

Scalby School

Newsletter – Thursday 8th December



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are keeping well and are looking forward to the upcoming festive period. I hope as families you have plenty of opportunities to spend time together and share valuable social experiences. We look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year and working with them not only on academic progress but also on their personal development.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 16th December will be the last day of the Autumn term. This day will be a non-uniform day and we ask that students wear a Christmas jumper as part of their non-uniform. Students will be asked to make a £1 donation towards our chosen charity, which this year is the Gallows Close Community Centre, who I know do a lot of good work supporting a number of students and families who are connected to Scalby School.

End of Term Arrangements

The Autumn term will end at 12:15 on Friday 16th December. Transport has been arranged to pick students up at 12:15. Students are expected back in school on Tuesday 3rd January at the normal start time.

Attendance

Over the past two weeks there have been a variety of illnesses that have been circulating through the community and this has affected school attendance. We would ask that as parents / carers you continue to make sensible decisions about whether your child is well enough to be in school.

If your child is absent, you must inform school by texting 07860 022949 or by email. Where possible please make medical appointments out of school hours, if this is not possible, please send a note in your child's planner that they can show to a Head of Year and their Mentor.

Year 8 Parents Evening

A reminder that Year 8 parents evening will take place tonight, 16:00 – 19:00. This event will run online. Your child will have received a letter with details of how you can book appointments with teachers.

Year 11 GCSE Trial Examination

This week a large number of students have started taking their mock French speaking examinations. It has been lovely to hear how students are engaging in this process in preparation for the actual exams in April.

Following the Christmas holidays, all Year 11 students begin their second round of GCSE trial exams in non-core subjects. These exams are designed to continue building toward the external GCSE examinations in May 2023. Year 11 students should be preparing for these exams and engaging in exam preparation. Revision little and often now will create the right habits for students as they move quickly through Year 11. Students will be receiving revision packs in mentor time this week to help aid them with their preparations. I would ask that you try and support them over the coming weeks with their revision.



Respect Agenda

We have been working hard pushing the Scalby School Respect Agenda with students over the past 6 months. Lockdown and the increased use of smartphones in student's lives has meant that some students find it increasingly difficult to socialise, interact and engage appropriately. As a school we are determined to help students develop so that they can be the best they can be in all areas of their lives. Please be assured we will continue to challenge students when they fall short of our Respect Agenda expectations.

Conduct Online

I have spoken to a number of parents over recent months about student conduct online. The message I am getting is that some parents are struggling to know how best to support their child online. I have attached a useful poster from the National Online Safety Group to the back of this newsletter. It gives some useful advice for parents on how best to support young people in the online environment.

Free School Meals

It has come to our attention that a number of parents whose children might be eligible for free school meals have not applied for this. If you believe that your child might be eligible, please use the following link which details the relevant criteria:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Where a student meets the free school meal criteria, credit is automatically and discreetly applied to his/her ParentPay account.

Golden Tickets

Since May we have been running our Golden Ticket reward scheme. The scheme provides opportunities for students to be recognised for demonstrating the school values of Learning, Ambition, Leadership, Preparation and Respect. As we come towards the end of term, excitement is building about the Golden Ticket draws that will take place next week. On Monday 12th December the Y11 Golden Ticket draw will be completed in Y11 assembly and On Wednesday 14th December the Y7-10 Golden Ticket draw will be completed and shown virtually in mentor time. There is a fantastic selection of prizes for students to win and I look forward to congratulating the happy winners next week. We are grateful to Woodsmith Anglo-America who have kindly supported this scheme as part of their community support scheme.

Being the Best we can be Awards

Next week I will be presenting certificates to the students who have excelled in Academic Achievement and Effort so far this year. Staff members have identified these students as those that are demonstrating our school values every single day. If your child arrives home with an award, please take time to congratulate them and recognise their hard work.





Curriculum

Over the past 18 months our departments have been working hard to ensure each department area has a curriculum that provides a clear progression pathway. If you would like to understand in more depth our school curriculum intent and explore each subject areas intent to see what your child is studying, please visit the curriculum area of our website. <https://www.scalby.coastandvale.academy/curriculum/> As part of this work, we are currently undertaking a curriculum review and Mr Davis is hosting an evening in school on Wednesday 14th December to discuss our future plans and ask for feedback from parents. This evening will run from 17:00 – 18:00.

I hope you manage to enjoy some time together as a family over the next few weeks and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 3rd^t January.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C. Robertson

Headteacher



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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE BULLYING

Top tips for parents and carers



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app, and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem, and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details at the bottom of this guide.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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