



## St Augustine's RC High School

### Newsletter 2023/24 – Issue 5 – Festive Edition

Dear families,

As we look forward to Christmas, a time of family gatherings and of giving and receiving presents, our school community has been raising money for various charities, including CAFOD and Nightsafe, a local charity providing support for young homeless people. This year's Carol Service was a wonderful concert with a beautiful message of dignity, peace, and care for all humanity. Our thanks to those who supported the event, raising money for our Advent charity of 'CAFOD World Gifts'.

Another festive event was the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, a lovely occasion with entertainment from the pupils including music, dancing and singing, as well as Christmas Bingo and a surprise visit from Santa. Year 11 pupils made our guests feel very welcome, spending time talking with them and making them comfortable. A special thanks to our Year 11 prefects who did a magnificent job on the day. If you are aware of a senior citizen who might like to come to next year's party, please do let us know.

We were delighted to welcome Father David and Father Tim into school for our Advent Christmas Masses, a wonderful way to mark a very successful term and close the Autumn Term in school.

This month also saw the appointment of the new Headteacher at St. Augustine's. The governors and trustees have appointed Mrs Hunt, who is currently the Deputy Headteacher at St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic High School in Rochdale. Mrs Hunt is due to take up her new role at the start of the Summer Term and I am sure everybody will make her feel most welcome.

I hope you have a restful Christmas holiday and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January,

**Mr. Wright – Executive Headteacher**



### Key Dates

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Year 11 Mock Results
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Early closure for Christmas Break
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Return to School
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 Options Information Evening
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Whole School Careers Week
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Progress Evening





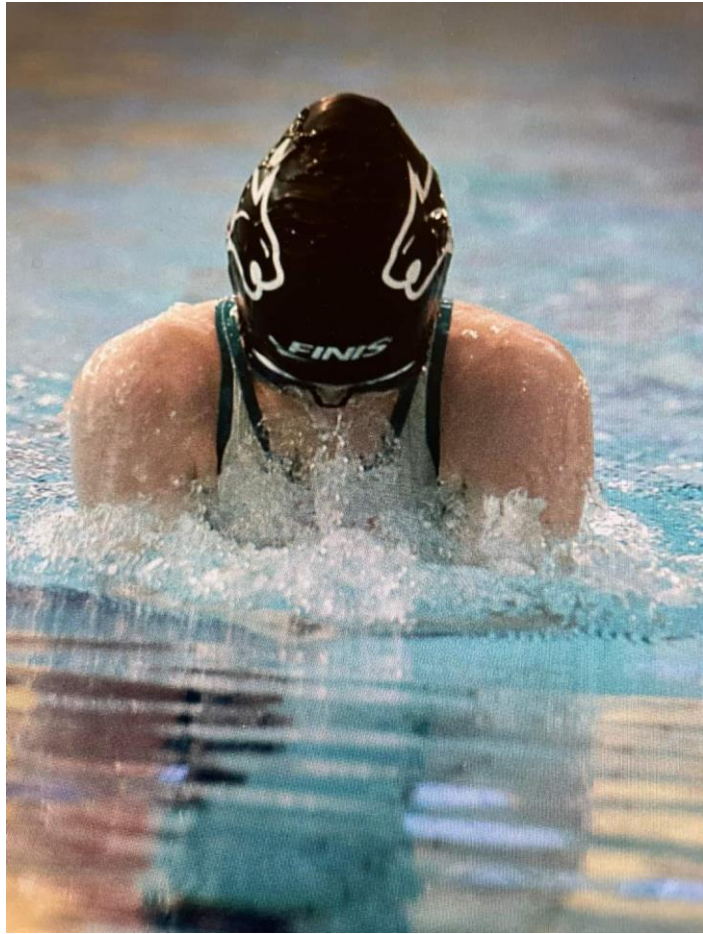


## Aspirations Spotlight – by Hannah, Year 11

My name is Hannah. I am in Year 11 here at St Augustine's and I swim for Burnley Bobcats. My career goal is to coach. For the past eighteen months, twice a week I go to St. Peter's Leisure Centre in Burnley to volunteer my time to help coach the Development Group of swimmers aged between 9 and 12 years with the Burnley Bobcats (Borough of Burnley Coaching and Training). I also attend various swim meets where my position as volunteer coach sees me at the end of the swimming pool working with all the Bobcat swimmers (until it is my time to swim!). This takes me around the North West and sometimes further, including Stafford, Salford, Leeds and as far north as Sunderland.

With the coaching, we have the swimmers for an hour session, working on stroke technique, strength, stamina and race starts (and finishes) in the simplest terms swimming cannot be classed as grassroots, it's a serious commitment, and it's hard! From swimming you get more than just a sport; you gain fitness, discipline, work ethic and resilience. I speak so passionately as this is what I want to do in the future after St. Augustine's; I aim to coach my own group of swimmers to reach county, regional or even national competitions. When I turn 16, I will be able to complete the first of numerous swimming qualifications to allow me to pursue my dream.

On a personal note, I've recently won gold medals in my preferred stroke - breaststroke, where my times allow me to swim at the county championships held in Manchester (live on YouTube) and if I manage to knock 0.1 seconds off my 200-metre breaststroke time I will be eligible to swim in the regional championships which will also give me access to the Elite Talent Programme at Burnley College – this is where I want to go once I leave school and have recently been offered a place on the course, to continue pushing my way into my career of choice.



## Year 11 Mock Interviews

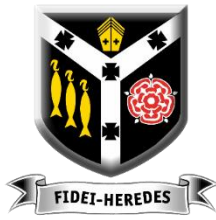
Our annual year 11 Mock Interviews took place last week and they were a huge success. The feedback from local businesses and post 16 providers was that our pupils were well behaved, polite and readily prepared for interviews!

Thank you so much to the local businesses and education providers who offered their time to support this important pupil experience.

It was such a valuable and enjoyable experience that will give our Year 11 pupils an insight into post-16 life.







**St. Augustine’s Crime Scene Investigation!**

Pupils took part in an English lesson with a difference this week! A crime scene was set up in the school library involving a series of challenges for pupils to take part in to solve the whodunnit! Pupils analysed each piece of evidence and put together a story of what happened – even Mr Wright had a go!



**100% Attendance**

In school there is a clear link between attendance and success. Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for thorough exam and assessment preparation. Pupils with excellent attendance and punctuality are more likely to achieve or beat their targets at GCSE than those whose attendance is a cause for concern. Our best results correspond with our highest attendance levels. This is why our attendance target of 100% is so important.

To encourage our pupils, and create some healthy competition, we now have an attendance competition each week. Every pupil that has 100% attendance for the week will be put into their year group draw, with a voucher up for grabs, but you will need to be in the following week to collect your prize during your year group assembly. Pupils are absolutely loving this incentive and attendance has been great so far this academic year, we thank parents and carers for their support with such an important matter.

**Lateness**

Pupils not arriving to lessons on time will be issued with a behaviour point and a blue slip (similar to the green slip).



**Every School Day Counts**



**Every Minute Counts**  
**LATENESS = LOST LEARNING**

- (figures below are calculated over a school year)
- 5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!
- 10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost!
- 15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost!
- 20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost!
- 30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost!

**Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!**



### Fibonacci Maths Task

Mrs Hodgeon set her Year 10 class a rather unusual piece of Maths homework last week - they had to write a poem that followed the rules of the Fibonacci Sequence! The pupils could write about any topic, but needed to ensure that the number of words on each line was the sum of the number of words on the previous 2 lines. The class certainly rose to the challenge and covered topics such as Christmas, subjects in school, butterflies and family pets. Well done Year 10!



### Aid to the Church in Need

In November, school took on the pledge for each pupil and staff member to pray a decade of the rosary on behalf of those persecuted Christians who cannot pray freely. These pledges were gathered by our GIFT Chaplaincy team and a display was created to be used in our Christmas Mass yesterday which was on the theme of peace. It was a beautiful visual reminder of all the prayers from our school which have been committed for Christians who are persecuted for their faith across the world.



### End of Term Mass

This week we celebrated our end of term mass in anticipation of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Our time of worship focussed on peace as we reflected on the suffering of people all over the world who are victims of war and violence. Special thanks go to everyone who helped to form our beautiful celebration including the choir, readers, offertory processors and Eucharistic Ministers. We would also like to offer a word of thanks to Fr Tim Curtis from St Peter's, Stonyhurst and Fr David Yates from Whalley for celebrating with us.





## Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service took place on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the school hall.

There was a fantastic turnout and it was a wonderful Carol Service with a beautiful message of dignity, peace and care for all humanity.

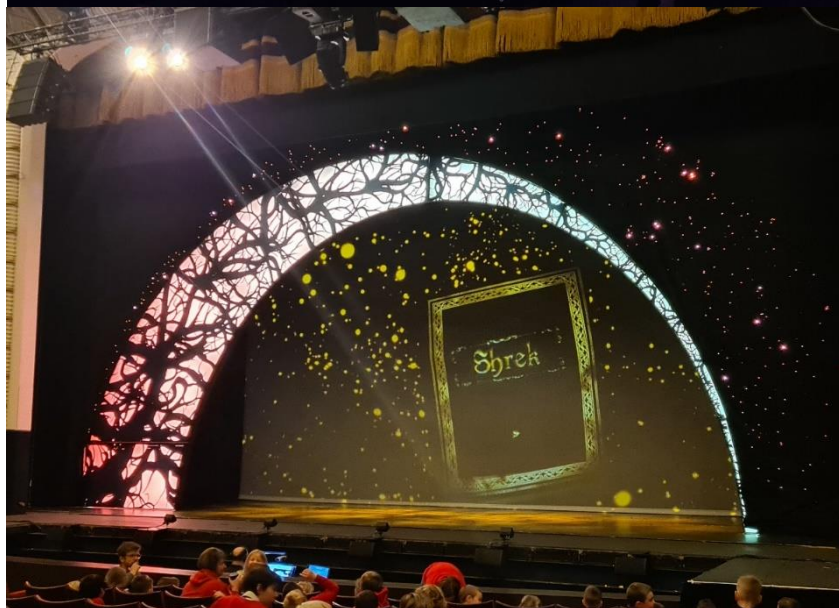
Thank you to all of those that bought tickets and, of course, thank you to pupils and staff for putting on a delightful, festive performance. The service certainly filled us all with festive spirit!



## Shrek Theatre Trip

Pupils joined Shrek and his trusty sidekick Donkey as they set out on a quest to defeat the fearsome dragon and rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona at Winter Gardens in Blackpool last week.

The show had a toe-tapping soundtrack and offered a musical spectacular. Our pupils and staff really enjoyed it and now cannot wait to perform in the St. Augustine's rendition of Shrek next July!







## Isobel – Future Rugby Star!

Well done to Isobel in Year 10, who currently plays for the under 16's at Burnley Rugby Club. She has trialled for Lancashire in Manchester, where over 60 girls competed at the same time! She did so well that she was called back for a second trial.

In the second trial, just 40 girls were chosen. During both trials they were separated into groups, each group worked on different aspects such as passing, tackling, speed and agility. Towards the end they had a few games of touch rugby and then moved into games with full contact.

She has now had two training sessions. She is also part of some additional training sessions at Carrington with the Sale Sharks ladies' team. She is absolutely loving it.

## Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Last week, we held our annual Senior Citizens' Party for members of our local community.

They were treated to an afternoon of carols, musical performances and bingo.

Well done to all of our Year 11 prefects who looked after our guests and thank you to the staff that helped the party run so seamlessly!







## PTFA Christmas Draw

Thank you to all our families for supporting the school by buying a ticket for the PTFA draw. The winning tickets drawn were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £200 No:09152
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £100 No: 05222
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £50 No: 02267
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Hamper No: 09519
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize Hamper No: 06147
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize Prosecco & Wine No: 07685
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize Small Chocolate Hamper No: 07585
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize Thornton's Chocolates No: 08102
- 9<sup>th</sup> Prize Thornton's Chocolates No: 06515

All winners have been contacted.



## Sophia B, Y10 – Football Success!

Sophia B in Year 10 has been selected to represent the English School Girls' U15 team.

The final squad of 18 players has been selected from over 200 players across the country who were nominated by their county side.

Sophia was nominated by Lancashire and attended the Northern trial in Newcastle, followed by the North and Midland trial in Newcastle and finally the national trial in Birmingham. She will be participating in an international tournament that takes place next year in Ireland.

**Well done Sophia!**



## Year 10 Aspirations Visit to Nelson and Colne College

Selected year 10 pupils were invited to a Taster Morning at Nelson and Colne College last week as part of our school Aspirations Programme.

The session had been planned to give pupils an opportunity to discover more about the courses and facilities on offer.

Pupils first took part in a T-Levels Computer Programming lesson then an Art session where they tried out screen printing for the first time!

It was a thumbs up from all those involved and they cannot wait to attend the next one at Accrington and Rossendale College!





# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

**Scan the QR code to find out more.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with







## ¡Hola todos! ¿Cómo estáis?

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, Y10 went on a cultural trip to a tapas bar with the Spanish department and Mrs Lowe. Y10 pupils had started their Spanish GCSE journey on the topic of Food & Health, so were lucky enough to visit **Tapas 47** in Whalley, an authentic Spanish restaurant which is run by a Carlos and Elena from Mallorca. We smiled and laughed through the night. The staff were warm and welcoming, presenting each new dish to try; we even tried to communicate in Spanish. We started the night with a delicious range of true Spanish dishes including; croquetas, patatas bravas, calamari, patatas con alioli, pan mixto, albóndigas, alitas de pollo fritas and chorizo. During our meal we had a Spanish culture quiz in teams. Of course we ended the night with churros and chocolate that were simply... *deliciosos*. ¡Qué rico!



By Nyssa & Yu Xin, Year 10.



## Check Mate

The first annual inaugural chess competition took place in school this week.

It was the start of a knockout tournament that will run up to Christmas. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 players.

All pupils were invited and the turnout was great, we had a really competitive tournament this week and lots of talented chess players! Well done to all of the pupils involved.







## Deck the Halls

School is looking decidedly festive, with many departments decorating their classrooms and working areas – all with the help of a few pupil elves of course!

But, the most important decoration in school is the main tree in the school hall which looks absolutely glorious! Thank you so much to our wonderful site manager, Mr Spear for coming in over a weekend to take delivery of it, then for decorating it so splendidly!



## 100 Reward Points – Pizza Prize!

Once pupils reach 100 reward points in a term, they will be invited for a pizza lunch with the Heads of School as recognition of their ongoing outstanding effort and contribution to school life.

The reward voucher will be given directly to the pupil, they are not claimed from the rewards office.

We have many pupils that have already enjoyed their pizza lunch, many more are due very soon!





# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



# Club News

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
MONDAY	Yr 9	CREATE Education	12:35-13:10	TE2
	All years	Shrek: The Musical rehearsals	15:15-16:30	Hall
	Yr 9	Create Education 3D	12:35-13:10	TE2
	Yr 10/11	Computer Science club	Lunch	Room 18
	Yr11	Chemistry study (separate science only)	15.15-16.00	Lab 1
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
TUESDAY	All years	Band	12.20	Music 1
	Yr 7	Science Club	12.20	Lab 7
	All Years	Chess Club	12.45-13.10	Room 19
	All years	Shrek: The Musical rehearsals	15:15-16:30	Hall
	Yr 10/11	Engineering Systems	12:45-13:10	TE2
	Yr 10/11	Computer Science club	Lunch	Room 18
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
WEDNESDAY	All Years	Duolingo Club	12:20-12:50	Room 15
	Yr 7/8	Laser / 3d Design & Make	12:35-13:10	TE2
	All Years	Book Club	12.20-13.15	Library
	All Years	Calligraphy Club	12.30-13.10	Rm 33
	Yr 10/11	GCSE Drama drop in	15.15-16.15	Drama
	Yr 7-9	D&T Create Club	15:15-16:15	TE1
	Yr11	Engineering Systems	15:15-16:15	TE2
	Yr11	D&T Coursework	12:35-13:10	TCOM
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
THURSDAY	All Years	Show choir	12.20	Music 1
	All Years	SARCHS singers	15.15-16.15	Music 1
	All years	Craft Club	12.45	LS Green Rm
	All years	Fun Writing Club	12.20	Room 7
	All Years	Art Space	12.30 - 13.10	Rm 33
	All years	Shrek: The Musical rehearsals	15.15-16.30	Hall
	Yr11	Engineering Systems	12.20-12.45	TE2
	Yr10/11	D&T projects workshop	15.15-16.15	TE1
	Yr11	English Revision and support	15.15-16.15	Room 10
	Yr11	Food & Nutrition A1/A2 write ups	15.15	Food 2
	All years	After School Study Club	15.15-15.45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
FRIDAY	Yr 9	CREATE Education	12:35-13:10	TE2
	Yr10/11	GCSE catch up Graphics/Art	12.55-13.20	Art2
	Yr11	D&T Coursework	12:50-13:20	TCOM



# Useful Resources and Support

## Useful Online Safety Websites

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use  
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

## Useful contacts to report a concern

If you are worried and need help, then please contact one of the following:

Tel: 0800 1111

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

Web:

[www.childline.co.uk](http://www.childline.co.uk)

**childline**



Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community which includes a live chat with the team feature, discussion boards, magazines and helpful articles and a daily journal.



Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person. Call 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967 (opening hours: 9.00am – 12.00am, 365 days a year)



Samaritans are here to listen 24/7, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for support

## Online Resources

There are apps available, such as 'Calm Harm' and 'Clear Fear' that you can download to your mobile, or if you have a tablet. These can provide useful distraction techniques for managing anxiety and thoughts of self-harm.

## Useful Contacts

- The Mental Health Crisis Line in Lancashire are available 24/7 over the phone and can be contacted on 0800 953 0110
- The Well-Being Helpline is available Monday – Friday, 7.00pm – 11.00pm plus Saturday & Sunday 12.00pm – 12.00am, it is staffed by volunteers who can offer emotional support or if you would like to chat about your mental health. This helpline can be reached on 0800 915 4640 or by texting the word 'Hello@' to 07860 022846
- Hopeline UK is a young person's suicide prevention charity. They can be called on 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967
- [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) Information for children and young people about mental health and wellbeing. Free 24/7 crisis messenger – text YM to 85258
- <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/> advice and practical tips to help look after your mental health and wellbeing.
- [www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk](http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk) Listings of local counsellors
- [www.themix.org.uk](http://www.themix.org.uk) The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK. If you're in crisis and need to talk, text THEMIX to 85258 Helpline: 0800 808 4994
- [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net) Support for young men who are down or in a crisis. Helpline 0800585858
- <http://www.centreplace.org.uk/talkzone.htm> counselling, live chat on-line or telephone
- [www.the-lookout.org.uk](http://www.the-lookout.org.uk) Support around domestic abuse for young people and families, run by Children & Family Wellbeing service.
- [www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people](http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people) Information and support for mental health and wellbeing issues.
- <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk> - Helping gender-diverse kids, young people and their families