

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2ND MAY 2024



Welcome to the Spring Term!

CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

What's Coming Up - Overleaf are dates of events happening this term.

0-25 SEND Team - Although the 0-25 contact phone number hasn't changed, the Customer Service Centre will now be taking your call and either answering your query, or leaving a message for the relevant contact for you.

Your School Lottery - We have had quite a few lucky winners already! If you'd like to purchase some tickets, please click on the link in the newsletter.

Enabling - We appreciate it is difficult for families to secure Enabling services and the Enabling List we hold in school is as up to date as it can be. Staff have the choice whether they wish to enable for a family outside of school hours - they may choose to support pupils in their class or take the opportunity to have separation time from those they spend the week with. Please be advised school is unable to influence or get involved with any enabling services. Thank you.

Dress Code - Details are in the newsletter about casual clothing for Sixth Form students, but please can we remind everyone that flip flops are not to be worn in school or College this summer. Footwear should ideally be "closed" across the toes and at the back/ankle. Thank you.

Transitions Adult Social Care (TASC) Service - It is possible for families to complete a referral form for students who are due to move to Adult Services. The link is in the newsletter, along with DCC information about TASC.

Communication with Families - There are various ways we keep in touch with families including the Home:School Diary, emails, text messages, newsletters and info on our website plus messages and photos of our pupils on the ET Facebook page. If you are not receiving messages, please contact Debbie Meffe in the Office who will check to see if we have the correct email/mobile number for you. Thank you.

ET Main Playground - We are stepping up our fundraising efforts to replace the main playground at Hollow Lane. The project will cost upwards of £250k so we'll keep you posted.

Safeguarding - Contact details listed.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday, no school

Tuesday 7th May - Phonics Workshop for selected families of children working at Level 2 & 3. From 1.45 pm at Hollow Lane. RSVP needed if you have received an invite. Thank you

Thursday 9th May - PTFA Meeting at Hollow Lane, 10 am. EVERYONE WELCOME

Thursday 9th May - Selected ETS and ETC students, swimming gala, from 10.30 am

Tuesday 21st May - Selected ETC students, Football, Devon FA, from 11 am

Thursday 23rd May - Selected ETC students, Cricket Festival, Budleigh CC, 10.15 am

w/c 27th May - Half Term holiday

Monday 3rd June - Pupils return

Friday 14th June - Selected ETS and ETC students, Goodrington Beach Fest

Friday 21st June - Year 6 Camp overnight (details to follow)

Monday 24th / Tuesday 25th June - Key Stage 2 Sports Days (details to follow)

Tuesday 25th June - E-Safety Session for parents/carers AND GRANDPARENTS! 12.30 pm until 1.30 pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 26th June - Key Stage 1 Sports Day (details to follow)

Thursday 27th / Friday 28th June - Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and Camp

Thursday 4th July - ETC Sixth Form "Respect" Festival on the Field

Friday 5th July - Hollow Lane Classes, family visits into the classrooms, from 1.45 pm

Tuesday 9th July - ETC Sports Day (plus Year 6's), Exeter Arena (details to follow)

Thursday 11th July - ETS Fete at Hollow Lane, 10.30 am - 12 noon

Wednesday 17th July - ETC Fete at Wayside Crescent, 10.30 am - 12 noon

0-25 SEND Team - There is a new system for contacting Devon County Council's 0-25 SEND team.



The phone number has stayed the same - **01392 380434** - but dedicated phone lines will be open on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. This should make it easier for families to call the Team at times suited to you.

Your call will be answered by the Customer Service Centre team who have received training about SEND. This new system should free people up within the SEND Statutory Team to be able to better focus on their casework. At present, almost all the calls received to the dedicated phone line result in a message being left with a request for a call back. The 0-25 Team are hoping the Customer Service Centre will be better placed to help answer your call and pass the message on promptly.

Your School Lottery - We've had quite a few lucky winners through Ellen Tinkham's "Your School Lottery" recently. **Thank you if you donated your winnings back to us - it is much appreciated.** If you'd like to purchase tickets and be in with a chance of winning some super prizes, here's how you get involved:

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

- £1 per week
- Weekly cash prizes
- £25,000 jackpot

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Ellen Tinkham School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online at YourSchoolLottery.co.uk by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Ellen Tinkham School

Splitting the £1.00

- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

- = £30 weekly cash prize
- = £2,080 a year for our school

To start supporting, visit: yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for: Ellen Tinkham

GambleAware 18+

To buy tickets, click here: [Your School Lottery](http://YourSchoolLottery.co.uk) and search for "Ellen Tinkham". Thank you



Enabling - Recently, we've received a marked increase in the number of requests from families asking for a copy of the Enabling List.

As a school, we are aware that some families do need additional support at home on weekday evenings, weekends and especially over the school holidays. Ellen Tinkham holds an Enabling List so that our staff, if they wish, can choose to add their contact details and provide an enabling service to families. It is also the staff's responsibility to remove their details from the list should they no longer wish to offer an enabling service. We have no involvement or say on which members of staff are added to the list, we do not get involved in any arrangement between a family and a member of staff, and we cannot put pressure on either party to work together or settle any disagreements.

Staff members can be selective with families they wish to work for and with outside of school hours. Some staff may wish to support pupils who are very well known to them, as they find this arrangement easier. Other staff may offer an enabling service but choose to enable for pupils not in their classroom, so that they have a little separation time from the children they support across the week.

We understand it can be frustrating for families if they know that staff within their classroom offer an enabling service, have added their details to the Enabling List but decline to offer support when asked. Please bear in mind there may be many reasons if this happens and whilst it can be frustrating and upsetting, the school cannot become involved in what is a private decision and arrangement between an enabler and a family.

To help assist our families as much as possible, we continue to advertise sign-up to the Enabling List we hold and request staff update their details if they change. We will continue to send out the List to families who request a copy and implore those involved in any enabling arrangement to ensure there is adequate insurance and relevant Enabling DBS checks in place. Thank you for your understanding.



Dress Code - With warmer weather around the corner (ever hopeful), this is a gentle reminder that students should not wear flip flops to school. Ideally footwear should cover the toes and back of the foot/ankle. For Sixth Form students, shorts, dresses, skirts should be knee length, and tops should not be revealing (spaghetti straps) or low cut. Thank you.

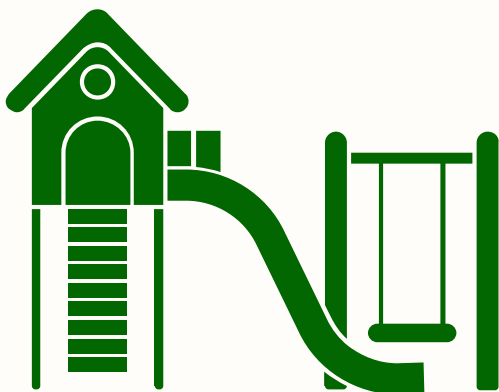
Transitions Adult Social Care (TASC) service - Did you know that parents and carers can self refer young people to the [TASC service](#)? The link to complete the form is [here](#). By completing the form, you can take a positive step towards the transition of students to adult services.

Communications from School - There are various ways we keep in touch with our families. The Home:School Diary is available for messages back and forth from your Class Teacher and class. Another way to contact your teacher is via email. If you need a reminder of what that is, please pop a request in the diary.



Class letters and information is usually sent out via email on SchoolComms. If the information is urgent, we do send hard copies home but we try to save paper as much as possible. You may also get text messages from us too. Newsletters, term dates, menus can all be found on our [website](#). And we also publicise upcoming events and show photos of our wonderful pupils on the ET Facebook page.

If you are not receiving information regularly from us, please ensure your up to date email address and/or mobile number is registered with the Office. Debbie Meffe will be able to update our database to ensure messages are getting through to you. We'd hate you to miss out!



ETS Main Playground - For those of you who visit Hollow Lane, you will appreciate our main playground has been in situ for a number of years and is definitely due an upgrade! We are stepping up our fundraising efforts and speaking with playground designers to submit designs and ideas.

We'll keep you posted as the project progresses, but we know it will cost in the region of £250k.

Safeguarding - Across our Federation, we take safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. If you ever have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, please contact your **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Katy Bradley at the school and Monika Davis at the College incl Sixth Form.**

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If Katy or Monika are unavailable to speak to or meet with, please contact one of our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.**

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TEKKEN 8



Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

