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DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Welcome to the final edition of the newsletter before we break for the summer half term. The weather forecast for the bank holiday and week ahead looks lovely. I hope you get to enjoy some sun and warmth.

Again, we have many areas to celebrate recently. As you know we had our OfSTED inspection last week and I will be in a position to share the report and their findings in a few weeks.

Many congratulations to the Year 8 football team that are Knowsley Cup champions - well done boys and well done to Mr Rylands.

I would like to draw your attention to the pastoral changes and information regarding mental health and well-being. I hope you find this information useful.

There are many items that you should check in this newsletter such as the local SEND reform plan and important information from the local authority.

The final part of the summer half term is set to be busy with lots of events to look forward to; such as Sports Day, the Blackpool Rewards Trip, KS3 Graduation Events, Year 10 Work Experience and we will also welcome our new year 6 students.

As we welcome our new students we will say goodbye to Year 11 who will have their leavers assembly and prom, however, before they leave they still have another few weeks of exams. I have been so proud of how they have coped and ensured they have prepared well. Please keep this up.

There has been an abundance of trips and visits from the DofE expedition and also the very successful fishing trip to Partridge Lakes. Well done to all involved.

As a reminder we return to school on Monday 1st June at the usual time of 8.30am. Please ensure your child(ren) are in full school uniform, well equipped and ready for the final push until the summer term. I wish you a restful break.

Best wishes
Mr I Critchley
Executive Principal

KEY DATES 2026

Friday 1st May - Wednesday 17th June	GCSE EXAMINATIONS
Tuesday 5th May - Friday 5th June	KS3 P2S3 ASSESSMENTS
Friday 22nd May	END OF TERM
Monday 1st June	START OF TERM
Monday 8th June - Friday 19th June	YEAR P2S3 ASSESSMENTS



A GREAT PLACE TO BE A PART OF

SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



Keeping Safe at Half Term

As we look forward to our half term 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 you 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



SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



Please see the following advice from the NSPCC around online safety when gaming.

Things to consider if your child games online:

- age ratings of games they play
- messaging and contact functions on the games
- in-game purchases
- trolling, grieving and scams
- how to report problems
- where they can get further support.

Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.

What are online games?

Games can be generally split into different types:

- simple, short games like Candy Crush or Angry Birds
- creative games, solving puzzles or building worlds such as Minecraft
- games that need strategy and skill to play, like chess
- adventure games that explore different worlds and conflicts such as Fortnite or Call of Duty.

Many games can be a combination of types as well as having other features, like the ability to interact and communicate with others. As well as interacting, players can share content, purchase in-game items, create their own games within the game and so much more.

How are online games played?

Children can play games on consoles, apps or websites, mobiles, tablets, PCs, or through smart speakers and virtual reality headsets. They can also chat to other players using messaging platforms for gamers, or watch livestreams of well-known gamers.

Gaming has always been a popular activity, particularly with children and young people, but not only are games very different now, so are the devices they're played on, ranging from gaming consoles, PC's, phones, tablets, smart watches, smart speakers, virtual reality headsets and others.

Why do young people play online games?

Games are more accessible than ever before. The huge range of games means there's something for everyone. The reasons why they play online games and which games they play will change over time.

Some reasons include:

- Gaming can be social, when children play together on the same team, or play against each other. There are also location-based games which encourage players to go outside and explore, such as Pokemon Go and Wizards Unite.
- Using social media apps like Discord to connect with others within public and private servers (chat rooms).
- A sense of achievement for competition and advancement, and sharing achievements within the game and social media.
- Role playing, exploration or escapism
- Watching videos on YouTube for tips and tricks, developing their own gaming skills or even creating their own gaming videos.
- Entertainment – games are designed to be entertaining and can be fun and engaging for young people

here are four main things that you can consider to help you decide if a game's appropriate for your child to play:

Check the content of the game and any chat function:

Content within games is regulated and rated into age groups based on elements within the game

SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH



such as sex, violence, gambling, drugs, in-app purchases etc. There are lots of different age ratings around the world, such as PEGI used in the UK. Always check the age rating to help you decide to allow your child to download or play a game - this is normally visible next to the game title within gaming and app stores.

Consider who your child could have contact with whilst using the game:

Consider any communication channels and if there are settings to turn off or limit chat functions. There can be different types of communications, e.g. group chat or private chat.

Communication in a game can increase the risk of bullying (sometimes referred to as being 'griefed' within gaming), being contacted by people they don't know and potentially groomed or exploited. Many games have a means of communication which includes private messaging and private chat. Look out for:

- words like 'whisper' or 'private' next to messages if your child is playing in multiplayer games (especially if they are playing with people they don't know offline)
- and any suggestion of taking the conversation to other messaging platforms.

Does the game affect your child's behaviour?

The behaviour of your child could be affected by some games, it can include bullying or 'griefing' others, trolling or other inappropriate behaviour. Very intensive games can result in short-term bad behaviour such as poor temper or 'ragequitting', which is getting so upset they stop playing immediately. Ensuring a game's suitability can help, as can limiting playing time.

Does the game have in-app purchasing?

In-app purchases normally enhance the game or gameplay, for example skins (design of the character or weapon) or loot boxes (treasure chests, but you don't always know what is in them). There can often be considerable pressure on children to be unique within their games (new skins) or to be better than others (purchasing power-ups). You should consider settings to turn off in-app purchases, or set a spending limit on the device or app.

Children need to be aware of scams involving free in-game currency (e.g. V-Bucks in Fortnite, or Robux in Roblox). Scam text messages, forum posts and videos may have content advertising free in-game currency. But they're often scams, designed to coax the player into revealing their gamer tag (username) and password in return for currency. This is known as a 'phishing' scam.

PASTORAL CHANGES AFTER HALF TERM



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As parents/carers will be aware, **Mr Bailey, Assistant Progress Leader, Year 10**, is leaving us today for pastures new and we wish him luck for the future.

As **Year 11** will be leaving us after half term **Miss Whittle, Assistant Progress Leader, Year 11**, will move into the role of **Assistant Progress Leader, Year 10** to support the current year group along with **Mrs Gray, Progress Leader, Year 10**.

In addition to this change **Mrs Dixon, Progress Leader, Year 7** will begin work with the incoming **Year 6** into **Year 7**. **Mrs Dixon** will spend time getting to know the **Year 6** group in their current primary schools in readiness to be their Progress Leader in September 2026.

Mrs Traynor, Progress Leader, Year 11, will therefore move into the role of Progress Leader for the current **Year 7** after half term in readiness for their move into **Year 8** in September alongside **Mrs Slack, Assistant Progress Leader, Year 8**.

Finally, **Miss Martin, Year 8 Progress Leader**, will soon be on maternity leave and **Miss Barton** will assume the role of **Progress Leader, Year 8**, for this period. **Mr Pattern** will support **Miss Barton** as the **Assistant Progress Leader** for the current **Year 8**.



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

CRONTON COLLEGE VISIT



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ACADEMY

On Wednesday, 6th May, 15 Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend **The Oxbridge Event at Cronton College**. This event provided them with a glimpse into college life, offering an array of taster sessions in subjects such as **Biology, Law, History, Psychology, Business, Chemistry, and Geography**. The students were able to explore their interests and gain a better understanding of potential academic pathways.

Exemplary Conduct

The students represented our school admirably, showcasing our core values. Their exemplary conduct was noted by the staff at **Cronton College**, who commented on their maturity and eagerness to learn.

A Day of Discovery

It was indeed a fantastic day filled with learning and discovery. The students returned with new insights and a renewed enthusiasm for their educational journey.

We extend our gratitude to **Cronton College** for hosting this enriching event and for providing such a welcoming and educational environment.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you to **Mr. Biernacki** for accompanying the students on the trip and ensuring the day ran smoothly. His support and guidance were invaluable to the successful execution of the event. Well done, **Year 9**, for making the most of this opportunity and representing our school with such distinction.

Mrs Jones

PE Teacher and Aspirations Coordinator



EXCELLENCE

ZARAGOZA STUDENT EXCHANGE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

From Halewood to Zaragoza!

This term, a group of enthusiastic students from Halewood Academy had the exciting opportunity to travel to Spain as part of a student exchange program. Their destination: a partner school in the vibrant city of Zaragoza.

A Cultural Exchange Experience

The exchange program aimed to provide students with a firsthand experience of Spanish culture, language, and education. During their stay, students were immersed in the local customs and traditions, offering them a unique perspective on life in Spain.

Exploring Zaragoza

Zaragoza, a city rich in history and culture, provided the perfect backdrop for this educational journey.

These visits allowed them to connect with the city's heritage and appreciate its architectural splendor.

Educational Insights

While attending classes at the partner school, students engaged in a variety of academic activities, fostering a deeper understanding of the Spanish education system. They participated in language lessons, workshops, and collaborative projects with their Spanish peers, enhancing their linguistic skills and building international friendships.



COLLABORATE

YEAR 7 PARTRIDGE LAKES VISIT



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

On Thursday 14th May, twelve of our Year 7 students enjoyed a truly unforgettable day at Partridge Lakes thanks to the wonderful support of the Masonic Fishing Charity.

From the moment we arrived, students were warmly welcomed by the charity's dedicated team of volunteers. Each student was paired with their own experienced "caster" who provided one-to-one support, encouragement, and plenty of laughs throughout the day. For many of our students, this was their very first experience of fishing, making the occasion even more special.

The beautiful lakeside setting gave everyone the opportunity to relax, enjoy the outdoors, and build confidence while learning new skills. The students quickly became fully engaged, showing great patience, teamwork, and enthusiasm as they learned how to cast, reel in fish, and safely handle the equipment provided by the charity.

A delicious hot lunch and refreshments kept everyone energised, and the atmosphere



throughout the day was full of positivity, friendship, and excitement. It was wonderful to see our students smiling, supporting one another, and taking such pride in their achievements.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation ceremony held at lunchtime. Every student received a personalised framed certificate, a medal, and a goody bag to remember their fantastic experience. Seeing the pride on their faces was a moment staff and students alike will never forget.

We would like to say a huge thank you to **Steve Plevy, School Liaison Officer for the West Lancashire Branch**, and all of the volunteers from the Masonic Fishing Charity who made the day possible including **Bob Malcolm, Gareth Harrison, Harry Cox, Richard Dennison, Alan Gregory and Dr Keith Lawson**.

Their kindness, patience, and dedication ensured that every student felt valued, included, and successful.

The experience was far more than just a fishing trip, it was a day filled with laughter, confidence-building, friendship, and unforgettable memories. We are incredibly grateful to have been invited and hope this is the beginning of a lasting partnership with the charity.

For more information about the charity and the amazing work they do, visit **Masonic Fishing Charity**.



RESPECT

STUDENT VOICE AT OUR GOVERNORS' MEETING



At our most recent **Governors' Meeting**, five of our students represented the school with exceptional maturity, confidence and insight as they met with governors to discuss life at school and our ongoing school improvement journey.

The students spoke thoughtfully and knowledgeably about their experiences, sharing valuable perspectives on teaching and learning, behaviour, enrichment opportunities and the wider school environment. They demonstrated great pride in the school whilst also offering honest reflections and constructive ideas for continued improvement.

What made the meeting particularly powerful was the way our students confidently held governors to account, asking challenging questions about how the school continues to improve and how leaders and governors are working together to secure the very best outcomes for all students.

Their contributions were incredibly well received and highlighted the importance of student voice in shaping the future of our school. Governors commented on how articulate, respectful and insightful the students were throughout the discussion.

It was a fantastic meeting and a wonderful example of our students embodying the values, ambition and leadership we are so proud of across our school community.



INCLUSION DROP-IN 2 UPDATE



Inclusion Drop-in 2 - Wednesday 29th April 2026

A big thank you to all parents/carers who attended the second Inclusion Drop-in on Wednesday 29th April. This was a positive event where parents/carers were able to come along and meet key staff, chat to other parents/carers and get some advice from our partner agencies who attended the event. Agencies present included; School Health, Educational Psychology Service, Art Therapist and Advanced Solutions. We would also like to thank those agencies for attending the event and offering advice and guidance to parents/carers.

It was also great to welcome some new parents/carers whose children will be joining our school in September 2026 in Year 7.



We hope to hold our final Inclusion Drop-in of the year in the next half term. If you have any suggestions of topics, you would look the Inclusion Team to provide information about or you would like to see a particular agency attend, please email send

admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk
with your suggestions.

Parents' views...

"I found the Parent Inclusion Drop-In Session very informative and supportive. Staff took the time to explain processes clearly and discuss the support available for my child both in and out of the classroom. It was great to have the opportunity to talk through concerns and feel confident that all staff are committed to supporting my child's needs. Overall, it was a very positive and helpful evening."

"I found the Inclusion Drop-In Evening at Halewood Academy really useful and reassuring. Staff were very helpful in explaining referral processes and what support the school can provide after a diagnosis. It was great to discuss support plans and reassuring to know that my child will be supported by all members of staff."

"I found the Inclusion Drop-In Evening at Halewood Academy really useful and encouraging."



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

SPORTS UPDATE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



During a recent visit to **Marine Football Club**, our **Year 7** pupils took part in a fantastic football and awareness event involving four local schools. The day combined sport with an important educational message surrounding **County Lines** and the dangers associated with it, delivered by a guest speaker from **Crimestoppers**.

Both the **Year 7 boys' and girls'** teams represented the school brilliantly throughout the tournament, showing excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. The girls' team achieved one win, one draw and one loss, while the boys' team drew one match and unfortunately lost two. Although both teams finished last overall, the pupils remained positive and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The day included three football matches for each team, as well as dinner kindly provided by **Marine FC**. It was a valuable and enjoyable opportunity for the children to learn, compete, and work together in a positive environment.



Mr Patten

Year 8 Assistant Progress Leader



YEAR 8 KNOWSLEY CUP WINNERS



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding **Year 8 Boys** football team for their incredible victory! This week, they clinched the prestigious "**Bob Downing**" Knowsley Cup with a thrilling win against **All Saints at St Edmund Arrowsmith** school. It was a match to remember, filled with exhilarating moments and a showcase of extraordinary talent and teamwork.

Right from the kickoff, the team set the tone for the match. In a breathtaking start, **Luca** delivered a stunning goal by chipping the **All Saints** goalkeeper with just seconds on the clock. The precision and skill displayed in that moment were truly remarkable. What a fantastic finish!

The team continued to play with great determination and skill. Their hard work and seamless teamwork were evident throughout the game. One of the standout moments came when **Noah S** made an incredible drive down the wing, skillfully cutting inside to unleash a superb finish into the roof of the net.

Despite the pressure from a strong and talented **All Saints** team, our defense held firm, showcasing magnificent efforts across the pitch. It was a real squad effort, with every player contributing to the victory. The team's resilience and determination were key factors in securing the win.

In the closing moments of the game, **All Saints** managed to score a freekick, but our team held their ground and emerged as the 2-1 victors. This victory was especially commendable given that **All Saints** is known for its talented players, many of whom are national champion schoolboys.

We are delighted with both the performance and the result. The pride in the team was evident as they celebrated their well-deserved victory.

Congratulations once again to the Year 8 Boys football team on their fantastic achievement.

Mr Rylands

PE / Transitions Co-ordinator



YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Our Year 10 Photography students embarked on an exciting project to build their 'selfie' portfolios. This initiative not only allowed them to explore their creativity but also honed their skills in various camera techniques.

Exploring Camera Techniques

The students delved into different camera techniques to capture the perfect shot. They learned about composition, lighting, and angles, each playing a crucial role in taking a compelling photograph. By understanding these elements, the students were able to enhance their selfies, transforming them into works of art.

Students focused on the rule of thirds, leading lines, and framing to create balanced and engaging images. This knowledge helped them position themselves within the frame to capture attention and convey emotion.

The students experimented with different angles, discovering how various perspectives can dramatically alter the perception of an image. By trying low, high, and eye-level shots, they gained an understanding of how angles can enhance the storytelling element of their photographs to build into their portfolio.



YEAR 7 UKULELE SHOWCASE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

**BEST
TIPS!**

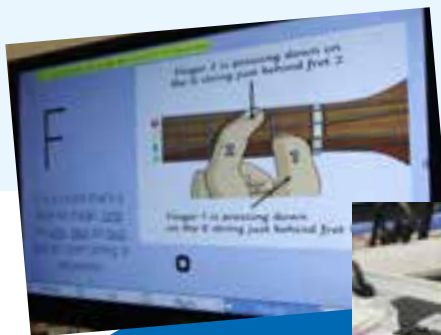
This term our Year 7 students have been diligently learning and practicing the chords of C major, F major, and A minor on their ukuleles.

These chords form the backbone of their upcoming class performance of the song "Beautiful Boy" by John Lennon. This experience not only enhances their musical skills but also fosters a sense of teamwork and creativity.

The class performance of "Beautiful Boy" provided an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their newfound skills. They were encouraged to practice regularly and pay attention to rhythm and timing.

Working together as a team, they ensured a performance that was both melodious and memorable.

By mastering these chords and embracing the spirit of music, Year 7 students delivered a wonderful rendition of "Beautiful Boy", celebrating the beauty of learning and performing music together.



Tips for a Successful Performance

Practice Consistently:

Regular practice helps in memorizing chords and building confidence.

Listen Actively:

Listening to the original song can help students understand the tempo and emotion.

Stay Relaxed and Enjoy:

Enjoying the performance is the key to expressing the joy and message of the song.



RESILIENCE

E-WEX GRADUATION



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

The E-WEX Graduation Celebration was a wonderful afternoon celebrating the achievements of our **Year 10 and Year 11 students**. Pupils were joined by friends and family as they proudly collected their **Record of Achievement**, recognising all of the hard work, dedication, and personal development they have shown throughout the programme this year.

The E-WEX programme provides students with valuable opportunities to prepare for life beyond school and supports their transition into post-16 education, training, apprenticeships, and employment. Throughout the year, students have developed important employability and life skills including teamwork, communication, leadership, resilience, independence, and professionalism.

They have also completed training in areas such as health and safety, food hygiene, and first aid, helping them gain the confidence and practical knowledge needed for the wider world of work and adulthood.

The celebration was also an important opportunity for our **Year 10** students to see what they themselves can achieve over the next year as they continue their own E-WEX journey. For our **Year 11** students, the event marked an exciting milestone as they prepare to move onto the next stage of their education and future careers as confident, active young adults.

Guests also enjoyed a selection of delicious food prepared and served by our students, showcasing the confidence, professionalism, and practical skills they have developed during the programme.

A special thank you must also go to **Mrs Hall** and **Mr Sandle** for their hard work, support, and dedication in helping make both the programme and the celebration such a success.

It was a fantastic afternoon and a proud moment for everyone involved. Congratulations to all of our students on their achievements, and we wish them every success for the future.



WE WILL REMEMBER MEGAN



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

MEGAN HURLEY
FOUNDATION



The Megan Hurley Foundation

Understanding first hand the financial strain and lack of support faced by self-employed families during times of crisis, the Hurley family resolved to create the Megan Hurley Foundation. This foundation aims to provide short-term assistance to self-employed families grappling with the sudden loss of a child, assisting with financial burdens during their time away from work.

Additionally, the foundation may extend support to other charitable causes benefiting children, with eligibility determined by its trustees. Through these efforts, the Megan Hurley Foundation seeks to honor Megan's memory and offer support to those navigating similar challenges.

Remembered for her loving nature and eagerness to help others, the foundation serves as a beacon of her vibrant spirit and compassionate heart.

With a dedication to preserving Megan's values and commitment to kindness, the Megan Hurley Foundation ensures that her memory remains. Through its compassionate initiatives, the foundation changes the lives of those in need, perpetuating Megan's legacy of love and generosity.



On Friday 22nd May 26
we invite you to wear
something Orange in
memory of Megan Hurley.



WE ARE RECYCLING



HALEWOOD ACADEMY

A GREEN planet IS A CLEAN PLANET

WE SEEK THE BEST

WE ARE RECYCLING

WE SEEK THE BEST

Halewood Academy is RECYCLING

Why Are We Doing This?

Small actions today. A better future tomorrow.

<p>LESS INCARCERATION</p> <p>We need to send all waste to be burned for energy. How we recycle more and burn less.</p>	<p>PROTECTS THE PLANET</p> <p>Recycling helps reduce pollution, battle climate change and protect our natural world.</p>
<p>SAVES RESOURCES</p> <p>Recycling materials and food waste saves energy and valuable resources for the future.</p>	<p>EVERYONE CAN HELP</p> <p>Every student has a part to play. Using the right bin helps keep our school clean and sustainable.</p>

USE THE RIGHT BIN. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

DO YOU KNOW? Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to power a TV for up to 3 hours!

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A CLEANER, GREENER FUTURE.

WE SEEK THE BEST

Polite Notice

Can Parents/Carers please ensure that when using the car park they are not using the disabled bays unnecessarily and are not parking across any of the parking bays, which may prevent vehicles from leaving.

Please continue to be considerate of all car park users when dropping off and picking up.

We will be keeping this under review.

Kind Regards

Halewood Academy

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST



CYCLING TO SCHOOL

MUST NOT

carry a passenger unless your cycle has been built or adapted to carry one

ride in a dangerous, careless or inconsiderate manner



We ask for your support in speaking to your child if they cycle to school and ensure that they are aware that cyclists should abide by the Highway Code and cycles should be ridden on the road, alongside the kerb (within approx. 1-2ft)

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



HALEWOOD ACADEMY

Student Spotlight



Millie Myers

Millie is the lead singer of a band, TwelveTone. Recently they won a Battle of the Bands competition against 10 other bands from Liverpool Schools. Millie also played the role of Glinda in the school production of The Wizard of Oz.

Keep an eye out on social media for some of TwelveTone's upcoming gigs. I am sure we will see Millie's name in lights in the future - Well done!



If you want to nominate a student, or yourself, please scan the barcode or click the link below.

[Student Spotlight Nomination – Fill in form](#)



WE SEEK THE BEST

LOCAL SEND REFORM PLAN

HAVE YOUR SAY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Knowsley Council have formed a **Local SEND Reform Plan** to ensure that as many voices as possible are heard.

The **SEND reforms** are about improving how children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are supported across education, health and care. We want to hear from everyone involved in the local SEND system.

Alongside the recent **SEND Partnership workshops**, and last week's strategy consultation session was held with headteachers and further engagement is being currently been undertaken to broaden input.

A short survey has been developed to capture the views of those who may not have been involved in these discussions, and to help cast the net as widely as possible.

Parents, carers, children and young people, education settings, and wider professionals are encouraged to complete a short survey to help shape **Knowsley's Local SEND Reform Plan**.

The UK government published major proposals for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** reforms in England earlier this year, setting out a national ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people with

SEND and to create a more inclusive, consistent and sustainable system.

As part of the preparations for the reforms, the **Knowsley SEND Partnership** is developing its Local SEND Reform Plan. This plan will set out how the council and its partners strengthen SEND support across education, health and care over the coming years.

A short survey has been developed to inform the plan and ensure that a broad and diverse range of voices is captured – your views are really important so please take a moment to share your views before 5pm on Friday 29 May 2026.

You can complete the survey here on the link below

<https://shorturl.at/GUndX>

it takes around 15 minutes to complete.



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE 2026



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

This term **Year 7** and **Year 8** competed in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge 2026.

It consisted of a **60 minute, 25 multiple choice Challenge**. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The results were fantastic! Congratulations on their outstanding achievements.

20 students awarded Bronze

11 students awarded Silver

5 students awarded Gold



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Hello, my name is **Miss Carberry**. I had the privilege of attending **Halewood Academy** from **2014 to 2019**. My time there was not just about academics; it was a transformative period that opened up new horizons and possibilities for my future.

During my time at **Halewood Academy** I was given the opportunity to attend many careers events and speak to a variety of employers as well as universities and colleges. University had not previously been something I had considered as I believed it was not for me however after getting to speak to university representatives I realised this was not the case. I was able to get an insight into how university could help my career and what I needed to do to get there.

During **Year 10** I was able to complete work experience and this developed my confidence greatly. As a previously shy and quiet student I was able to grow and find my voice during work experience as I began to see the real working world.

Once I was in **Year 11**, I started to consider my career options and felt I had a strong interest in teaching. I discussed this with my teachers at the time and they encouraged me to pursue it further.

ASPIRE



At the end of **Year 11** I had the opportunity to stay at **Halewood Academy** after my exams and get experience teaching classes.

This gave me a real insight into the world of teaching and confirmed my passion for it.

I went on to complete my undergraduate degree in **Psychology** and I am currently completing my **PGCE in Secondary Science** specialising in **Biology training** at **Halewood Academy**.

My experiences here has shaped who I have become today as many careers events and opportunities have allowed me to reach my goals.

A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

END OF TERM LOST PROPERTY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

School has an increasing number of items in Lost Property such as coats, bags, shoes, trainers, folders etc. If your child has lost an item, please encourage them to view the lost property to return the item to them.

Any items remaining in lost property after the end of term will be donated to a local charity.

Regards

Halewood Academy



YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY

EXPLORING THE RIVER CONEY



A superb day was had by Year 10 this term as we went on our first GCSE Physical Geography field trip. We investigated whether the River Coney followed the Bradshaw Model and were split into three teams to study the upper, middle, and lower courses of the river.

During the day, we tested different sampling techniques, including random, stratified, and systematic sampling. We measured the depth, width, and velocity of the river, repeating our methods to ensure the validity of our results. We also examined the shape of the rocks in the river to see how they had been affected by erosion over time.

Although it was a full day, we learnt a lot and had great fun throughout. We hope the second group enjoys the experience just as much.

Thank you to Year 10 for making it such a fantastic day, and to the Geography team for their enthusiasm and support.

Mrs Hayden-Lyons

Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)



Sampling Techniques

Throughout the day, we tested various sampling techniques to collect accurate and reliable data:

Random Sampling: This method provided us with the opportunity to select samples without bias, ensuring a fair representation of the river's features.

Stratified Sampling: By dividing the river into distinct sections, we could focus on specific characteristics unique to each part of the river.

Systematic Sampling: This technique involved collecting data at regular intervals, helping us to identify patterns and trends along the river.

EXAMINING EROSION

In addition to measuring river dimensions, we took a closer look at the rocks within the riverbed. Observing their shape and size helped us understand how erosion had impacted them over time. This examination provided valuable insights into the river's geological history and the natural forces at work.

A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

LFC ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Over the last term KS4 students have been taking part in the LFC Enterprise programmes, working with an LFC tutor on skills required for their post-16 options. As a reward for taking part the students attended the **Escape Room in Liverpool**. Throughout the event, the girls demonstrated exceptional behaviour and enthusiasm, thoroughly enjoying the experience. They represented our school with the utmost respect and dignity, making it a true pleasure to accompany them.

Mrs Jones

PE Teacher and Aspirations Coordinator



ASPIRE

DofE EXPEDITION RIVINGTON



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

This term, our Year 9 students successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition in Rivington, demonstrating outstanding resilience, teamwork and determination throughout the experience. Despite facing two days of persistent rain, students remained positive and motivated as they navigated their routes using a OS map, carried their supplies and equipment and collaborated together to overcome challenges along the way. Their perseverance and attitude were a real credit to themselves and the school.



ASPIRE

DofE PROGRAMME

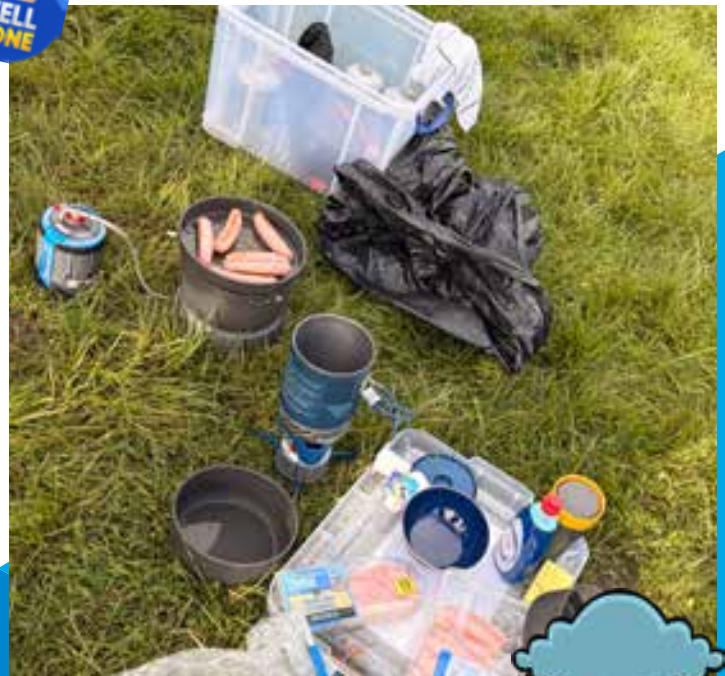


HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

The expedition gave students the opportunity to develop important life skills including communication, independence, problem solving and leadership, while also stepping outside of their comfort zones.

Miss Patel and Miss Evans are incredibly proud of all the students for the maturity, resilience and encouragement they showed throughout the expedition.

Well done, Year 9 – a fantastic achievement!



RESILIENCE

SUPPORT AT HOME

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Helping children finish tasks – Encouraging persistence and completion of work

Dear Parents and Carers

Encouraging children to complete work at home can sometimes provide a battle for some parents and carers. Their age, the subject, the nature of the task and how long it will take to complete it can all be important factors to consider, but ultimately what we all want are for every young person to make the right decisions for themselves and to feel that that completion of any independent learning task is achievable. Here are some tips to consider when supporting your child at home:

Plan

When homework is set, there are deadlines set well in advance. Help your children to map out their week by accessing Class Charts and encourage them to agree in advance about the days for particular pieces of homework. Use quieter days to get them to finish more pieces of work and preferably, well before a deadline. On busier days, schedule less homework or just tasks that are easier to complete.

Organise

For improving organisation, perhaps use a small whiteboard at home and write down all homework for the week and when it's due. We usually assume 'doing it' is the hard bit, but it can be organising and remembering to complete it on time for the right teacher, on the right day, is just as challenging.

You could encourage your children to order their homework tasks by difficulty. Perhaps completing easier tasks first, before moving on to more complex and demanding tasks (or vice versa). This makes the process more straightforward.

Persuade

Using the carrot, more than the stick can be useful for homework tasks. Perhaps link small rewards for completing homework without any fuss, such as treats at the weekend? Or earning further time to engage in their favourite hobby once tasks are completed.

Support

Take a consistent and fair approach with children. Active encouragement is needed. Create space. Make home study positive. Set time aside to support your child with the completion of tasks if they find certain work more challenging. Let your child make mistakes. Be realistic about tasks and goals. Plus, insist that the work is finished. Remember, praise the effort not the outcome.

The Teaching and Learning Team

A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

MEASLES PROTECTION

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

Make sure your child is protected from measles

Measles is spreading in Knowsley. Please read this information on how to protect your family.

How serious is measles?

Measles can be a serious illness, and most people who catch measles become very unwell, with many people admitted to hospital. Babies and young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immunity are at increased risk of complications. In rare cases, people infected with measles will die.

Measles is very infectious, and spreads easily. Spending 15 minutes or more with someone who has measles is enough to catch the infection. A child who has measles will infect nearly all of the unprotected children they come into contact with. This means that if an unvaccinated child spends time with someone who has measles, it is highly likely that they will catch measles.

Although most children who live in Knowsley have been vaccinated against measles, there are still many children who have not had two doses of MMR vaccine. This means that many children are at risk from measles.

How can I protect my child against measles?

Vaccination is the best way to protect children and adults from measles. MMR vaccination has been proven to be safe, with millions of doses given in the UK. It is really important that children receive two doses of MMR vaccine to ensure that they are protected.

Please check your child's red book, or contact your GP if you are unsure whether your child has had their MMR vaccinations.

MEASLES PROTECTION



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

My child has not had two doses of MMR vaccine – what do I need to do now?

The school vaccination service is offering extra clinics for secondary school children over half term:

Location	Address	Date
St Helens Clinic	Ashtons Green Clinic, Ashtons Green Drive, St Helens, WA9 2AP	Tuesday 26 May 2026
Manor Farm Clinic	Manor Farm Primary Care Resource Centre, Manor Farm Road, Knowsley, L36 0UB	Wednesday 27 May 2026
Runcorn Clinic	Castlefield Community Centre, The Village Square, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2ST	Thursday 28 May 2026
St Chad's Clinic	Room F52, St Chad's Drive, Kirkby, L32 8RE	Friday 29 May 2026

Phone the school vaccination service on 0151 351 8805 to make an appointment.

If you have any questions about MMR, the nurse will be happy to answer these before your child has the vaccine.

You can also arrange an MMR vaccination for your child by contacting your GP.

Where to find out more advice and information

If you would like more information about measles, visit [Measles - NHS](#) - this website has a picture of measles rash.

More information about MMR vaccination is at [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS](#)

Yours sincerely

Beth Milton
Consultant in Public Health
publichealth@knowsley.gov.uk

A GREAT
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TO BE A
PART OF

SEND LOCAL OFFER



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

SEND SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS AND
DISABILITY
0-25 IN
KNOWSLEY

Knowsley's SEND Local Offer

LIVE

22 May 2026

9.30am-3pm

Huyton Volair

Longview Drive, Huyton, Knowsley L36 6EG

All services across Knowsley under one roof for parents/carers to find out more information about what is on offer to them in their areas.



MATHS CHALLENGE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

CALCULATOR

Calculator Skill of
the month

Averages From Tables




Your Casio Fx-991CW calculator can find the mean and median from a table.







The table shows information about the number of social media accounts used by each of 300 students.


Number of social media accounts	Frequency
0	3
1	57
2	84
3	75
4	81

- How many social media accounts are there
- What is the median number of social media accounts
- What is the mean number of social media accounts


Home – Statistics – EXE    EXE

Select 1-Variable – EXE 


Enter data from first column in 'x'  EXE  EXE  EXE  EXE  EXE

Enter frequencies in 'Freq'       3 EXE  7 EXE  4 EXE  5 EXE  1 EXE

Press EXE Key 

Select 1-Var Results – EXE 

a) Total is on second line $\sum x = 774$

b) Scroll down for median – Med = 3 

e) Scroll back up for Mean on top line $\bar{x} = 2.58$ 

```

[ ]
Σx      =2.58
Σx²     =774
Σx²     =2.364
σ²x     =1.2236
σx      =1.106164545
s²x     =1.227692308
    
```



STRATEGY

MATHS CHALLENGE



HALEWOOD ACADEMY

CALCULATOR

Maths Challenge

Averages From Tables

Using the example above can you answer the following question using your calculator

The table shows information about the numbers of points scored by 30 students in a quiz.

Number of points	Frequency
0	4
1	3
2	7
3	5
4	6
5	5

a) How many points were scored in total?
 b) What is the median number of points scored?
 c) What is the mean number of points scored?

STRATEGY

BLACKPOOL REWARDS TRIP 2026



HALEWOOD ACADEMY

HALEWOOD ACADEMY

REWARDS TRIP!

TO

BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

WHEN?

**WEDNESDAY
15TH JULY**

WHO CAN GO?

**STUDENTS IN
YR 7-9**

COST

£45
FOR TRANSPORT
AND TICKET

CRITERIA

**YOU MUST BE A MINIMUM
BRONZE STATUS
ON THE GRADUATION**

LIMITED TICKETS!

★ **LIMITED TICKETS – DON'T MISS OUT!** ★

YOU MUST SECURE YOUR TICKET BY **FRIDAY 12TH JUNE**

★ *We Seek The Best* ★

ICELAND TRIP 2027




HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

SCHOOL TRIP TO


ICELAND

2027


EXPLORE. LEARN. INSPIRE.



STUNNING
LANDSCAPES



HANDS-ON
LEARNING



UNFORGETTABLE
EXPERIENCES



MAKE MEMORIES
THAT LAST

ADVENTURE AWAITS!



JANUARY 2027
DETAILS COMING SOON



A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME
EXPERIENCE!

WHAT A RESULT!



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

We are delighted to share that **Halewood Academy** has been recognised with a national engagement award by **The Engagement Platform (TEP)** following their **Spring 2026 census**.

We achieved a **Top 10%** ranking nationally for [award name(s)], placing us among the highest-performing schools in the country on this measure.

This recognition reflects the commitment of our pupils, employees and families to building a positive and supportive school environment. We are very proud of this achievement and will continue to use engagement data to drive our school improvement work.

#ProudMoment #SchoolCommunity #EngagementMatters



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF



ASPIRE

Registration is NOW OPEN.

Dreams take flight here! ✈️ Registration for the 2026/27 Fantasy Wings Airline Pilot & Aviation Development Programme is now open - secure your future in the skies today!

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

FANTASY
WINGS

- **Are you interested in becoming a Pilot? Or working in Aviation in the future? (Engineering, Air Traffic Control, Operations, Flight Deck)**
- **We have sponsored places (free!) for interested students to take part in a Nationally recognised programme working with professionals that will develop your knowledge, skills and chances of working in this area in the future.**
- **By taking part, you will also have the chance to win free flying lessons and a Private Pilot Licence!**
- **Open to ALL students who will be 13+ by October. See Mr Campbell for more details.**



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

WE SEEK THE BEST

FREE
SUMMER
School

Monday 10th August to Friday 14th August
for all New Year 7 students starting in September 2026.
Sessions run from 9.15am - 2.45pm.



FREE snack, lunch and drinks will be provided.
All sessions will be fun, engaging and a great
opportunity to meet new friends!

To book a place, please email
summerschool@halewoodacademy.co.uk
Please also provide two emergency contact names
and numbers within the email.

A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

KS4 & KS5 STEM ACTIVITY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Knowsley

Parent Power

Would you like to take part in interactive, fun sessions alongside your child?

You are invited to join us for our next Knowsley Parent Power meeting, organised by Hope University.

Date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Venue: Hope Park Campus, Childwall, L16 9JD

Calling all KS4 & KS5 STEM enthusiasts!

Through a STEM activity, young people will experience what university learning looks like. We will have the opportunity to explore Hope Park Campus and its amazing facilities. These activities will show different and fascinating ways students could pursue a pathway in STEM!

In addition, we'll discuss the variety of ways Parent Power Knowsley can support and enrich your young persons post-16 aspirations. We want to listen to you to find out how we can work together to support your child (aged 10-18) on this journey

To register your interest and find more information, contact:

Jane Harrison via 07429 404 687 or
parentpowerknowsley@thebrilliantclub.org



YEAR 11 SUMMER 2026 TIMETABLE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Practical exams: H&C (09.03.26 - 11.03.26) Art & Design (21.04.26 and 23.04.26), Spanish Speaking exams (30.04.26 - 01.05.26),
3D Design (16th, 17th, 20th and 22nd April), PE Practical Moderation (01.05.26)

Morning 9.00am start			Date	Afternoon 1.00pm start		
Code	Subject	Dur		Code	Subject	Dur
BAC0301	BTEC Animal Care (12)	2h	Friday 1st May	BT0301	BTEC Travel & Tourism (8)	2h
BANK HOLIDAY			Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY		
BHS0301	BTEC Health and Social Care (18)	2h	Tuesday 5th May			
			Wednesday 6th May			
			Thursday 7th May	8100/1	GCSE Citizenship Paper 1 (1)	1h 45m
R184/01	CAMNAT Sport Studies (13)	1h 15m	Friday 8th May			
C720U10-1	GCSE English Literature Paper 1 (184)	2h	Monday 11th May			
			Tuesday 12th May	8461/1H	GCSE Biology Paper 1 (H 9)	1h 45m
				8464/B/1F 8464/B/1H	GCSE Combined Science Biology Paper 1 (F 107, H 77)	1h 15m
8035/1	GCSE Geography Paper 1 (105)	1h 30m	Wednesday 13th May	J277/01	Computer Science Paper 1 (24)	1h 30m
1MA1 1F/H	GCSE Math Paper 1 (Non Calc) (F 126, H 67)	1h 30m	Thursday 14th May	8100/2	GCSE Citizenship Paper 2 (1)	1h 45m
8145/1	GCSE History P1 (81451AD-1h, 81451BB-1h) (91)	2h (Total)	Friday 15th May	R050/01	CAMNAT IT (13)	
8462/1H	GCSE Chemistry Paper 1 (9)	1h 15m	Monday 18th May	R180/01	CAMNAT Sport Science (13)	1h 15m
8464/C/1/F 8464/C/1/H	GCSE Comb Science. Chemistry Paper 1 (F 107, H 77)	1h 15m				
C720U20-1	GCSE English Literature Paper 2 (184)	2h 30m	Tuesday 19th May	J277/02	GCSE Computer Science P2 (24)	1h 30m
			Wednesday 20th May			
C700U10-1	GCSE English Language P1 (194)	1h 45m	Thursday 21st May			
J587/01	GCSE PE Paper 1 (29)	1h	Friday 22nd May	NCFE	L1/2 Tech Award in Bus & Ent (70)	1h 30m
HALF TERM						
J587/02	GCSE PE P2 (29)	1h	Monday 1st June			
8463/1H	GCSE Physics Paper 1 (H 9)	1h 15m	Tuesday 2nd June			
8464/P/1F 8464/P/1/H	GCSE Combined Science Physics P1 (F 107, H 77)	1h 45m				
1MA1 2FH	GCSE Maths P2 (calc) (F 126, H 67)	1h30m	Wednesday 3rd June	8035/2	GCSE Geography Paper 2 (105)	1h 30m
81452AA 81452BC	GCSE History Paper 2 (81452AA-1h, 81452BC-1h) (91)	2h	Thursday 4th June			
C700U20-1	GCSE English Language P2 (194)	2h	Friday 5th June			
8461/2H	GCSE Biology Paper 2 (H 9)	1h45m	Monday 8th June	8365/1	L2 Cert in Further Maths Paper 1 (1)	1h 45m
8464 /B/2F/H	GCSE Combined Science Biology Paper 2 (F107, H 77)	1h 15m				
8692/L/F/H	GCSE Spanish List (F 22, H 14)	35m/45m	Tuesday 9th June			
8692/R/F/H	GCSE Spanish Reading (F 22, H 14)	45m/1h				
NCFE	L1/2 Tech Award in Child Devel & Care (16)	1h 30m				
1MA1 3F/H	GCSE Maths Paper 3 (F 126, H 67)	1h30m	Wednesday 10th June	1GK0 1H	GCSE Greek Listening (1)	45m
				1GK0 3H	GCSE Greek Reading (1)	1h 5m
8035/3	GCSE Geography P3 (105)	1h30m	Thursday 11th June			
8462/2H	GCSE Chemistry Paper 2 (H 9)	1h 45m	Friday 12th June	5409UBO-1	Tech Award Hosp & Catering (16)	1h 20m
8464/C/2F/H	GCSE Combined Science Chemistry Paper 2 (F 107 H 77)	1h 15m				
8463/2H	GCSE Physics Paper 2 (H 9)	1h45m	Monday 15th June	8365/2	L2 Cert in Further Maths Paper 2 (1)	1h 45m
8464/P/2F/H	GCSE Combined Science Physics P2 (F 107 H 77)	1h15m				
8692/WF/H	GCSE Spanish Writing (F 22, H 14)	1h 10m / 1h 15m	Tuesday 16th June			
1GK0 4H	GCSE Greek Writing (1)	1h 25m	Wednesday 17th June			
			Thursday 18th June			
			Friday 19th June			
			Monday 22nd June			
			Tuesday 23rd June			
Contingency Day			Wednesday 24th June	Contingency Day		

HOMEWORK PRIZE DRAW



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

FORTNIGHTLY HOMEWORK PRIZE DRAW!

WIN EXCITING VOUCHERS!
Rewarding your hard work and dedication.

HOW TO ENTER:



**SUBMIT 100% OF
YOUR HOMEWORK**

RANDOM SELECTION:

A winner is
**CHOSEN AT
RANDOM**
from
**FROM EACH
YEAR GROUP**



COLLECT YOUR REWARD:



**WIN A
FANTASTIC
VOUCHER!**

Treat yourself for your
achievements!

**START SUBMITTING NOW!
HARD WORK PAYS OFF!**

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 games 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

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
4



Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it *does* offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers ... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

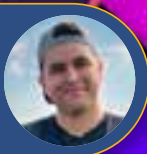
The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they *never* ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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 games 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 MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unnerve young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lots of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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Meaningful May 2026

MONDAY



4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

TUESDAY



5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

WEDNESDAY



6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

THURSDAY



7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

FRIDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

SATURDAY

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

SUNDAY

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

18 Send a hand-written note to someone you care about

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future



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