

# Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 23rd september 2022

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All-Through news

This past weekend has obviously been a momentous one for our nation. Last week, we used assemblies to reflect upon and celebrate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. We remember with great fondness and pride as we recall our very special Jubilee picnic in late May when our all-through school celebrated her reign.

It has been remarkable and touching to listen to the personal comments from dignitaries, politicians, and ordinary people speak of her character; her kindness and compassion, her wisdom and always a deep sense of hope, the dignity and respect for all and her courage. These are the very same values and virtues which form the bedrock of our school.

As we enter therefore out of the “New Elizabethan Age” into the reign of King Charles III, we will continue to use her as our role model in our vision to “Create tomorrow’s citizens today”.

## Open Morning

We wish to remind everyone of our Open Morning this coming Saturday, with tours of both the secondary school (for potential Y7 places, September 2023) and also the Larch (potential Reception places, September 2023)

By now all students involved should be aware of the arrangements. For secondary parents, please see below.

## Community service

This year we are focusing upon the importance of volunteering and service; our sixth formers are all engaged in so many community activities across the whole school. Many are helping in the Larch, leading clubs, supporting in lessons and ensuring that all students feel supported and part of the community.

We are also delighted that over the past few months, the newly re-formed Duke of Edinburgh Award group have been very active with another 50 students completing their bronze expedition in the Chilterns, last weekend.

## E- safety

Thank you for the feedback from the Y7 parents evening last week, and this along with individual comments from Larch parents, is helping to shape our presentations this year on e-safety, particularly the use of phones and access to certain websites.

Following on from this presentation to parents, a workshop has been held for Y7, once again educating them on responsible phone use.

Please find attached the latest Hertfordshire For Learning E-safety newsletter for parents. This provides useful information.



## Dates for the diary

<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>OPEN MORNING</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>AWARDS CEREMONY</b>
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Bag2School, textiles recycling
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>PSA AGM</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Charity day in support of CRUK</b>
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Frost Fair</b>

<b>LARCH</b>	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception parents morning workshop
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Larch Harvest Festival- children only
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Larch parents evenings
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu injections Reception to Y6 Y6 Macbeth Workshop in school
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 theatre trip
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Larch book fair week
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	A Celebration of Larch Music
<b>SECONDARY</b>	
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Battlefields parents information meeting
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Y10 residential trip
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Y7 Form Tutors evening
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y9 Battlefields trip (1)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October (evening)	Y10 theatre trip
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October (evening)	Y11 theatre trip
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Y10 parents evening
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y9 Battlefields trip (2)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Politics trip to Houses of Parliament
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Y8 HPVI injections Y9 volcano day
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Y12 chemistry trip
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Y9 parents evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	EPQ evening
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Wind & Brass Concert
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Piano Recital Guitar Platform

## Secondary news

### Open Morning

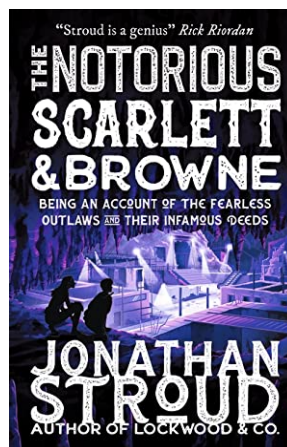
A letter was sent last week reminding families of the request for students to be on site by 8.30 and to leave at 11.45. If your children can not attend, you must contact their HOY. School will end on Friday Sept 23 at 2.10pm, for those students who will be on site on Saturday; the few who can not should stay to help prepare the rooms and site.

### Chrome books

We are becoming increasingly frustrated with the number of “accidental damages” reported and parents seeking repair under the warrantee. We have been informed that compared to other schools, we have far larger numbers of repair requests and we are worried that the company could stop insuring you.

We are therefore asking for your help; some of this damage is pure carelessness. Unsuitable cases and bags are being used- the machines need to be kept safe and protected. We are also seeing examples where keys are missing or damaged- the insurance does not cover this. This demand also is leading to increasing the length of time for repairs to happen; please remind your child of their responsibility, for it will help them later in life. May we also add that parents must understand that certain damage can not be repaired and parents simply will need to purchase a new chrome book and remind their children to take good care of it!

### Author visit - English department



Our Y7,8 and 9 students will have the opportunity to meet the author Jonathan Stroud. He wrote his first novel – *Buried Fire* – while working as an editor at Walker Books. He is the author of two internationally bestselling series: the award-winning Bartimaeus sequence, which has been published in 36 languages worldwide, and the critically acclaimed Lockwood & Co,

which is currently being adapted by Netflix. His other novels include *The Leap*, *The Last Siege* and *Heroes of the Valley*. Jonathan lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and three children.

His latest novel ‘The Notorious Scarlett and Browne’ is an ‘account of the fearless outlaws and their infamous deeds’ Students will have an opportunity to purchase the book.

### Behaviour on the way home from school

It is with sadness that we have to report an increase in complaints from neighbours about a small group of our students who are “hanging around Hertford” using poor language and in a few cases doing damage. School Leaders are continuing to patrol but we can not and should not need to be everywhere. We expect our students to show our values; when in uniform, students are ambassadors for the school and once we identify students, we will contact you as parents and expect support in the consequences issued. The Church Yard can only be used as an access point and both we, and Richard Hale staff, are committed to ensuring it remains a special community space.

## PSA news

### PSA AGM - 18th October

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th October, from 6.45pm in the ICT suite, opposite the Dash Cafe. The meeting is open to all and we hope to see lots of new faces. Please join us when you can. The AGM will begin at 7pm and will be followed by a meeting to review Frost Fair plans and outline other upcoming events.

We are reviewing our committee members and volunteer database and kindly ask you to take a couple of minutes to complete our volunteer registration form:

<https://forms.gle/Cau8MmLkwrygfMVe8>

### Frost Fair - Winter Raffle, 10th December

We are working incredibly hard to source some attractive prizes for our Winter Raffle.

If you, or your company, would like to support us this year by making a donation then please get in touch. [psa@simonballepsa.org.uk](mailto:psa@simonballepsa.org.uk)

We are also looking for event sponsors. Would you like to sponsor the giant inflatable snow globe or the games zone?





# ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

AUTUMN 2022.

## TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ONLINE ABUSE

### New advice from the NSPCC

Many children enjoy playing online games and having a social media presence. As children get older this often involves speaking with others online and with this comes the potential risk of grooming and exploitation.

Speaking to your child from a young age about who they are talking to online and helping them recognise when a conversation may be putting them at risk can help to keep them safe from abuse. The NSPCC has published **new advice** on how to start age-appropriate conversations with your child on this challenging topic. The advice includes how to:

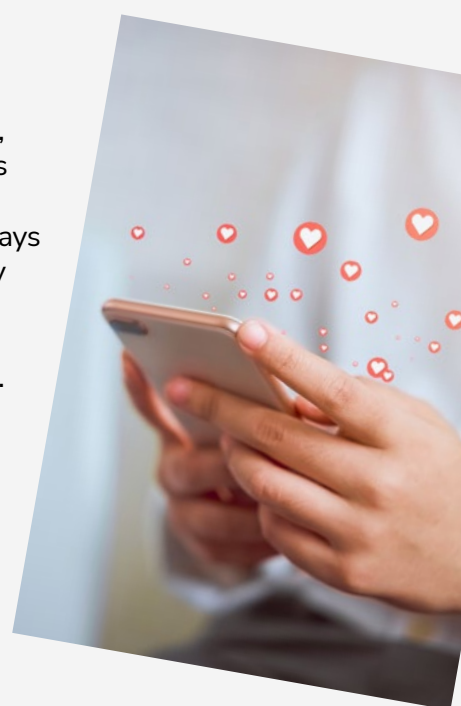
- help your child recognise unhealthy online chat
- have age-appropriate conversations about sexual abuse
- explore the different communication features online
- review safety settings.

### Help children stay safe on chat apps

The NSPCC have also published **safety guides** on chat apps. Chat apps allow users to send messages, videos, photographs and documents to individuals or groups of people. Personal safety settings should always be used to help ensure children only receive messages from people they know and trust and messages from strangers are automatically blocked. Reassuring children they can talk with you if they feel they may have had a risky conversation is to be recommended.

Most chat apps do have safety settings, if this isn't the case then such platforms are not to be recommended for children.

If you're worried about something a child or young person may have experienced online, you can contact the NSPCC helpline for free support and advice. Call **0808 800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**.



## ONLINE GROOMING

Grooming is when a person builds a trusted relationship with a child or young person with the intent of tricking or pressuring them into giving something they want from the child. Groomers often want something sexual from a young person. Groomers may use tactics such as flattery or blackmail to get nude images, videos or have sexual conversations with young people. This grooming process can take place over a short or long period of time.

Anyone under 18 who has an explicit or nude image of themselves posted online can anonymously and confidentially **make a report** to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). The IWF can then contact the website where the image has been posted to try to get the image removed.

Nobody should blackmail or pressure anyone into doing something sexual online. If someone is doing this to your child you or they can also make a report to the **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)**.

Young people can also speak to a **Childline counsellor**.

The Childline website has further **advice** for parents/carers including:

- the signs of grooming
- how to tell if someone is a groomer
- what to do if you think you are being groomed.

## GAMING COMMUNITIES?

Gaming communities are platforms which allow gaming fans to meet, chat, watch top gamers in action via live streaming, access forum discussions and keep in touch with others who have similar gaming interests.

Reddit and Discord are two popular sites associated with social gaming communities. Both these sites have an age rating of 13+.

Parent zone has put together a **guide** to help families understand the benefits and risks of gaming communities for children and offer suggestions of how parents can help support safety on such sites.

Read the **Parentzone guide to Reddit**

Read the **Parentzone guide to Discord**



## LIVE STREAMING

In a recent survey carried out by Ofcom it was reported that six in ten children aged 3-17 (57%) used live streaming platforms to watch online content. A much lower proportion of children streamed their own videos in real time for others to watch (15%). The research found that the platforms used most to watch live streams were YouTube and TikTok.

*(Data source: Ofcom Children and Parent: media use and attitudes report 2022)*

The NSPCC has published guidance to help parents/carers understand some of the risks associated with both live streaming and watching live stream channels. Once content has been livestreamed, there is the risk that videos are saved and re shared without permission. Its possible for strangers to make contact with a child about their livestreamed content and start a grooming process.

The **guidance** gives an overview of some of the features that help reduce risk for children.



### ASKING THE AWKWARD 'TALK LITTLE. TALK OFTEN. ASK THE AWKWARD.' (CEOP)

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has put together guidance on 'Asking the Awkward', and this includes talking about teenagers their social or romantic online lives! For many young people, and adults, the online world is an essential component in starting, continuing and ending a romantic relationship!

There are short **films** that you can watch with your child to help start conversations.

*"Our introduction to Asking The Awkward helps you to prepare for regular conversations with your child about online relationships and related topics. It also offers advice on how to keep conversations positive and what to do if your child tells you something that worries you."*

**Access the guidance.**

## NEW RESOURCE: THRIVE ONLINE

### Supporting young people with SEND

This new resource is for schools and parent/carers to help support young people with SEND, aged 11 and over, to thrive online.

*“These resources are designed to empower young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to build happy and healthy online relationships.”*

The **resources** for parents and carers are designed to help start conversations and help support your child around the topics of:

- online pornography
- healthy online relationships
- digital wellbeing
- nudes



The **resources** contain key information and conversations starters and videos to help answer frequently asked questions from parents and cares.

Questions such as:

- *How do I explain to my child what a healthy relationship is?*
- *My child trusts everyone online, what can I do?*
- *My child is secretive about who they talk to online, what can I do?*
- *What should I do if my child starts a romantic relationship with someone they met online?*

**The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.**

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at **[wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk](mailto:wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk)** or call **01438 544464**.

HFL Education is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances.



## SAVE MONEY & SPREAD THE COST ON A NEW BIKE & ACCESSORIES

### CHOOSE YOUR PRODUCTS

Choose your perfect bike & accessories and apply for that value. You can apply for up to



### SPREAD THE REDUCED COST

You'll then make **huge savings** on that value and spread the cost - No need to worry about a one off payment!



### ENJOY THE BENEFITS

Enjoy a happier, healthier life while saving money, time and helping the environment



## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Once you have chosen the value you would like to apply for, simply go to [cycle2work.info](http://cycle2work.info) and register using your unique employer code.



You'll need to complete your application between 1st September and 30th September 2022

## HOW MUCH CAN I SAVE?

If you apply for

RRP Monthly Cost\*

**CYCLE2WORK MONTHLY COST**

**CYCLE2WORK TOTAL COST**

£100	£500	£1,000
£8.33	£41.67	£83.33
<b>£4.32</b>	<b>£21.57</b>	<b>£43.13</b>
<b>£51.75</b>	<b>£258.75</b>	<b>£517.50</b>

\*Please note this is the amount that will appear on your payslip, numbers have been rounded up to the nearest pence. Based on a Additional Rate Tax Payer on a 12 month hire agreement

For an accurate quote, use our **Savings Calculator** on [www.cycle2work.info/bikes/savings-calculator](http://www.cycle2work.info/bikes/savings-calculator)

## WHERE CAN I SHOP?

You can choose your new bike and accessories from hundreds of brands in-store or online from Halfords, Tredz, or one of the independent bike shops we work with.

**halfords**

**tredz**

**Independent Bike Shops**



0345 504 64444



[www.cycle2work.info](http://www.cycle2work.info)



[cycle2.work@halfords.co.uk](mailto:cycle2.work@halfords.co.uk)