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DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

I hope this final edition of 2024 finds you well and looking forward to the festive season.

It was only last week that I wrote to you and we have managed to fill another edition of our newsletter with all of the fantastic activities our students have undertaken. This week we hosted the **Halewood Town Council Concert** and our own Performing Arts Showcase – both were excellent events and the ability and confidence of our students always fills me with pride.

The run up to the Christmas break is always busy with trips, visits, reward assemblies and much more and despite all of the preparation and time this takes we haven't slowed down our school improvement journey. As you will see from inside the newsletter we had a very thorough in late November which was very positive. The team of highly experienced reviewers found that we are making a real difference to the lives of our students and we are moving forward at pace. There has been a strong start this academic year on many fronts; attendance is improving, punctuality to school and lessons is improving, students readiness to learn is improving, behaviour is improving; all these are good signs, but we still have more to do. My ambition for this school, our students and community is sky high and therefore we need to continue this ambition in January 2025.

Therefore, I am again asking for your support in ensuring your children are ready to learn every day; by attending well, arriving on time (8.30am), bringing their bag, folder, timetable and equipment, and following our basic rules and expectations.



Merry Christmas

All these indicators demonstrate they are engaged in school and if they engage in school they will achieve well.

The vast majority of students have worked exceptionally hard this term and many were recognised during our rewards and recognition assemblies this week. Year 11 have also finished their mock examinations this week after a tough three weeks of exams. I am really proud of you all and I hope you have a well deserved rest over the festive period.

I am also fully aware that sometimes the Christmas period can be a difficult time for some families and we have provided advice and contact numbers in the newsletter should you require support.

Please remember school re-opens on **Monday 6th January 2025** at the normal time of 8.00am. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for all your support and all the best for 2025.

Best wishes

Mr I Critchley
Executive Principal

KEY DATES 2024

Mon 9th DECEMBER - 18th DECEMBER	YEAR 10 & 11 ASSESSMENT WEEKS
Friday 20th DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSE 12.15PM
Monday 6th JANUARY	BACK TO SCHOOL



CHALLENGE PARTNERS UPDATE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Another Successful Challenge Partner Visit

To support our continuous school improvement, we were delighted to welcome an experienced Challenge Partner review team in **Halewood Academy** between **Wednesday 27th and Friday 29th November**. The team comprised of an **Ofsted Inspector**, three **Principals** and one **Vice Principal**.

The purpose of the visit was for senior staff from other schools to explore leadership at all levels and evaluate the quality of education offered to our pupils. By utilising their own experiences and expertise, they identified a large number of strengths and suggested areas of improvement to further enhance our provision. It was a joint CPD whereby reviewers also took new ideas and strategies back to their own schools.

As part of a rigorous schedule, our reviewers completed learning explorations by visiting many KS3 and KS4 lessons across a variety of subjects. They talked to our students and looked closely at the work they completed in their books. Meetings took place with a variety of staff with varying degrees of experience and leadership that enabled informed judgements to be made about our school. They met with our Governing body and also had the opportunity to meet with our pastoral teams.

We were delighted that we continue to be deemed as 'effective' in our Leadership at all Levels and they recognised that leadership of policy and practice has improved since our last review in March 2024 due to the greater consistency observed. The feedback included:

- ✔ The principal and his senior leadership team (SLT) lead the school with ambition and a strong vision.
- ✔ The passion and drive for success, modelled by the SLT, are matched by the middle leader group. They lead their departments very well and have worked closely with their teams to create a well-sequenced curriculum that is appropriate for the students.
- ✔ Leaders are working hard to raise students' aspirations at all levels, from improvements in attendance, academic progress and attainment and by providing a rich range of cultural, sporting and leadership opportunities.
- ✔ The new behaviour for learning policy has simplified and clarified systems, which are understood and consistently applied by all stakeholders.
- ✔ Leaders of teaching and learning clearly communicate the whole school priorities and direction.
- ✔ Attendance is very well led with a robust system which enables the team to take swift action following daily, highly focused meetings.

CHALLENGE
PARTNERS

CHALLENGE PARTNERS UPDATE

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

- ✔ Personal development is a strength and has clear strategic intent, mapped across different subjects, and a comprehensive framework.
- ✔ Student leadership has been growing over time and the size of the Year 11 prefect team has increased significantly this year.
- ✔ Similarly, our Quality of Provision was also rated as 'effective' which reinforced that our continuous curriculum review and the rigorous quality assurance of its delivery is improving the outcomes and life chances for all our students. Feedback to celebrate was:
- ✔ Relationships between staff and students are extremely positive and are built on mutual respect. Classroom routines are clear and consistent
- ✔ The consistent approach to planning is having a clear impact. The structure of all lessons having an 'I do', 'we do' and 'you do' phase ensures that classrooms have a calm and settled atmosphere with crisp and purposeful starts.
- ✔ Low stakes retrieval practice, such as review tasks, is an integral part of learning. This helps students to recall prior knowledge, enabling them to remember information that will assist them with current and future learning.
- ✔ Modelling is strong in many lessons and teachers use visualisers well to model what an effective piece of work looks like.
- ✔ In the best lessons, students' understanding is checked efficiently, through a range of strategies
- ✔ Appropriate scaffolding is evident in many lessons and supports students with SEND to make good progress over time.
- ✔ Students' command of vocabulary is often emphasised.
- ✔ Students show pride in their work
- ✔ The school has a strong enrichment offer which makes a significant contribution to students' cultural capital.

Finally, we must acknowledge and thank our students for upholding our school values throughout the visit.

SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

At the end of the Autumn Term and looking forward to our Christmas break from school we thought it would be useful to publish some contact numbers should you need to contact someone regarding the safety or welfare of a young person whilst school is closed.

- Childline 08001111
- NSPCC- www.nspcc.org.uk 08448 920 264 (Liverpool Office)
NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000
- cruse.org.uk- coping with a bereavement
- www.trusselltrust.org -foodbank
- Liverpool Social Care- 233 3700
- Knowsley MASH – 0151 443 2600
- <https://www.kooth.com/>

In addition to this may we also take this opportunity to remind students of some basics in terms of keeping themselves safe over the school holiday.

When out and about...

- ✓ Don't go out alone – there is safety in numbers
- ✓ Always let an adult know where you are going
- ✓ Never go anywhere with someone you don't know
- ✓ You can say 'no' if someone makes you feel uncomfortable or threatens or pressures you to do something you don't want to.

Staying Safe Online...

- 1) Private stuff needs protection (if you wouldn't want your parents or grandparents to see something, don't post it)
- 2) You can only really know someone if you know them offline (think about what 'a friend' means to you)
- 3) What you share will always be there (think before you post)
- 4) Not everyone online is who they say they are (remember that behind the screen it is easy to pretend to be someone you are not)
- 5) If something doesn't feel right, tell a trusted adult



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY





You're not alone this Christmas



Text 85258
www.giveashout.org



0300 123 3393
www.mind.org.uk



0300 7729844
www.nopanic.org.uk



0800 58 58 58
www.thecalmzone.net

**NATIONAL
DEBTLINE**

0808 808 4000
www.nationaldebtline.org

SAMARITANS

116 123
www.samaritans.org.uk



0808 808 1677
www.cruse.org.uk

4 TIPS ON HOW TO FEEL A LITTLE LESS LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS:

Limit your social
media usage

Volunteer in your
local area

Consider scheduling a
call with family or friends

Have a look at what
places are open near you

For more support organisations, you can find the Everymind
Mental Health Support Directory on www.everymindatwork.com.

Don't suffer in silence.

4 tips to manage your social anxiety this Christmas



Plan ahead.

Take a few hours to organise your schedule and write a to-do-list for the coming weeks. Developing a plan can help you manage feelings of fear of the unknown.



Ask for help.

Remember that it's okay to feel anxious and ask for help. There are so many external support lines you can reach out to. Don't forget, you're not alone.



Make time for self-care.

Even though the holiday season can be busy, try to make time for yourself and your mental health. Even just a few minutes every day to practice self-care can help manage symptoms of anxiety. You can try meditation, exercise, or self-help books.



Find your support system.

Talk to and spend time with people you trust, whether that is family, friends, or people who have also experienced similar anxiety. If you're nervous about attending a holiday gathering, take that person with you for support.



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

GOOD START - GOOD ATTENDANCE



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ACADEMY

We have seen a good start to this academic year for many of our pupils, with attendance rates during the first full term being higher than the same time last academic year. We are really proud to say that school attendance is above national average. Meaning that on average, Halewood Academy pupils attend school better than the average of all the other pupils in all of the secondary schools in the country!

A great start to the academic year. The challenge is to maintain the good start for the next two terms all the way to the end of the summer term 2025!

Unfortunately, we have also seen too many pupils missing out on learning because they have not attended school. Days missed from school results in students having gaps in their knowledge and understating and these gaps can be difficult to catch up.

I am sure you have noticed the recognition and celebration of good attendance on our social media platforms. If you are not doing so already, I would urge you to follow the school accounts so that you can join in the celebrations.

Every day counts in your child's educational journey, and we greatly appreciate your role in ensuring their attendance. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment. Together, we can help them reach their full potential!

Your active involvement in your child's attendance is invaluable. Keep up the great work in prioritising their education. Thank you for all that you do to ensure their success.

As a reminder, I have included below the 6 aspects that underpin Working Together to Improve Attendance. In addition, I have also included the expectations of parents/carers and of school. By adhering to these concepts, we will improve attendance for all students.

Working together to improve attendance

Successfully treating the root causes of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home and in school requires both parties to work collaboratively in partnership with each other, not against each other. To get the best for the young person school and home should work together to:

Expect

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance.

Monitor

As a school we use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

Listen and understand

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

GOOD START - GOOD ATTENDANCE

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Facilitate support

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Formalise support

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Enforce

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

Attendance expectations

Parents/carers MUST:

- Telephone or email school before 8.15am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/ letters (remember these should be taken out of school hours wherever possible).
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival and/or throughout the day.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- Contact school if you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance. Talking to us is the first step to helping resolve it.

School MUST:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- Make a welfare home visit, if we cannot establish a reason for absence.
- Support you to remove barriers to good attendance



REWARDS & RECOGNITION & RECOGNITION



Congratulations to all of our students who received their rewards and recognition in their celebration assemblies this week. Keep up the good work!
#MomentsMatterAttendanceCounts #ReadytoLearn #Excellence



REWARDS & RECOGNITION & RECOGNITION



Year 9



Year 10

**WELL DONE TO ALL STUDENTS
WITH THE WINNING TREATS!**



A GREAT PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.



ACADEMY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

The School Community Christmas Party was a joyous occasion, bringing together students, staff, and families to celebrate the festive season in a spirit of unity and gratitude. The event was made even more special with the support of our dedicated prefects, who worked tirelessly to serve and assist, ensuring that everyone felt welcome and enjoyed the evening.

The **House Band** set the mood with lively tunes, filling the air with warmth, while the choir filled the space with beautiful, uplifting songs that made the occasion even more memorable.

In addition to the incredible performances, guests enjoyed traditional games of bingo and a thrilling raffle, with exciting prizes donated by generous supporters. The festive atmosphere was truly a reflection of the community spirit that defines our school.

We are deeply grateful to all those who attended and contributed to the success of the evening. Special thanks go to the **Confucius Institute**, **Elevate-EBP**, **Everton in the Community**, and the **Halewood Community Choir** for their presence and participation, as well as to our trustees, governors, and the families of our prefects for their continued support. This event was a heartfelt expression of appreciation for the remarkable strength and unity of our school community. It is through the dedication and collaboration of each individual that we continue to grow and thrive together. We look forward to more shared moments of joy and success in the coming year.



DIGITAL CLASS WINNERS



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ACADEMY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

National Computer Science Week!

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Huge congratulations to the students who won in their computing lessons this week as the best National Computer Science Week coder!

Throughout the week, students have been putting their block coding skills to the test with a series of exciting challenges. The winners have demonstrated incredible talent and determination, proving they have what it takes to become the coding champions of their respective year group.



Your hard work, creativity, and innovative thinking are truly inspiring!

#NationalComputerScienceWeek #PrizeWinner
#FutureTechLeaders #Aspire



PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE 2024



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

This Performing Arts Christmas Showcase 2024 was an excellent well attended event.

Our students always fill us with pride at their ability and confidence to perform especially in front of a large crowd of parents/carers and visitors.

Congratulations to all of our students who took part and our staff that worked tirelessly to make the event such a great success!

Also a special thanks to Miss Costello, Miss Bragg, Mrs Andrews, Miss Bowers and Mr Wilson who supported the event.



HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



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HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



[FOR THE VIDEO
CLICK HERE](#)

HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

[FOR THE VIDEO
CLICK HERE](#)

WORLD KINDNESS DAY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



At Halewood Academy, we believe that kindness is at the heart of everything we do. Recently, a group of our students were nominated by their peers and teachers for consistently showing kindness in and around the school.

Their positive actions have made a real difference, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.

These students were recognised for their compassion, respect, and willingness to help others, which are qualities that help strengthen the bonds within our school community. We are incredibly proud of their efforts to lead by example and encourage others to do the same.

As a token of appreciation, each student received a limited edition school mug, filled with treats, to celebrate their kindness and the positive impact they have had.

We hope this recognition will inspire all of our students to continue spreading kindness, knowing that even small acts can make a big difference.

Thank you to all of our students for making kindness a priority. Together, we can continue to build a school where everyone feels valued and respected.

#Respect #Aspire

#MomentsMattersAttendanceCounts

#WeSeekTheBest



YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING REMINDER

We would like to invite you to our Parents' Evening for **Year 10** students on **Thursday 16th January 2025 4-7pm**

SAVE
the DATE



A GREAT
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TO BE A
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OPERATION SHEPHERD



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Merseyside Police has launched its annual Christmas campaign, **Operation Shepherd**, aimed at preventing crime and protecting communities during the festive period.

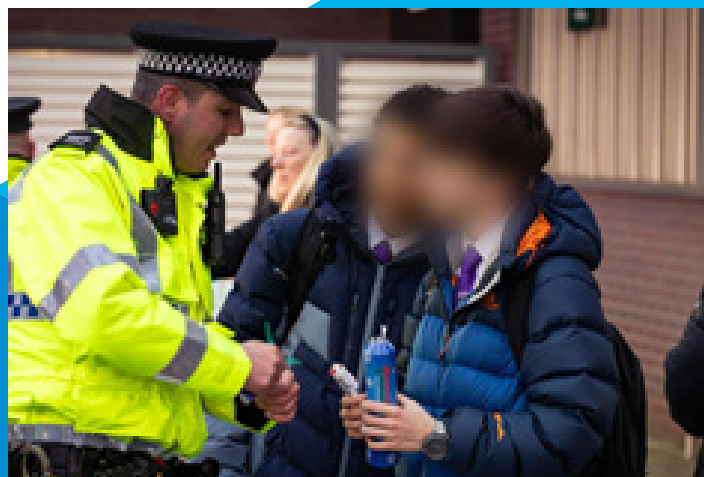
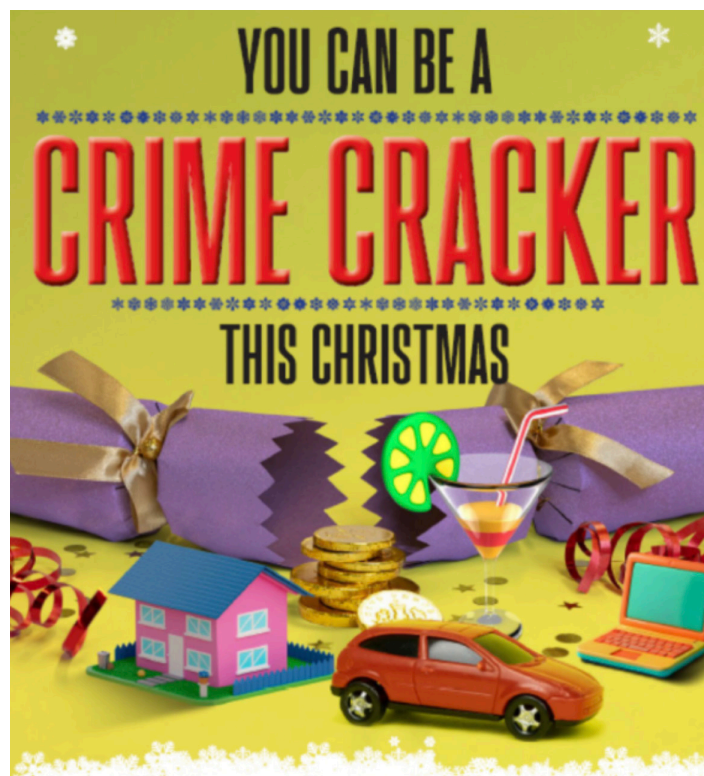
The force-wide operation will see an increased police presence across Merseyside, with officers patrolling shopping centres, Christmas markets, and other popular festive locations to help keep the public safe. Specialist units including the **Dog Section**, **Mounted Section**, and **Roads Policing** will also be deployed to support the operation.



Chief Inspector Chris Bland, who is coordinating Operation Shepherd this year, said: "Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration, but unfortunately, some criminals see it as an opportunity. That's why Merseyside Police is continuing to tackle crime throughout Christmas and into next year, using every resource at our disposal to keep our communities safe.

"We would all like a cracking Christmas, so don't let criminals take advantage and spoil yours. By working together and staying vigilant, we can make it harder for opportunistic criminals to succeed."

The public will see plenty of officers from neighbourhood policing teams out at busy spots across Merseyside. Officers will be sharing useful crime prevention advice and encouraging members of the public to become a 'Christmas Crime Cracker' by taking simple security measures to protect their possessions, such as security marking valuable items – a proven method to deter thieves and help recover stolen property.



YEAR 9 UNIVERSITY TRIP



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a visit to the University of Liverpool campus last Wednesday. In this visit, they had the opportunity to experience what a university lecture feels like, learn about the benefits of learning languages and enjoy a Portuguese taster.

Our students impressed the lecturers with their knowledge, mature attitude and high aspirations. Well done, Year 9.



BIKE ABILITY TRUST TRAINING



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Bikeability in school this week began working with our wonderful Year 7's on cycle training and vital life skills. Well done to all involved!

Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results.

#GainingIndependence #ConfidenceSkills
#ImprovedMentalHealthandWellbeing #Respect



The
Bikeability
Trust

WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED CHARITY WALK



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Our Yearr 11's students who completed a 23 mile walk on the 14th December for the Walking with the Wounded Charity as part of their Walking Home for Christmas: Let's Talk Campaign. Jack P, Thomas H, Mason B and James S. They completed the route in North Wales in great time below and managed to hit their target of £500.

Link: <https://walking-home.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk/teams/scouse-striders>

The charity aims to provide shelter, food, therapy treatments and other necessities for veterans who have struggled in the transition from the military to the civilian world.



JOEL MEETS ARNE & LUIS



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



Congratulations and well done to Joel H in Year 11 who was invited to Alder Hey Children's Hospital on Thursday 12th December to meet the LFC Players.

Joel was nominated by Alder Hey for being an Amazing Patient.

#LFC #Aspire



A GREAT
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GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

YEAR 8 - DESIGN AN ARCTIC HOME



Year 8 have been studying Polar Regions. For a christmas competition they were asked to design an Arctic home and to make it sustainable.

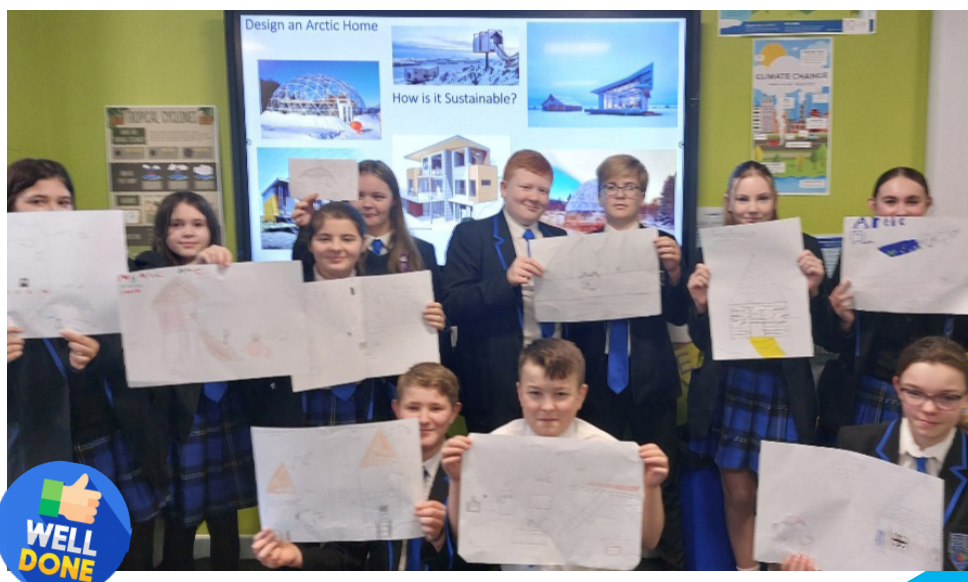
A massive well done to winning entries - it was so hard to judge - First Place Zak A and Ethan Buckley, Second place Mya A, Third place Emily L.

Runners up Aidan C and Heidi T.

Enjoy you Treats!

Mrs D Atherton

Teacher of Health and Social



PSA ASSESSMENTS FOR YEAR 10 & 11

WELL DONE!



A massive massive well done to Year 11 Health and Social Care classes who have worked really hard the past few weeks on their PSA Assessments.



Also a massive well done to Year 10 Health and Social Care class who have been coming up with ideas to deliver some christmas cheer and care in the community for the month of December.

Mrs D Atherton

Teacher of Health and Social Care



WHAT IS I DO, WE DO YOU DO?

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What is I Do, We Do, You Do?

I Do, We Do, You Do is an effective model for teaching and learning. It is also known as 'gradual release of responsibility' for introducing new concepts and skills to learners. This scaffolding strategy is embedded across all subjects in Halewood Academy.



In the I Do stage, teachers explain what students need to understand and share core knowledge with students. This is an opportunity for students to listen carefully to new ideas and concepts, and make notes that will help them to complete their own work later in the lesson.



In the We Do stage, teachers work collaboratively with students. Staff may help students by providing scaffolds such as prompts or partially completed procedures. This is also an opportunity to carefully guide students through questioning to ensure that they fully understand the core knowledge previously shared and check students know exactly what is expected of them.



Finally, in the You Do stage, students work independently to demonstrate their understanding on their own. Students can still rely on support materials during this stage however, students must now aim to demonstrate what they have understood.

What are the benefits of this model?

- Helps all students to master what they need to learn
- Suits novice learners (which most students are)
- Nurtures self-efficacy
- Reduces task anxiety
- Students feel less anxious due to the clear modelling and the scaffolded opportunities to practice. These same factors help students to experience independent success, which in turn builds their self-efficacy.

SPORTS
UPDATEHALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Unbelievable performance and result at the Academy for the Year 7 boys! They beat serial National Cup winners Cardinal Heenan in Round 5 of the ESFA National Cup. In a tight 1st half Cardinal Heenan dominated the ball and took the lead. The Halewood boys were working incredibly hard off the ball and started to get chances!

After half-time we were very positive and we equalised from a corner! In the excitement I didn't see who got the last touch!

The boys kept battling incredibly hard and Mark was rewarded for another tireless performance with a superb goal, 2-1!

Cardinal Heenan were still very dangerous but a counter attack with a lovely touch from Mark was brilliantly finished by Alfie! 3-1!

A fantastic performance from the entire squad that required discipline and work off the ball. Mr Rylands was delighted as it's no exaggeration to say it wouldn't be a surprise if Cardinal Heenan won the competition! We are awaiting our last 32 opponents in round 6. It's an incredible achievement for our boys as nearly 1000 schools start the competition!

It was a whole squad effort but a special mention must go to our goalkeeper Albie. At 0-1 down he made a remarkable save and then set up the equaliser! Unbelievable stuff!

Congratulations boys!
Mr Ryland



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK MESSENGER

Facebook Messenger is a communication app through which users can exchange messages and send photos, stickers, and video and audio files. Messenger allows both one-to-one and group chats, has a stories feature and – via its latest addition, Rooms – can host a video call with up to 50 people. As of 2021, the app had 35 million users in the UK alone (more than half the population!) among its 1.3 billion users worldwide.

Whereas Messenger is integrated into Facebook on desktops and laptops, it has existed as a standalone app for mobile devices since 2011.

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Messenger's numerous features can encourage children to spend more time on the app – and therefore on their phone, increasing their levels of screen time. It also invokes FOMO (the Fear of Missing Out) especially among older children, who will almost certainly have a high proportion of their friends communicating via the app.

LIVE STREAMING

The new Rooms feature lets Messenger users hold video calls with up to 50 people. A young person can join any room they see, but the other people in these rooms don't even necessarily need to be Facebook account holders. This live streaming development heightens risk factors around privacy, security and the possibility of exposure to inappropriate content.

REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

If the Facebook profile which accompanies their Messenger app is set to public, there's a possibility that young people will receive message requests from individuals they don't know. There have previously been reports of grooming attempts on Facebook, with predators using fake profiles to engage children in conversation.

OVERSHARING PERSONAL INFO

If the app is given access to their device's photo library or location services, young people can unintentionally share sensitive information (private photos, videos, their number or current whereabouts) with people on Messenger who they don't know. Even among friends, shared photos or videos don't always stay private: the recipient(s) could save and re-share them with others.

CYBERBULLYING

Like many communication apps, Messenger can be an avenue for cyberbullies or trolls to target children. This might take the form of harassment, abusive messages or being purposely excluded from (or targeted in) group chats. A 2021 Ofcom report revealed that more than half (55%) of 12–15-year-olds had suffered such negative experiences online in the preceding year.

SECRET CONVERSATIONS

The Secret Conversations function lets Messenger users have encrypted exchanges that no-one else can read. Unlike regular chats on the app, these can only be viewed on the device being used at the time. Messages can also be set to delete once read (although screenshots can be taken), so a child could chat privately with someone without any record of that conversation having taken place.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE ADDITIONAL SECURITY

Messenger's App Lock feature uses your child's fingerprint or face ID to ensure that nobody else can access their messages without permission. Messenger has also added a variety of optional tools to increase young people's safety on the app, including two-factor authentication, login alerts and filtered message requests.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

If your child experiences anything negative on Messenger, you can help them report it. Facebook can then take action such as disabling the offender's account, limiting their ability to send messages or blocking them from contacting your child again. If your child doesn't want to display to others that they're online, they can switch off Active Status in the app's settings.

ADJUST PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make your child's Messenger stories visible only to their friends. Avoid adding your child's phone number (so they can't be found by someone using their number to search for them), and not syncing contacts lets your child choose who to add (or not) individually. Via Settings, you can control who appears in your child's chat list, who goes into the message request folder and who can't contact your child at all.

REVIEW THE CHAT LIST

Some parents regularly check their children's Messenger conversations (to see who they're talking to, rather than what they're talking about). While this is certainly safe, it can seem intrusive. If approached in a sensible, collaborative way, however, it can help parents and carers to keep an eye on exactly who their child is communicating with.

DISCUSS LIVE STREAMING

Talk with your child about safe and secure video calling. When setting up calls on Messenger Rooms, only invite people who your child knows and trusts. Show them how to lock a room if they don't want other people joining – and how to remove anyone they don't want on the call. Remind them about behaving responsibly during a live stream, even if it's with people they know.

ENCOURAGE SAFE SHARING

Ensure your child knows to send pictures and videos only to family and trusted friends, and not to publicly share images which compromise their location (showing a landmark near home or clothing with identifiable logos, like a school or local club crest). Encourage them to pause before sharing anything – if there's a chance it could harm their reputation (or someone else's), don't send it.

Meet Our Expert

is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the internet, with a vast understanding of how social media works and how they engage their audience.



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December Kindness 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

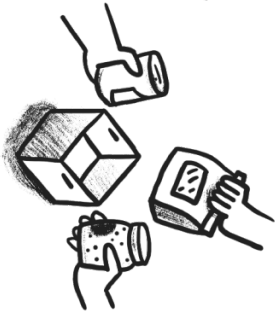
27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together