



Dear Parents/Carers,

We had a fantastic evening last night for our Year 11s at the Prom at the Stirk House, where we celebrated everything they've accomplished this year and over their time with us at Primet. All of the students looked fantastic, and we are incredibly proud of all of them. It was lovely to share this moment with them, especially after needing to postpone the Leavers Assembly from this week to next. We very much look forward to continuing to celebrate with them, starting at 2.30pm on Tuesday 23rd June. It has become a tradition for their shirts to be pre-decorated – beautiful artwork, ribbons added, jewels and nicknames - all of which we will then add to with signatures and messages from their peers and staff. Even then, it is not quite goodbye yet, with results day in August and then awarding them with their actual certificates at Star Awards in the Autumn Term.

Next week Year 10 start their work experience, and staff will be visiting them during their placements to see how they are getting on. I am sure they will gain a huge amount from the experience and come back with a refreshed energy for where they can see themselves going in the future.

Next week Years 7, 8 and 9 are all involved in Experience Day on Thursday 25th June. This is a full school event and is a really important day for our students where they are able to take on challenges which they may not get to do otherwise. Letters have been sent out for each trip. Year 7 are going to walk up Pendle Hill, Year 8 are involved in sports activities at Leisure Box and Year 9 are at Go Ape. For all of these trips, students need to:

Make sure they are on time, all trips leave after normal line up time at 8.50am.

Wear their school PE kit: blue PE t-shirt and blue shorts/trackies/leggings/skort.

Footwear needs to be suitable trainers, or Years 7 & 9 could wear walking shoes/boots.

Bring a packed lunch and plenty of water. Free school meals grab bags will be available on the day.

Pack for the weather – which may need to include suntan lotion, a hat, a warm/waterproof coat, etc.

Students do not need any money on the day, there will not be any opportunity for buying anything.

On all three trips they will be interacting with adults from the venues running the activity and there will be members of the public passing at times. It is essential that students are showing that they are Proud to be Primet and maintain our normal expectations.

The warm, welcoming and friendly ethos of our students was commented on by all Ofsted inspectors while they were in school this week. Please praise your child for their positive interactions with inspectors and their mature response to Wednesday afternoon's events. The outcomes of the inspection will be shared when the report from Ofsted is published, and we will make sure we share this with you.

Principal's Awards

Awarded to the students in each year group with the highest number of Positive Points and 0 Negative Points each week.

Lucas
(7E)

Asad (8M)
Olivia (8R)

Sam (9R)

Scarlett (10R)



J Pilkington
Principal



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2022-2025

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to this week's star students:

Year 7

P- Evie
R- Fatima
I - Josie
M - Hamza
E - Rafeel
HOY - Chloe

Year 8

P- Nimra
R- Harley
I - Dua
M - David
E - Andreea
T - Hugo
A - Mohammed
HOY - Mohammed

Year 9

P- Marian
R- Reuben
I - Lucas
M - Nazar
E - Adam
T - Bentley
HOY - Archie

Year 10

P- Sophie
R- Jack
I - Noah
M - Hazimah
E - Zakariyah
T - Erik
A - Liam
HOY - Daisy

Year 11

P- Attiq
R- Joshua
I - Balal
M - Jamie
E - Giorgia
T - Callum
A - Yusuf
HOY - Eden

Primet Positive Focus: Motivated

This week we have been focusing on our core value of being motivated. We set high aspirations and are driven to meet them. We value the importance of working hard to achieve our goals and the rewards gained from reaching them.



UNCRC Articles

As part of our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, we have been looking at each of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child Articles. There are 54 Articles in total. This week we have been learning about:

- Article 6 – Life, survival and development: Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.
- Article 29 - Goals of education: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



Upcoming Dates

- 22nd June – 2nd July – Year 10 Work Experience
- 22nd June – Y9 Extraordinary Minds event at Nelson & Colne College
- 25th June – Years 7, 8 and 9 Experience Day
- 30th June – Year 8 Taster Day at Accrington and Rossendale College
- 2nd July – Year 6 into 7 transition day and evening
- 13th July – Rewards week
- 15th July – Year 7 Work Experience Tech Challenge
- 15th – 17th July – Year 10 Residential trip
- 20th July – Year 10 School Photos for use throughout Year 11
- 20th July – Year 9 KS3 Graduation Celebration
- 21st July – Sports Day



Year 11 Prom 2026 – A Night to Remember

We said a fond farewell to our Year 11 students as they celebrated the end of their school journey in style at the Class of 2026 Prom.

Held at the beautiful Stirk House, the venue provided a stunning backdrop for an unforgettable evening of celebration, laughter and reflection. The Class of 2026 certainly made it a night to remember, arriving dressed to impress in dazzling dresses, sharp suits and with smiles that lit up the room.

The evening began with a delicious sit-down meal, giving students the opportunity to relax and enjoy time together before taking to the dance floor. Throughout the night, there was plenty of music, dancing and laughter, alongside opportunities to reflect on the friendships, experiences and achievements that have shaped their time at Colne Primet Academy.

Prom was a fitting celebration of a fantastic year group and a wonderful way to mark the end of an important chapter in their lives. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at the academy and grateful to the staff who helped make the evening such a memorable occasion.

As they move on to the next stage of their education, training or employment, we wish every member of the Class of 2026 the very best for the future. They will always be a valued part of the Colne Primet Academy family.



Year 11 Prom 2026

Year 11 Prom was held last night and what an incredible evening it was. The students looked amazing and had an absolutely fantastic time – the dance floor was full from beginning to end, and the students danced all night!

What made the evening even more special was seeing how warm, welcoming and friendly they all were throughout the night, and the general feel over the course of the evening was so happy. Watching them celebrate together after everything they have achieved over the last five years was a really proud moment.

As their Head of Year, it made me feel incredibly proud of every single one of them and of the journey they have shared to reach this point together. They have grown so much as a year group and it was wonderful to see them enjoying every moment. Certainly a Proud to be Primet moment!

It was (in my opinion) the best prom Primet has ever had, and it was the perfect way to celebrate such an unforgettable year group. I cannot wait to see them all again at the Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday next week.



Mrs Lake
Head of Year 9 and 11

Year 11 Leavers 2026

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and all they have achieved during their time at Colne Primet Academy.

As they prepare to take their next steps, we caught up with some of our Class of 2026 students to hear about their future ambitions, plans for the future, and some of their favourite memories from their time at the academy.

From aspirations in further education, apprenticeships and future careers, to memorable moments with friends, teachers and school events, their reflections showcase the journey they have taken and the bright futures that lie ahead.

We wish every one of our Year 11 students the very best for the future and look forward to seeing all they go on to achieve. Once a Primet student, always a Primet student. ❤️🎓



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Kavita

Where are you moving on to?

St Christopher's Sixth Form to study
A-Level Biology, Chemistry and
Psychology

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career in Dentistry

Favourite memory from Primet?

The wide range of
friends I made



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Logan

Where are you moving on to?

A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and
Maths at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career in medicine

Favourite memory from Primet?

My fantastic work experience at
a funeral parlour



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Laiba

Where are you moving on to?

A Levels in Psychology, Sociology and English Language at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To progress to become a teacher

Favourite memory from Primet?

Perfect training day at Nelson and Colne College



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Sophie

Where are you moving on to?

A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To progress to become a Scientist

Favourite memory from Primet?

Being part of the school sports teams, especially netball



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Keira

Where are you moving on to?

T-Level in Civil Engineering at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career as an Engineer

Favourite memory from Primet?

Winning the Inter School Rounders League



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Oskar

Where are you moving on to?

A T-Level in Early Years Education at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career as a Primary School Teacher

Favourite memory from Primet?

My Work Experience placement at Castercliff Primary Academy



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Henry

Where are you moving on to?

A Levels in Accountancy, Law and Business at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career in Accountancy

Favourite memory from Primet?

PGL residential where we completed water activities and climbing



Pendle
Education Trust



YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2026

Evie

Where are you moving on to?

A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and History at Nelson and Colne College

What are your future ambitions?

To pursue a career in Dentistry

Favourite memory from Primet?

Taking part in the extra curricular activities offered after school



Pendle
Education Trust

This Week Assembly Theme

This week, students across all year groups had the pleasure of listening to a series of outstanding speeches from our senior prefect candidates during assemblies. Each speech provided a valuable insight into the students' ambitions, ideas, and commitment to making a positive impact within the school.



Speaking in front of a large audience can be a daunting experience, yet every senior prefect displayed remarkable confidence, clarity, and determination. Their speeches highlighted not only their individual strengths, but also their shared passion for leadership and improving the school environment for all students.

The effort and preparation that went into each presentation were clear to see. Students spoke thoughtfully about their goals, demonstrating maturity, responsibility, and a genuine desire to help others.

The speeches have set an excellent example for younger students, showing that stepping out of one's comfort zone and taking on leadership roles can be both rewarding and inspiring. We look forward to seeing the positive contributions they will make in the year ahead.

Focus on Science

It has been another busy and exciting half-term in Science. Students across all year groups have continued to develop their scientific knowledge and practical skills through a range of engaging lessons and investigations.

Our Key Stage 3 students have been exploring topics including energy, waves, matter and genetics, developing their understanding of how scientific ideas help explain the world around them. Students have been challenged to think like scientists by analysing evidence, identifying patterns and applying their knowledge to new situations.

At Key Stage 4, students have been working hard in preparation for their assessments. Lessons have focused on strengthening core knowledge, developing exam technique and improving confidence when tackling extended-answer questions and calculations. We have been particularly impressed by the resilience and determination shown by many students as they prepared for their exams.

We would also like to remind parents about the importance of Educake homework. Educake provides students with regular opportunities to revisit and practise key scientific concepts, helping to improve long-term retention and identify areas that may need further support. Completing homework consistently is one of the most effective ways students can strengthen their understanding and independent learning.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful half-term of scientific discovery and achievement.

Mr Kinnane
Head of Science



Pendle Inter-School Athletics Competition

We are incredibly proud of all our athletes who gave 100% at the recent Pendle inter-school competition. Their commitment, determination and team spirit were clear throughout the event, with many students achieving impressive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

A special congratulations goes to the teams for their overall standings:

- Boys' team – 3rd place
- Girls' team – 2nd place

These results are a true reflection of the hard work and dedication shown by every competitor. Well done to all involved – a fantastic achievement!

#proudtobeprimet



Work Experience

Colne Primet Academy Year 10 Work Experience 2026 commences for most students on Monday 22nd June until Thursday 2nd July with students placed in local businesses and schools. A small cohort of students will also be based in school and take part in a range of Work Experience activities some of which will be outside the classroom or on other sites. You will be contacted individually if this affects your child.

If during the Work Experience fortnight your child is unable to attend their placement due to illness or a family emergency, you are to report their absence to school as normal and inform the employer where your child is completing their Work Experience that they will not be in. Students have been reminded of the expectation of their being their best Primet 'Self' and maintain good punctuality and behaviour throughout the fortnight as they experience the adult working world. If there are any concerns regarding this, the school will support students and employers in resolving issues with the intention that things are 'put right' and the placement can continue.

If your child is entitled to free school meals and you wish your child to have grab bag lunch prepared for them each day, please follow the link to the forms document to book this. Grab bags will need to be picked up each morning before 9am via the attendance door. A member of Colne Primet Academy staff will make a telephone call in the first week of the placement to check that all is well and arrange an in person visit. During this visit they will speak to both the student/s and their work experience mentor individually. Any issues arising from this will be followed up.

Work Experience is a fantastic opportunity, and we look forward to seeing our students flourish and gain an invaluable insight to what they can achieve.

If you have any further question or concerns, please contact the school the main switchboard on **01282 863970** who will pass this on the appropriate member of school staff.

You may also contact the Head of Personal Development Mrs Dianne Bielby via email.

Dbielby@colneprimet.co.uk



8C Get Creative in Food Technology

Students in 8C have been showcasing their skills and creativity in Food Technology, as part of their recent 'Cook's Choice' project. Each student planned and prepared their own dish, demonstrating independence, confidence and a range of practical cooking techniques.

We were incredibly impressed with the effort, presentation and thought that went into each meal. A special mention goes to Ira, Annie, Rory and Esme, whose standout dishes really caught our attention – fantastic work!

Well done to all of 8C for their enthusiasm and commitment in the kitchen! 🙌



Mrs Driver
Head of PE and
Child Development



Nelson and Colne College New Student Day

We're delighted to invite your Year 11 pupils who have applied for either NCC or ARC to our upcoming New Student Day – an exciting opportunity exclusively for applicants to experience college life first-hand.

Event details:

- **Nelson & Colne College (NCC): Thursday 25 June, 9:30am – 2:30pm**
- **Accrington & Rossendale College (ARC): Friday 26 June, 9:30am – 2:30pm**

This is a key milestone for applicants and a fantastic chance to help them feel confident and prepared for September.

On the day, pupils can look forward to:

- Free breakfast snacks and lunch
- A variety of engaging activities
- Meeting our friendly staff and exploring classrooms and facilities
- Getting to know future classmates

Further information:

NCC - <https://ncc.eastlancslearning.ac.uk/event/new-student-day/>

ARC - <https://arc.eastlancslearning.ac.uk/event/new-student-day/>

YOU'RE INVITED!

**NEW
STUDENT
DAY**

AT NELSON & COLNE COLLEGE

THURSDAY 25th JUNE





WELLBEING SUMMER



REWARD GIVEAWAY

FOR PRIMET STUDENTS ON **SPORTS DAY**
— **TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2026** —



ACHIEVE A **95%+** BEHAVIOUR
AND ATTENDANCE RATIO
IN HALF-TERM 6

TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO
WIN AMAZING PRIZES!



SPORT EQUIPMENT
FOOTBALLS, RUGBY BALLS,
BASKETBALLS & MORE!



BEST SELLING BOOKS
TOP TITLES TO ENJOY
AND BE INSPIRED!



TRAVEL SET GAMES
DOMINOES, CHESS,
UNO & MORE!



PROGRESSING



RESPECTFUL



INCLUSIVE



MOTIVATED



EXPRESSIVE




TOGETHER

#PROUDTOBEPIMET





Routines Reminder: Basic Equipment and Lesson Language

We have a series of set routines which we all follow to help keep the academy safe and to make sure we focus on our learning and progress. These are shared regularly with students and displayed around school. This week linked to the Primet value of Motivated, we're reminding ourselves about the basic equipment all students need so that there are no barriers to learning and by having their equipment out on desks it helps not waste lesson time.


We're also reminding ourselves about some of the language we use in lessons, which allow us to positively direct what we should be doing. This includes expecting students to be their best Primet S.E.L.F. – Sitting up and alert, having their Equipment ready, Listening carefully to the teacher and to each other, and Focusing on their learning.

Colne Primet Academy 



Equipped for Learning

 Pen	 Pencil	 Ruler	 Homework folder	 Reading book	 Bag
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On your desk every lesson

Colne Primet Academy 

Academy routines/language

 Signal for silence -to ensure engagement. All students fall silent, raise their hand and focus on the teacher	 Focus on -to ensure students give their full attention to specific items/person	100% 100% -to ensure all students are completing a task/following an instruction
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Expectations Reminder: Mobile Phones

We have a series of set routines which we all follow to help keep the academy safe and to make sure we focus on our learning and progress. These are shared regularly with students and displayed around school.

Mobile phones and personal electronic devices are allowed in school but must be switched off as they enter the school building and kept out of sight for the duration of the school day. **They must be switched off and stored in bags.**

If a mobile phone is seen during the school day, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and handed into the pastoral team where it can be collected at the end of the school day. On the first occasion it can be collected by the student. If this happens again, on the second occasion it will need to be collected by a parent/carer afterschool and if this continues to happen you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the issue of your child not being able to adhere to academy rules.

Mobile devices can be a distraction to learning and pose a considerable safeguarding concern. Students may bring a phone to school with them for use on the way to and from school for personal safety reasons. We regularly review the policy on use of mobile phones to ensure we get the balance right between phones being a part of life in the 21st century and the impact on learning and the school.

Please do not make contact with your child on their mobile phone during the school day. This is encouraging them to break school rules, which is then putting the child in a difficult situation and causing conflicts for them at school. Rarely are these messages urgent, and could easily wait till the end of the school day, and where they are urgent contacting the school directly will be far more effective as we can then support you and your child as needed. If you do need to contact your child, please contact the Main Office who will pass on a message to your child. If your child needs to contact you for any reason, they can speak to a member of the pastoral team who will make arrangements when needed.





COLNE PRIMET ACADEMY

PRIMET ACADEMY EXPERIENCE DAY 2026

THREE YEAR GROUPS. THREE EPIC ADVENTURES. ONE UNFORGETTABLE DAY!

We're taking the whole school on
3 amazing trips – all in one day!

YEAR 7

PENDLE HILL

WALK. EXPLORE. ACHIEVE.



YEAR 8

SPORTS

PADDLE • FOOTBALL
INDOOR CLIP & CLIMB

PLAY. TRY. HAVE FUN!



YEAR 9

GO APE

CHALLENGE YOURSELF!



PROGRESSING



RESPECTFUL



INCLUSIVE



MOTIVATED



EXPRESSIVE



TOGETHER



THURSDAY 25TH JUNE 2026 ALL DAY



STUDENTS MUST WEAR THEIR SCHOOL PE KIT

THREE TRIPS. ONE DAY. ENDLESS MEMORIES!

Oracle's BOOK SERIES

www.reallygreatsite.com

A to Z GUIDE



OUR NEW A-Z GUIDE

of Oracle's current
book series.

Also available on
our library website.

[Colne Primet Academy](http://www.colneprimet.ac.uk)



Land of Stories

Twins fall into a magical book and enter a world of fairy tales. They must navigate familiar stories in new ways to find their way home.

Wishing Spell → Enchantress Returns → Grimm Warning → Beyond the Kingdoms → Author's Odyssey → Worlds Collide



Last Dragon Chronicles

College student David discovers small clay dragons can magically come to life. As he delves deeper, David uncovers ancient secrets involving real dragons, powerful forces, and his own unexpected connection to magic.

The Fire Within → Icefire → Fire Star → The Fire Eternal → Dark Fire → Fire World → The Fire Ascending



Lion Boy

A boy who can talk to cats, searches for his kidnapped parents. With the help of a circus and lions, he travels across the world to rescue them.

Lionboy → Lionboy: The Chase → Lionboy: The Truth



Lockwood & Co.

Teen ghost hunters run their own agency to battle dangerous spirits haunting London. They uncover mysteries that reveal deeper truths about the supernatural world.

Screaming Staircase → Whispering Skull → Hollow Boy → Creeping Shadow → Empty Grave



Lord of the Rings

A hobbit is tasked with destroying a powerful ring that could corrupt the world. With a fellowship of allies, he faces great dangers to stop evil from rising.

Fellowship of the Ring → Two Towers → Return of the King



Lottie Biggs

A teenage girl records her chaotic life and struggles with friendships, family, and school. The series is a humorous look at growing up.

Lottie Biggs Is Not Desperate → Lottie Biggs Is (Not) Tragic → Lottie Biggs Is (Not) Mad

ORACLE'S MANGA COLLECTION:



Ultimate Guide

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW – INCLUDING:

A list of all our manga (in alphabetical order), short summary of each book series
How to read manga, Age recommendations



Summer Term 2



PE Extra-Curricular Sport (Summer Term 2 2026)

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM	STAFF
Monday	Lunchtime	Year 7 Activities on field / yard	Field / yard	LHM/CJO
	After School	Athletics – all years	All weather	All PE staff
Tuesday	Lunchtime	Year 8 Activities on field / yard Year 7 Activities on field / yard	Field / yard Field / yard	KDO/LHM EDR/CJO
	After School	Cricket – 9 & 10 Rounders Tournaments (see schedule) Rugby – years 7 and 8 (boys)	Sports Hall Field	LHM CJO
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Year 10 Activities on field / yard Year 9 Activities on field / yard	Field / yard Field / yard	KDO EDR / CJO
	After School	Cricket – 7 and 8 Rounders - all years Dance (separate schedule available)	Sports Hall All weather Gym	CJO/LHM EDR/KDO EDR/KDO
Thursday	Lunchtime	Year 10 Activities on field / yard Year 9 Activities on field / yard	Field / yard Field / yard	LHM/EDR CJO/KDO
	After School	STAFF MEETINGS Kick & Connect: Girls' Football	STAFF MEETINGS Sports Hall	STAFF MEETINGS CASEY
Friday	Lunchtime	Year 8 Activities on field / yard	Field / yard	KDO / CJO (week A only)
	After School	No Club		

New PE Extracurricular Sports – Summer term 2

We're excited to launch our new range of PE extracurricular clubs for Summer Term 2! Students can now take part in a variety of lunchtime and after-school activities, including athletics, rounders, dance and rugby.

It's a great opportunity to stay active, have fun, and develop new skills – so get involved and give something new a try!



Summer Term 2

Extra-Curricular Programme – Summer 2 (2026)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Homework Support Club 12.20 -1pm (T12)	Homework Support Club 12.20 -1pm (T12)	Homework Support Club 12.20 -1pm (T12)	Homework Support Club (Maths) 12.20 -1pm (T12)	Homework Support Club 12.20 -1pm (T12)
After-school 3.20pm	Homework Support Club 15.20 - 4pm (Oracle)	Homework Support Club 15.20 - 4pm (Oracle)	Homework Support Club 15.20 - 4pm (Oracle)	Homework Support Club 15.20 - 4pm (Oracle)	Homework Support Club 15.20 - 4pm (Oracle)
	Reading, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)	Reading, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)	Reading, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)	Reading, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)	Reading, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)
	Board Games Club 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)	Music Club 3.20-4.15pm Mr Husband (F11)		Free Film Screenings 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle) See posters for details of dates and times	Board Games Club 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)
	Year 7 Science Club 3.20- 4.15pm Miss Flegg (M11 Science)	KS3 Art Club 3:20-4:20pm Art Room Mrs Holmes (F44)		Kick & Connect: Girls' Football 3.20 – 4.15pm Casey S T (Gym)	
	Performance Club 3.20-4.15 Miss Smalley (F13, HALL)				
	Student Support 3:20 – 4:00 Casey S T (Casey's Office)				

Summer Term 2 Extracurricular Programme

We are pleased to share details of our Summer Term 2 extracurricular programme, which offers a wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs designed to enrich students' learning and personal development. Opportunities available this half term include Homework Support Club, Performance Club, Film Club and Science Club, alongside many other activities.

We encourage all students to review the full programme and take advantage of the clubs and support available.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

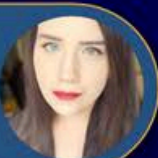
In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.tendryl.com/news/dangers-of-discord-6-steps-safeguarding-teens-or-popular-chat-app/> | <https://support.discord.com> | <https://endusexploration.org/articles/discord-is-a-haven-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploiters/> | <https://total.com/discord-deleted-thousands-of-violent-extremist-and-crim-1946622861>

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4th Friday of the Month

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