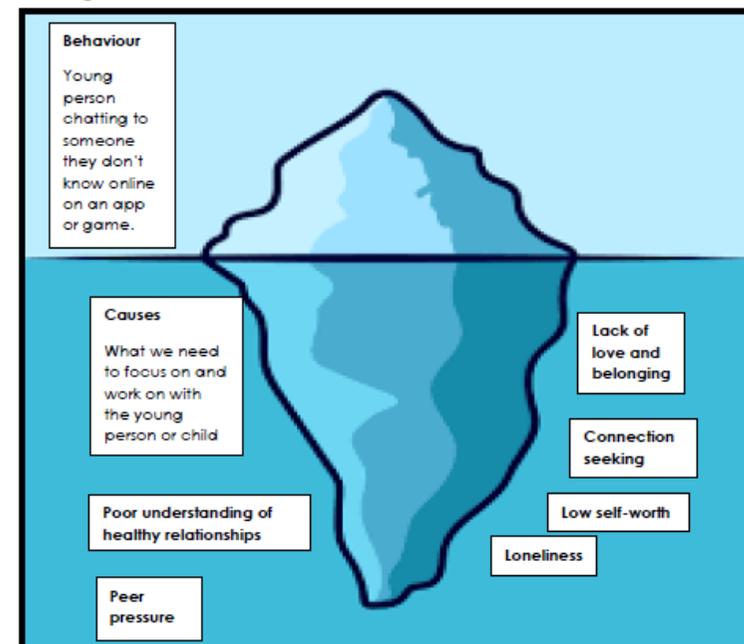
We get asked a lot about parental controls and safeguarding concerns on apps and games. Remember we need to focus on the dangerous online behaviour and not worry about the app, games or platform the child or children are on. If we take technology away from children or young people we are not getting to the root cause of the problem and the dangerous behaviour will not go away. For example, if you are worried about who a child is talking to online, what could be causing the child to engage with people they don't know? Some common indicators we often see in children and young people are:

- Lack of love and belonging
- Loneliness
- Connection seeking (linked to the first 2 bullet points)
- Poor understanding of healthy relationships
- Peer pressure

Rather than ban or block, work towards an [online safety plan](#) with the young person and make sure you capture the voice of the child.

The Iceberg Effect

To help challenge online behaviour and not tech, as well as gain a greater understanding in safeguarding children and young people online we often refer to the online safety iceberg. Identify the dangerous behaviour and then challenge the cause. We have provided an example below of a young person chatting to someone they don't know online and how we can identify the behaviour and causes using this model.





SAFETY MATTERS: The Halloween and Bonfire Night edition



Welcome to our seasonal safety newsletter which is designed to help keep families safe across Northamptonshire as they celebrate Halloween and Bonfire Night. We want you all to have lots of fun, but please don't forget about safety as you get swept along with the excitement of the season. Here are our top tips...



Don't let fire creep up on you this Halloween



Candles and flames

Candles can be popular for use in pumpkins and homes at Halloween, but unfortunately, candles also cause many fires and can be a hazard to families and properties. Opt for artificial candles instead. They are safer and also emit the same glow for those creepy decorations.



Careful with costumes!

Are you or your family planning on dressing up for Halloween this year? Remember, whether shop-bought or homemade, costumes can catch fire and cause burns. The two most important things to remember are:



- Costumes should be kept well away from any candles or matches. Again, think about using artificial candles.
- If the worst does happen and the clothing of either you or another person catches fire, remember the phrase **'STOP, DROP and ROLL'**.



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!

Safe trick or treating

If members of your family are planning on 'trick or treating' this Halloween please make sure:

- Younger children are always supervised.
- If you have older children make sure you know where they are, who they are with and remind them to act responsibly.
- You behave responsibly and do not try to deliberately frighten or intimidate people.
- Stick to areas you know and respect people who have a 'no trick or treating' sign displayed on their property.
- You are careful when crossing roads as some masks and costumes can restrict vision.



Help your Bonfire Night go with a bang! (but a safe one)

At Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police, we would always say its best attend an organised fireworks display, but for those who are planning to use them at home, there are tips to remember to avoid accident or injury.

Using fireworks... some tips

Firstly, it sounds simple, but read the instructions on your fireworks. Light them at arm's length using a safety firework lighter or fuse wick. Everyone should stand well clear and never return to a lit firework. It's best to keep a bucket of water handy too. Fireworks should always be handled by adults.

Sparklers are not suitable for children under five. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.

Last tip - It can be a frightening time for pets, so keep furry and non-furry companions safe indoors and be mindful of the effects on pets in your neighbourhood.

Fireworks: knowing the law

Unfortunately, people sometimes use this time of year to misuse fireworks. Fireworks may be beautiful to watch but they can also cause devastating injuries to people and damage to property if they are used in the wrong way. Never throw them or store them unsafely, such as in a pocket.

The laws state:

- You can't buy fireworks if you're under 18.
- Fireworks cannot be set off between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. On New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, the cut off is 1am.
- You must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.
- You should only buy fireworks from registered dealers or licensed shops
- You can be fined an unlimited amount and imprisoned for up to six months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

For more about fireworks and the law, see: www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law

Bonfires - the safe way

Fireworks may often be the main feature of a seasonal display, but bonfires are also a major attraction.

- Before lighting a bonfire, always check the structure is sound and there are no small children or animals hiding inside.
- Position a bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees to avoid flames spreading.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light a fire. A safer way is to use paper and solid firelighters in two or three places to ensure an even burn.
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as foam-filled furniture, rubber, aerosols, tins of paint, pressurised gas cylinders, tyres and bottles.
- Have one person responsible for lighting the fire. That person, and any helpers, should wear suitable clothing such as a substantial outer garment made of wool or other low flammable material and strong boots or shoes.
- Never leave a bonfire unattended.

We hope you found our safety tips interesting and that you remember them when you have your celebrations. From everyone at NFRS and Northamptonshire Police, have a happy and safe Halloween and Bonfire Night.





NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE
Fighting Crime. Protecting People.

Matt O'Connell
Safer Roads Team Manager
Operations Department
PO Box 144
Northampton
NN4 0FS

Email:
safer.roads@northants.police.uk

Date: 18/10/2023

Thinking about purchasing an e-scooter for Christmas?

I am the Safer Roads Manager for Northants Police and am writing to you as a representative of the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA).

As we approach this festive season, we wanted to take the opportunity to address an emerging trend that has raised concerns in the community, that is the use of electric scooters, commonly referred to as "e-scooters."

The safety and well-being of all road users are of paramount importance and in particular our children.

We know e-scooters have become increasingly popular and whilst we understand the appeal of these devices, we believe it is crucial that we inform you of the legalities and potential dangers associated with them.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

E-scooters, like any other motorised vehicle, are subject to laws and regulations.

The use of *private e-scooters on public roads and footpaths is currently illegal in the UK.*

Parents and guardians should be aware of the legal implications and responsibilities that come with these devices to avoid potential legal issues.

E-scooters available under the local trial operated by VOI are age restricted to persons 18 years and older who must hold a driving licence.

SAFETY CONCERNS

There are substantial safety concerns associated with e-scooters which can reach significant speeds and may not always be equipped with adequate safety features. As such, accidents and injuries related to e-scooter usage have become increasingly prevalent. These injuries can range from minor scrapes and bruises to more severe incidents, including head injuries and fractures.



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E-scooters are particularly risky for young riders who may not possess the experience or judgment needed to navigate challenging traffic situations.

Given the legal complexities and safety concerns surrounding e-scooters, we strongly discourage parents and guardians from considering them as gifts for their children.

Instead, we encourage parents to explore safer and more age-appropriate alternatives that promote outdoor activity, exercise, and personal growth while prioritising safety. Traditional bicycles, skateboards, and protective gear are excellent choices to consider.



Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

We wish you and your family a joyful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Matt O'Connell
Safer Roads Team Manager