

Family NewsBites



A round-up to keep you updated (2.6.23)

KS4 - Students in Seniors classes have been busy learning and working towards a very special event taking place in the College on Wednesday 12th July. Families are invited to join us from 1.45 pm for a Poetry performance and our own production of Macbeth. How exciting is this?!

Social Media - Online safety is very important to us and we have measures in place to ensure any devices used for learning in our schools are appropriately "locked down".

Please can families also check what their child/young person is viewing at home, who they are communicating with on social media and if possible, check in now and again on conversations / what is currently "trending"? WhatsApp is one of the favourite social media platforms that is widely used but recently, we have heard from a few students across the Federation whose peers have been a little unkind online. Attached is a WhatsApp guide which might help you open those potentially difficult conversations with your child around online messaging, as well as screen time at home.

Keeping everyone safe online is important for all of us. If you ever need any advice or are worried about your child's use of social media, please drop a line in the first instance to your Class Teacher.

Illness - Even though the weather has finally improved over the last couple of weeks, we are still seeing cases of sore throats, coughs and colds in our classrooms. If your child or young person is ill, please keep them at home until they are fit and well enough to return to school *and* complete a full day of learning and activities. Mild illnesses such as sore throats and colds pass around a class quite quickly, affecting both pupils and staff alike. If we can keep everyone as healthy as we possibly can, this will improve overall pupil attendance and we would see less staff absence. Thank you for your support.

ET Facebook Page - We like to post on our ET Facebook page quite regularly.
<https://www.facebook.com/ellentinkhamschoolexeter>

As well as general updates and news, we also share photos of our students and their wonderful achievements. Click on the link above to follow us, if you wish.

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Dress Code - Sixth Form Students - With the warmer weather upon us, please ensure your young person wears appropriate clothing into College each day. No crop tops and no spaghetti straps please, and shorts should reach just above the knee as a minimum. Our young people are still out and about regularly both on site and off site, so footwear should also provide good support and coverage of toes. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

ET PTFA - Hullo from the PTFA! We are starting to prepare for the Summer Fetes which are taking place on Friday 7th July at Hollow Lane (School) and Friday 14th July at Wayside Crescent (College). Both fetes start at 10.30 am and finish by 12 noon. Raffle tickets have been ordered and once again, we will shortly be sending these out and asking all our families and our lovely local community to generously donate wine, prizes, luxury gifts and food items for our hampers.

This year, the PTFA would like to run a Tombola stall so we are in need of some prizes for this. We are also contacting local companies to see if they could help with any donations, so if you know of a company or business that could make a donation, this would be great. And of course, we'll have our very popular Wine / Water stall and will no doubt sell out of bottles very quickly!

Please could you spare just 30 minutes on the day to help out? We rely on literally a few of us to continually support events and when additional parents and carers are able to spare a little time, it is very much appreciated. It's also a great way to meet and chat to other families who visit the stalls. You get to have some great conversations!

If you would like to help us, please let the Office know and we'll be in touch. Thank you very much. We do have a "pre-Fete" meeting happening on Thursday 29th June at 10 am at the College. We'll be making up the hampers, ticketing the Tombola prizes and wrapping lots of bottles in tinfoil. If you fancy a cuppa and joining us, you would be most welcome!

All parents and carers are automatically members of the PTFA so thank you in advance of your support. See you soon!

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Transitions & New Classes for September - We will share the new September class lists in the next few weeks. Sessions have also been planned for our students to have the opportunity to visit their new classrooms before moves take place from September. Exciting times!

Over the next half term, class meeting time will be prioritised for Teacher and TA information handovers to ensure all important knowledge is shared. At the end of term, a social story will be produced in readiness for the summer holiday. The social story will detail your child's new class, team and students.

Useful Dates - There have been a couple of date changes and a few new dates added to the Summer Term calendar. It's busy busy busy! Have a look on the next page for the latest updates.

**We hope you are enjoying
the beautiful weather we've
been having this week and
look forward to seeing
everyone back at Hollow
Lane and Wayside Crescent
on Monday 5th June.**

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Upcoming Dates

w/c 29th May - May half term holiday for one week

Monday 5th June - Pupils return to school

Thursday 8th June - ETC Girls Only Football Tournament

Thursday 8th June - Invite for Year 6 families to visit ETC 4.30 pm

Tuesday 13th June - Online Teams meeting at 5.30 pm regarding Earwig

Wednesday 14th June - Invite for Year 6 families to visit ETC 1.30 pm

Tuesday 20th June - Hollow Lane Sports Day [EYFS & KS1]

Wednesday 21st June - Hollow Lane Sports Day [selected KS2]

Wednesday 21st June - SENTient Trust Swimming Gala (ET hope to attend)

Thursday 22nd June - Hollow Lane Sports Day [selected KS2]

Wednesday 28th June - Anti-Bullying & Diversity Day (fyi)

Wednesday 28th June - ETC Sports Day at Exeter Arena

Thursday 29th June - PTFA meeting at ETC from 10 am - 11 am

w/c 3rd July - ET Arts Week (fyi)

Monday 3rd July - SEND Sports Festival (details tbc) (fyi)

Friday 7th July - ETS Hollow Lane Summer Fete 10.30 am - 12 noon

Friday 7th July - ETC Prom (evening, details coming out soon)

Wednesday 12th July - KS4 Open Event from 1.45 pm, families invited

Friday 14th July - ETC Wayside Crescent Summer Fete 10.30 am - 12 noon

Thursday 20th July - Leavers' Assemblies (am at ETC, pm at ETS)

Friday 21st July - Last Day of Term (for pupils and staff)

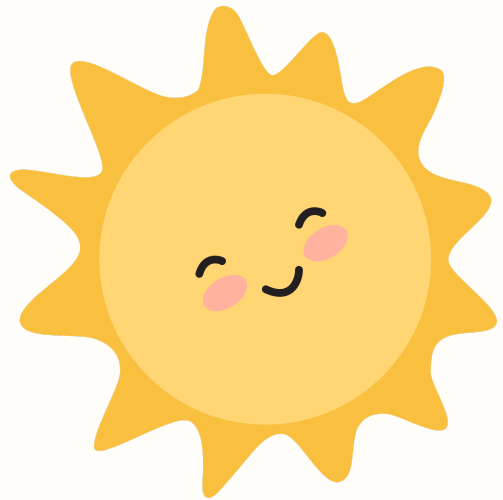
TBC = In Person Earwig Drop-In Sessions

Monday 4th - Wednesday 6th September - Staff Training Days

Thursday 7th September - Pupils return

w/c 23rd October - October half term holiday

As the warm weather has finally arrived, please send your child / young person in with:



- A named water bottle
- A named cap / hat

Please also ensure you / they have applied a layer of suncream before leaving home and provide a named bottle of suncream to keep in their bag so it can be re-applied during the day.

Staff will help with this, if needed.



ABSENCE LINE - if your child or young person is absent, you must phone us on 01392 467168 and tell us why. It is our statutory duty to account for all our pupils on each school day so if we don't hear from you, or cannot reach you, we have to inform the Social Care team or carry out a welfare check to your home. Thank you for your co-operation.

Global instant messaging app



Inside WhatsApp

800 million

average monthly active users

Minimum age for users is

16

Getting started

How does it work?

WhatsApp allows your child to send instant messages **only** to contacts that they have added to their WhatsApp account.

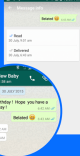


Only people who have a WhatsApp account can send and receive messages through the app.



Messages can be sent one to one...

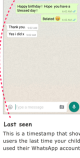
...or within a group conversation



Remember - For all messages sent, WhatsApp sends "read receipts" to tell sender if the message was delivered, read, seen or played (if a recipient had played video).

Keeping things private

What information can be shared?



Last seen

This is a timestamp that shows users the last time your child used their WhatsApp account.



Status message

This can be customised to show what the person wants to share with his/her contacts.



Online

This tells your contacts if you are online.



Remember - by default, WhatsApp will automatically set privacy settings to allow any WhatsApp user to view read, last seen messages and profile photo and status. If you don't share your last seen info, you won't be able to see other people's last seen info.

1

2

3

4



Tap the dotted icon



Tap 'Settings'



Hit 'Account'



Select 'Privacy'



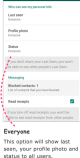
Note there is no way to hide online status from all users.

There are **three** settings to manage what information is shared

1

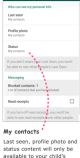
2

3



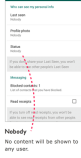
Everyone

This option will show last seen, your profile photo and status to all users.



My contacts

Last seen, profile photo and status content will only be available to your child's contacts from their address book.



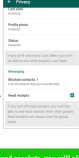
Nobody

No content will be shown to any user.



Please advise your child to change this setting to "My contacts" so that only their contacts are able to see this information.

If you would like to stop sending "read receipts" you can untick this option in the App.



Remember - if you uncheck Read receipts, you will also not be able to see other users' read receipts.

Location tagging

If this setting is switched on, any images and videos shared will also show the location of where they were taken on a map.

Talk to your children about the importance of keeping this function switched off.



Turn off Location services

Managing what content they can see

To make sure your child only receives messages from people they trust they can block, delete or report users.

Delete or blocking a user



Blocked users will not be able to contact you. Any updates to your status, profile image and last seen timestamps will not be shown. If you have blocked someone they will not be notified but may still be able to work it out as your status message will no longer be displayed.

Reporting spam



If you receive a message from an unknown contact you can Report spam and Block. This will report the user and add the user to your Blocked list.



CALL THE AXMINSTER GUILDHALL IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE = **01297 33333**



Full of sensational magic, illusion and circus thrills. The High Jinx Show visits the Axminster Guildhall, as part of it's 2023 tour. Coming to you direct from the Blackpool Tower Circus.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keeffe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Looking After Your WELLBEING ONLINE

We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.



LOOK FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITIES