

St. Augustine's RC High School



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St. Augustine's

It has been another busy fortnight at in school where we have celebrated the beginning of the season of Advent. This week, we welcomed back our Class of 2024! It was a wonderful evening and it was great to see them all again at St. Augustine's, with tales aplenty of their post-16 endeavours, we wish them all the success for the future. School is buzzing with festivity as we prepare for our Carol Concert that will take place on Monday evening (tickets are available on the door and can be purchased with card or cash). We are also getting organised for our end of term Masses and Awards assemblies. With this, I would like us all to reflect;

God of Love,

During the Advent season, when life is busy and excitement is in the air, we take time to think about the awesome gift of the birth of Jesus. We reflect on the great love you have for us that will be shown through your Son, Jesus. Show me how to love others in the power of your love.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you enjoy the read.

With every blessing for a restful weekend,

Mrs Hunt



Important Dates

9th December – School Carol Service at 7.00pm

10th December – Senior Citizen's Party

20th December – Mock Results Day for Year 11

20th December – Early Closure at 12.15pm for Christmas Break



School Uniform

We are pleased that our pupils are regularly complimented on their appearance. Our rules on uniform and appearance have evolved over time and are strongly influenced by the feedback we get from parents who set high standards at home and like to see these being reinforced at school. They want their children to go to school dressed in an appropriate way and they support our emphasis on respect for the dignity of young people. In turn, we value the strong backing we get from parents over uniform matters.

Our uniform is compulsory and must be worn correctly by all pupils at all times in school. Every child admitted to the school has been given a place on the clear understanding that their parents or carers accept and comply with our policies.

Pupils in year 7-10 must now wear their burgundy v-neck jumpers under their blazers.

Lost Property

We have a large number of coats that have been handed in this term that have not been claimed; an e-mail has gone out to all families with further information so we can try and reunite them with pupils. All lost property items will be displayed in the dining room on the afternoon of Tuesday 10th December for pupils to claim.

Following this, we will then also be opening up the school from 3.30pm - 5.00pm on Tuesday 10th December to display all lost property and spare uniform (mostly donated items) which will be available for parents to collect free of charge. Please note following this day, all unclaimed or spare items will be sent to charity.



Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic High School

Carol Service

Monday 9th December 7:00pm



Monday 9th December at 7:00 pm

Carol Service and Seasonal Refreshments

Cash or Card payment on arrival

£3.00 Adults and £2.00 Children/Concessions

All proceeds to CAFOD



Year 11 Mock Interviews

Our annual year 11 Mock Interviews took place this week. Thank you so much to the local businesses and education providers that offered their time to support this important pupil experience.

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



Tapas Treats!

Year 10 pupils have started their Spanish GCSE journey on the topic of Food & Health, so were lucky enough to visit an authentic Spanish restaurant to eat Tapas and be warmly welcomed by a Spanish family.

Pupils were complimented on how polite they all were and how they were such good eaters!



Blood Brothers

The English department took 42 Year 11 pupils to the Palace Theatre in Manchester to see 'Blood Brothers'. All the pupils and staff loved the show and gave the cast a standing ovation at the end. Thanks to our wonderful Year 11 pupils for the superb behaviour and attitude on the trip, and to the equally wonderful staff for supporting the trip.



Choir Performance at St. Mary's Church

The school solo choir together with Acapella singers will be performing at St. Mary's Church this Sunday. Tickets will be available for purchase on the door.

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.

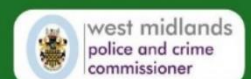
Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

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





Christmas Draw

1st Prize - £250
2nd Prize - £100
3rd Prize - £50 *plus other prizes*



TO BE DRAWN IN THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2024
REGISTERED UNDER THE LOTTERIES & GAMING ACT, 2005



School Christmas Raffle Tickets

Thank you to all those that have supported our PTFA Christmas raffle,
Tickets and money should be returned to the pupil services office along with any unsold tickets/books by 9.15am Monday 16th December.



Christmas Lunch

The first of our Festive Christmas Dinners started today with year 11 pupils and members of staff enjoying a veritable feast of Turkey with all the trimmings (including a Yorkshire pud!).

It really did mark the start of the festivities in school!

Celebration Evening

Congratulations to all of our leavers who returned to collect their certificates and awards. Our thanks to Mike Wright, past headteacher and guest of honour at Celebration Evening, for an inspirational speech and for handing out the awards.

It was wonderful to see our Class of 2024 once again, we wish you luck with all your future endeavours.



Talaxy

TALAXY is a valuable tool for you and your child as it allows you to view their live timetable, look at their achievements, general conduct and attendance. This helps families to be fully prepared for the academic week ahead, knowing exactly what equipment pupils need to bring for the school day. If you are struggling to access Talaxy, please email: info@sarchs.com

TALAXY

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this - on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' - a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account - their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week - and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user - such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

Web:

www.childline.co.uk

childline

www.ceop.police.uk



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

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 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 Listings of local counsellors
- 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 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 Support around domestic abuse for young people and families, run by Children & Family Wellbeing service.
- 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