



Dear Families,

The Autumn term has flown by with a flurry of fantastic achievements and experiences for our whole school community.

We came back in September to the fantastic news that our eleven Year 11 pupils had absolutely **excelled in their GCSE qualifications in the summer**. They are all at college doing Level 2 or 3 qualifications and we are simply thrilled.

We also **welcomed many new students to the Rise!** We always enjoy welcoming new pupils and families to the community. In fact, we are now officially full with 105 pupils on roll between our main school site in Feltham and our new Sixth Form site located at West Thames college. We have submitted a business case to the Department of Education to expand our PAN (published admissions number) to 130 so that we can continue to educate about 100 KS1-KS4 pupils at The Rise and about 30 KS5 pupils at West Thames.

It's been a busy half-term **launching the Sixth Form**. We're really passionate about this provision. We want our students to be able to access the full breadth of Level 2 and Level 3 courses on offer (and our 11 pupils are doing 9 different courses!) whilst also having a hub to return to which is designed with their needs in mind and staffed by autism experts. The news from the boys and their courses is great: they're all on track in their courses, banking some very high marks in their assignments.

Another fantastic achievement was that **Kevin Pacheco, Year 12, won a prestigious work experience award**—see page 9 for more details.

We are, of course, proud of these “headlines” but we're equally proud of the **daily interactions and teaching moments** that are at the core of what we do at The Rise:

- AJ in Year 8 teaching his classmate James in a maths lesson
- Lewi in Year 6 smashing his first spelling test
- Frankie, Amelia, Harleigh, Pharrell and Archie's photographic and artistic talent emerging!
- Cass in Year 9 helping reassure a new pupil who felt unsettled and a bit escalated
- Year 5 doing some incredible story mapping to prepare for their Harry Potter diary entries
- Jamie in Year 8 giving a genuine apology to the adults on his transport
- Myron in Year 11 looking out for, and being kind to, a Year 7 pupil
- Year 10 writing incredible Macbeth coursework essays—the witches speak in trochaic tetrameter don't you know?

Thank you for all of your support this term, have a great Christmas and see you in 2020!

Helen

Bay Class

It has been an exciting and busy Autumn term in Bay class!

In English we have been looking at two novels: Fantastic Mr Fox and The 13 Storey Treehouse. Both stories have inspired the children to create stories of their own and the boys have been keen to read more books by the same authors - amazing!

Bay class have been working hard on maths, so far we have covered addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, place value and word problems....phew! We have been getting really good at Times Tables Rockstars.

In science we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We predicted what habitat woodlice would prefer and then the boys designed an experiment to test their predictions! Bay class were great scientists and the woodlice were very friendly! We have also been looking at solids, liquids and gases. The boys have enjoyed playing with cornflour and water, melting solids and separating solids using sieving.



Willow Class



We have had a fantastic term in Willow class and have thoroughly embraced our topic of Harry Potter. The children have produced some fantastic writing. Over the term we have written exciting stories, newspaper articles, character descriptions and even a diary entry! Move over J K Rowling, Willow's writing is on 'The Rise!'

Not only have we been fabulous in English we have also been math-magicians! We have covered lots of challenging year five material and have shown great enthusiasm and perseverance.

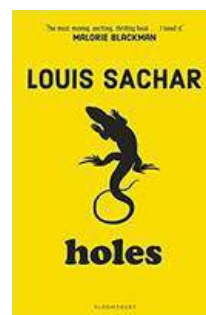
Furthermore, we have enjoyed an exciting trip to the sea life aquarium, made our very own wands, completed a range of different science experiments and worked extremely hard within our weaving wellbeing sessions. We are looking forward to the new year and all of the new challenges that it will bring. Merry Christmas from Willow class.

Hazel Class

Hazel class have settled into Year 6 brilliantly! Recently, we have been reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar and absolutely loving it. In particular, we have been working on the skills of inference and deduction. We have been detectives like Sherlock Holmes, finding evidence in the book to back up our inferences. Some of the vocabulary generated has been incredible. For example: watch out for The Warden, she is: menacing, intimidating and dominant!



Another highlight this term was our trip to the Science Museum. We went to a session that was just for schools and as such it was much quieter so we could enjoy the exhibits more.



Oak Class



Autumn term in Oak has been a lot of fun. We have been on a brilliant trip to the Tate Modern, made sweet and savoury pizzas with Fozia and have a trip to Pizza hut and the cinema next week as our reward trip.

As well as this we have been taking part in a range of science experiments such as watching salt dissolve in water and then predicting which had salt in, looking at the rate at which salt dissolved and a really fun activity was grinding and filtering rock salt and leaving it to see what happens. The children were all amazed that the salt crystals remained. You can see the experiment in the pictures provided.

We have been looking at imagery poetry this term and the class have just written their own poems about a sea creature, they all chose a shark. We were using metaphors to compare the shark to vehicles, humans and a noise. A great example was: *If my shark was a vehicle is would be a jet ski as it propels through the water.*

Juniper Class

All pupils in Juniper Class have shown commendable resilience to settle into their first term of secondary school with their new routines and subjects and for new members of our community to embrace our school values. Last week we welcomed Tegan, and we look forward to Remy joining us in January.

Pupils have especially enjoyed science and food-tech as this gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their maturity and independence through practical work. They like PE as they thrive working together as a team.

At the end of term all year 7 pupils (both Juniper and Larch) celebrated this and socialised with a reward trip to bowling and Pizza Hut.



Larch Class

Larch class have really hit the ground running in Secondary and have been enjoying learning our new routines and taking part in Secondary lessons such as weekly Food Tech and History. We have also welcomed 4 new students who have fitted in beautifully and have given us a boost. We enjoyed our class trip to the Tower of London where we learnt about the Norman invasion and origins of the fortress. GO Team Larch!



Maple Class



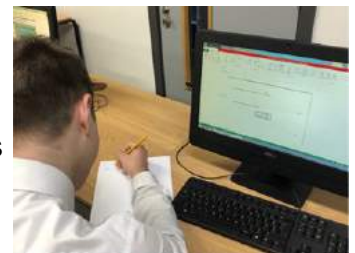
Maple have had a positive and successful start to the term. Maple have enjoyed two fantastic trips this term. Our first was a joint with Elm with class to Oakwood, pupils enjoyed the risks and challenges of climbing up the high ropes and well as trying out some Archery and Rock Climbing. Maple enjoyed another trip this term to London Dungeons, learning about Sweeny Todd, Jack the Ripper, The Plague and The Great Fire of London. Maple class have also done some fantastic learning this term around the Greeks in English and learning about the war with Troy and how this has influenced society today. Another subject they have particularly enjoyed this term is food tech, most recently cooking jacket potatoes and sausages, mash and gravy.

Sadly at the end of this term we will be sending our best wishes to Millie who is off to have her baby girl. Millie has worked with most of the pupils in Maple for 3 years now and we will miss her lots.

Elm Class

We have had another positive and successful term in Elm Class packed full of learning in all subjects. In English we have enjoyed studying Greek mythology, focusing on Troy. We have read the story, listened to the audio book and re-enacted scenes from it. In maths, probability has been the topic of attention. We have fun testing ourselves with Numeracy Ninja, Times Tables Rock Stars and Kahoot. In Science our highlight was using PH papers for the first time whilst learning about acids and alkalines. In history we pondered on the question whether we should be ashamed of the British Empire? In Citizenship we reflected on what would make a good political leader. In P.E we have been honing our hockey skills, going through drills and practice matches. In food tech we have been conjuring up our culinary skills making all types of food ranging from carrot cakes to jacket potatoes.

We have also increased our social skills this term. Our highlight was going on a year 8 trip to Oakwood youth centre where we climbed ropes that were three stories high, used team work to build massive crate towers, tried our hands at archery and indoor rock-climbing.



Cypress Class

Cypress class have had a fantastic term making progress in all areas of their learning while smiling and enjoying their time at school. Cypress class have welcomed Charlie to the class and have continued to build friendships between each other making friendship handshakes and playing as a class together.



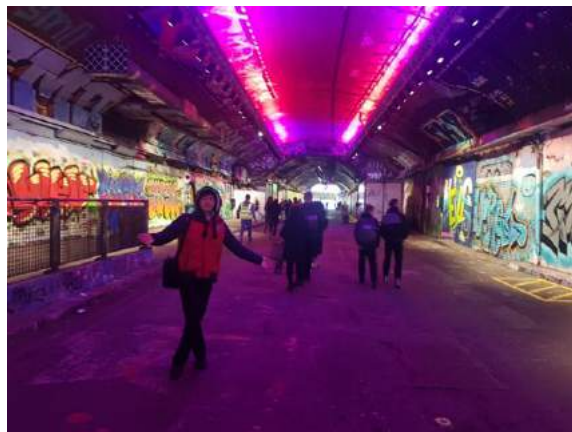
Cypress class visited London Dungeon and discovered more about old London. This linked to Cypress class studying *A Christmas Carol* and how much London has changed and developed over the years. Cypress class also had the opportunity to go sailing in October when the weather was windy and wet, Cypress class enjoyed taking controlling of the yachts!



Dragon Class

This term, we have had a tremendously rewarding term. We have welcomed two additional pupils who have settled extremely well into the Dragon tribe. The team have worked tirelessly to ensure that every pupil is having a successful time at school with their curriculum as well as developing their friendships with peers and staff members. We have had a successful trip to the London Dungeon and the graffiti den at Waterloo. The highlight of this term has to be the passion and outcomes from Food Tech lessons. We look forward to this on a weekly basis, this has become our mini weekly bake-off. As teachers we are proud judges.

Have a wonderful Christmas!



Pear Class

Pear class has been relishing their academic success this term.

Their subject knowledge is excellent, impressing their teachers. Their knowledge and engagement in lessons has been positively reflected in their overall assessment results.

The boys did particularly well in their first BTEC level 1 home cooking assessments making a dish of their choice.

It has been a pleasure to watch them build up friendships among themselves and they are enjoying games of table tennis and pool during down time. We are looking forward to our upcoming visit to Tenpin to let off some steam at the end of the term.



Sorrel Class

On Monday 2nd December Sorrel class had a fantastic opportunity to go to Top Golf in Adlestone. When we arrived, we were signed up as temporary members and each received our Membership card ready for the game! The students have been practising with Pat, our PE teacher, over the past couple of weeks during PE and Golden Time and the experience definitely helped! At Top Golf we were treated to two games on the top deck with everyone, including the TLAs and the teachers playing a game too! This was followed by a tasty meal in the restaurant where most of our students selected 'The Sunrise' burger. Everyone improved their game and chatted enthusiastically over lunch.

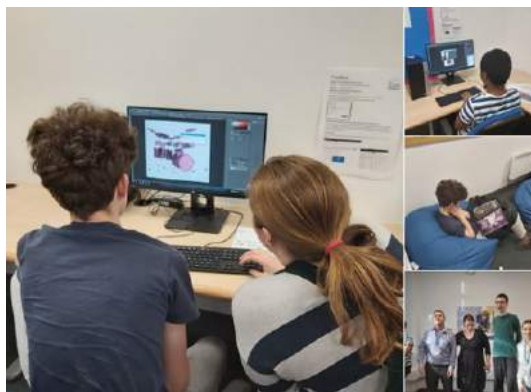
Thank you to all those involved at The Rise in organising such a positive and enriching experience, allowing our students to have a fantastic day!



Guelder Class

Guelder-Rose have had an amazing start to the year, adjusting well to the challenges that come with preparing for your GCSEs. The class now completes mock papers across English, History, Maths and Science on a regular basis, showing just how well their learning is progressing.

But it is not all just work, work, work! In November Guelder-Rose pupils also visited the new Rise Sixth Form for a day as part of their iMedia studies. Not only were they impressed by the setting but also by the facilities available to them there. Within a day most had completed their iMedia graphic design project using the Adobe Photoshop software available on the dedicated design computers at college.



Sixth Form

We opened our purpose built Sixth Form accommodation on September 2nd 2019 ready for student induction. Our students settled in quickly and have benefited from all the specialist support offered by the staff.

The Rise Sixth Form consists of a large common room, three classrooms, an IT suite, and two quiet rooms.

Students are enrolled on nine different courses at West Thames college, ranging from: Health and Social Care, Public Services, to IT and Media. Three students are currently enrolled on Level 3 courses, and nine students are on Level 2 courses.

In addition to their chosen courses, students also follow a 'Wraparound curriculum' consisting of PSHE, Study Skills, and two Level 2 BTECs in Personal Finance and Employability.

Lastly, to support pupils in meeting the expectations and deadlines in their college courses, we include Independent Study sessions on their timetable, so they can do their coursework with 1:1 support from the Rise Sixth Form staff.

Due to the 1:1 support, and close monitoring, all students are on track to successfully complete their courses.



Sixth Form—continued

Highlights from our first year in the Rise Sixth Form

Kevin wins 'Work experience student of the Year'

Kevin, one of our Year 12 pupils, has just been awarded 'Work Experience Student of the Year' by Spark London. Over 2500 students completed work experience organised by Spark. 14 students were nominated for awards, and Kevin won. This is what the company said when they nominated him,

'He has been punctual, polite and has a good attitude towards working. All the tasks he has done has been to a high standard and he has the hands-on approach. He has been one of the best work experience students we have had. In fact, he gave the placement feedback on how they can help support him better and they felt he was brave and courageous to explain this. With his feedback we have changed some tasks to help him. He has been so great that all staff he has worked with have all wanted to keep him in their department'



In addition to Kevin's award, we have pupils currently in work, or seeking voluntary or employment opportunities. We have two pupils working part-time in a restaurant and a toy shop, respectively. We also have one pupil volunteering at a primary school weekly because he wants to be a teaching assistant one day. Our aim is to support all our pupils in gaining relevant voluntary or work experience.

Kieran's Night of Ambition

One of our Year 13 pupils, Kieran, is currently enrolled in a Level 3 IT course. In his spare time, he volunteers with Ambitious about Autism's (AAA) Youth Council. He was a big part of AAA's Night of Ambition. He contributed by being in a video the organisation made, which highlighted the needs and voices of young people with Autism.



Zach's Presentation

Zach, one of our learners in Level 2 Digital Arts, just completed an oral presentation to his class. In the past Zach has been very reluctant to do oral presentations, so for him, this is a massive accomplishment. In addition to this achievement, Zach is showing independence in his classes by taking notes and attending tutorials with minimal support.



Angel's Resilience

Angel, a Year 12 pupil, decided to switch courses before the end of the first half term. He went from a Level 2 IT course to a Level 2 course in Uniformed Public Services. Despite the difficulty around starting a new course in the middle of the term, and having completely new teachers and peers, he has already caught up with his work and is showing strong progress on this new course. He has shown massive amounts of patience and resilience throughout this transition.



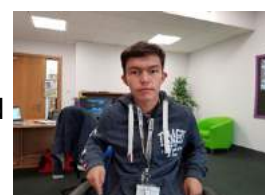
Declan's Ambitions

Declan, who is doing a Level 2 Health and Social Care course has not only been set an ambitious target grade of an A* for his course, he also volunteers weekly at a primary school, supporting their PE department. Declan would like to be a teaching assistant in the future, so he is pouring in all his efforts to make his goals a reality. We are very proud of him!



Sean's Independence

Sean, who not only received a Distinction on his Media course last year, continues to perform well this year on his Level 3 course, despite the increased level of difficulty. Sean's independence has also improved this year as he is working week-ends at a toy shop, he opened his own debit account, and is now using a debit card to pay for his various purchases.



English

Throughout the Autumn term, our young KS3 scholars have been reading some of the greatest stories ever told.

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils have been thrust into the chaotic world of Ancient Greece where the Gods of Mount Olympus toy with the lives of the men and women beneath them. *War with Troy*, adapted by Cambridge University from the earlier work of Homer and Ovid, tells the exciting story of Achilles' violent journey towards everlasting glory. Students now know the real stories behind phrases like "Trojan Horse," "Midas Touch" and "Achilles' Heel." As well as enjoying the story of *War with Troy* this term, students have got to grips with analysing complex language, complex characters, and complex themes that are as relevant today as they were two or three thousand years ago.

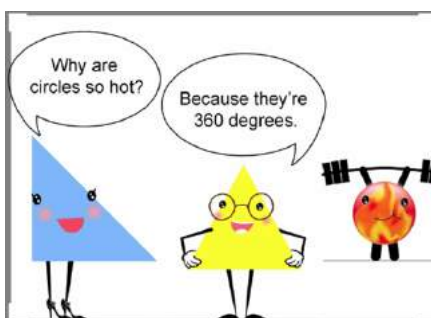
In Year 9 pupils have been reading Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Students have enjoyed getting to grips with the sophisticated vocabulary and syntax employed in Dickens' greatest work. Students now know the 'real' *A Christmas Carol*, and have relished in discussing, debating, and analysing the darker themes – greed, poverty, social class - of the novella so often ignored by the big screen adaptations. The emphasis this term has been in understanding the significance of symbolism and allegory in literature, as well as improving academic skills of analysis.

KS4 pupils have been studying *Macbeth* and writing their coursework pieces, in which they argue that the threat posed by the witches is nothing in comparison to the evil the tyrant Macbeth presents. Students have an in-depth knowledge of iambic pentameter, Jacobean attitudes to witchcraft, and key quotations from the play which combined have led to some wonderful essays.



Mr Pinkett

Maths

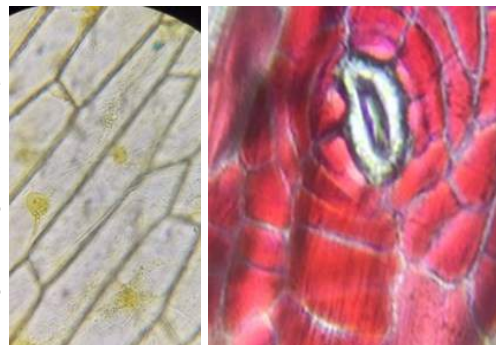


The maths department has had a very successful term across every phase in the school community. One of the biggest successes this term has been the introduction of Times-Table rockstars across KS1, KS2 and KS3 on a weekly rota system. It is wonderful to see pupils engaging and loving their multiplication & division drills. We also introduced Kahoot as part of KS3 starter/plenary. Again, pupils have had positive experiences and there is clear correlation between the introduction of these learning platforms and pupils engagement in mathematics. I am delighted with the progress that we are making across the school with numbers and the support that we are offering our pupils to ensure they succeed.

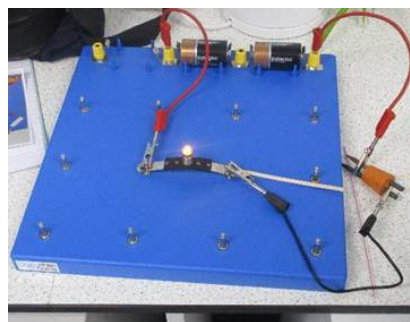
Have a great Christmas.

Science

Science has been making use of the long Autumn term to cover both Biology and Chemistry across the year groups. First off we focused on cells and living organisms, allowing us to investigate a variety of animal and plant cells under the microscope. KS4 investigated plant structures in more detail, capturing great pictures of the guard cells on the underside of leaves. And it was a bit of fun as we investigated the concept of transport in plants by giving different flowers and leaves some more unusual colours!!! And this is not forgetting our work on organisms, their joints, organs and skeleton.



The second half of term saw a shift to Chemistry, exploring matter: its make up and how different elements react with each other. Properties of substances were investigated, such as the electrical and heat conductivity of materials. And separation of materials, using evaporation or distillation is always a highlight.



Mr Marsen

Music

A silent letter can completely change the meaning of a word, e.g. the letter k added to night to become knight.

Our school celebration is a true community event; everyone's contribution is valued. Although some pupils may not be in the spotlight, our event would not be what it is without them.

Christmas is not about presents but about presence, so we look forward to sharing our Charles Dicken's *Christmas Carol* inspired performances written by our pupils themselves and for Victorian themed festivities with you from 11.30 on Thursday 19th December.



Miss Greville-Giddings

Physical Education

This term we have been soaking up the last of the fine weather within PE and taking part in a variety of team sports including, basketball, rugby, hockey and badminton across both phases.

Primary

Our Primary pupils had their first football fixture away against Reach Academy. This was such a big achievement for our pupils as it was not only the first time they had played competitively, but the first time ever playing together as a team. Their communication, resilience and team-work was beautiful to watch and as a school we were all extremely proud, well done boys!

Secondary

Our secondary pupils did particularly well this term in their PE assessments and we were so pleased to see how much they retained from last year with both skills-based and tactical play questioning.

As we come inside this term we will continue to focus on building up the pupils' theoretical knowledge around physical education and help them in making those cross curricular links where possible to set them up to live happy healthy lives beyond school.

Watch this space for our upcoming Panathlon involvement in the new year!



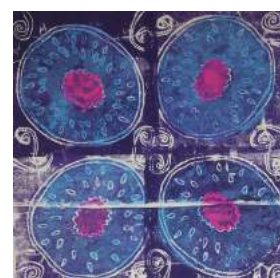
Miss Hutchinson

Mr Fisher

Art and Design

Primary pupils this term have been working on their colour theory and complimentary colours through a range of different topics, such as: emotion monsters, illuminated letters, owls and mandalas. Pupils should be proud of their resilience in lessons and hard work and focus with new and difficult materials. We are looking forward to the January term where year 6 will be making mosaics for the sensory garden, linking to their current history project on the Romans. Some primary pupils from Oak class also went on a trip to the Tate gallery to see a sensory exhibition from artist Olafur Eliasson.

Secondary have been developing a wide range of skills, with year 7 and 8 working on different block printing techniques and year 9 working on weaving and set design. It's a pleasure to see how impressed both other students and staff are of their work on the walls of the art room. Looking forward to next term year 7, are looking forward to a cross curricular castle project and Year 9 to creating multi layer screen prints.



Food Technology

Season's greetings. This term we have been busier than ever in the Food Technology room. The primary pupils have been enjoying a range of simple dishes in the after-school club.

Our year 7s have been using the oven and grill while our year 8 practiced their shaping skills with cheese and onion triangles and scones.

Year 9 have been cooking up a ragu sauce served with pasta and re-visiting their knife skills.

Year 10/11s have been working on their first BTEC assignment which has now ended. After Christmas they will try a few more recipes before their second assignment starts.

Christmas is an ideal opportunity to get involved in the kitchen and this is an essential part of their course work. So, record that moment for me and send it in. I will be delighted to include it in their assignment file. (jeanette.ellis@theriseschool.com).



Mrs Ellis

Computing

We have had another really busy but enjoyable time in computing this term. In the primary classes we used IT to support our learning by researching and presenting information about the about the Romans and The Carthaginian Wars. We have also been learning some important lessons about e-safety. Some Key Stage 3 pupils took part in an augmented reality (AR) workshop. This is the technology used to power Pokemon Go but we used it to learn more about the history of London. We are the first school in the world to have a magical mudlarking workshop. In Key Stage 4 we have nearly finished the first project in our Creative iMedia course with some help from the Sixth Form who



Mr Magee

Yoga

This term has seen us working on improving one of our four curriculum strands within yoga. Pupils have worked from 'head to toe' this term improving their bodies overall **strength**. We have even seen some groups completing lifts and handstands.

We have been impressed to see how much knowledge pupils have drawn on from last year in terms of how many of the poses they are able to recall, breathe work and relaxation techniques.

Pupils are looking forward to moving on to flexibility and balance next term.



Miss Hutchinson

Learning Outside The Classroom

LOTC has begun with a flying start this half term with classes going out on their first trips together as new classes and year groups, to take on amazing learning opportunities. We have seen visits to the Tower of London, Top Golf, Warner Brother Studios, Oakwood Youth Centre and the London Dungeons.

We have seen some wonderful moments during swimming with some great personal achievements, including our Year 7s taking part in life saving skills.

We also welcomed back the Panto to The Rise for its 4th consecutive year "Oh no we're not!"



'History in your hands' workshop.



Oakwood Youth Centre.

Pupil Wellbeing



Pupils at The Rise engaged in Random Acts of Kindness: We put kind notes on cars in school car park; we handed roses to staff & parents; we put kind notes in Staffroom and we left sweets for others to find. We enjoyed it a lot. It was contagious & lifted the spirit of the entire school community.

Staff Wellbeing

Another term, another set of Friday afternoons increasing staff wellbeing. By giving kindness, building relationships, energizing our bodies, being aware of our surroundings and trying something new - we have been doing **G-R-E-A-T!** Here is what the staff has been getting up to this term:

- Increasing culinary skills including a lovely cauliflower cheese to go with Christmas dinner!
- Testing out their general knowledge with a staff pub quiz
- Celebrating a new arrival with a beautiful baby shower
- Getting competitive with a 'friendly' games of badminton
- Expanding the mind by using the time for continued professional development!



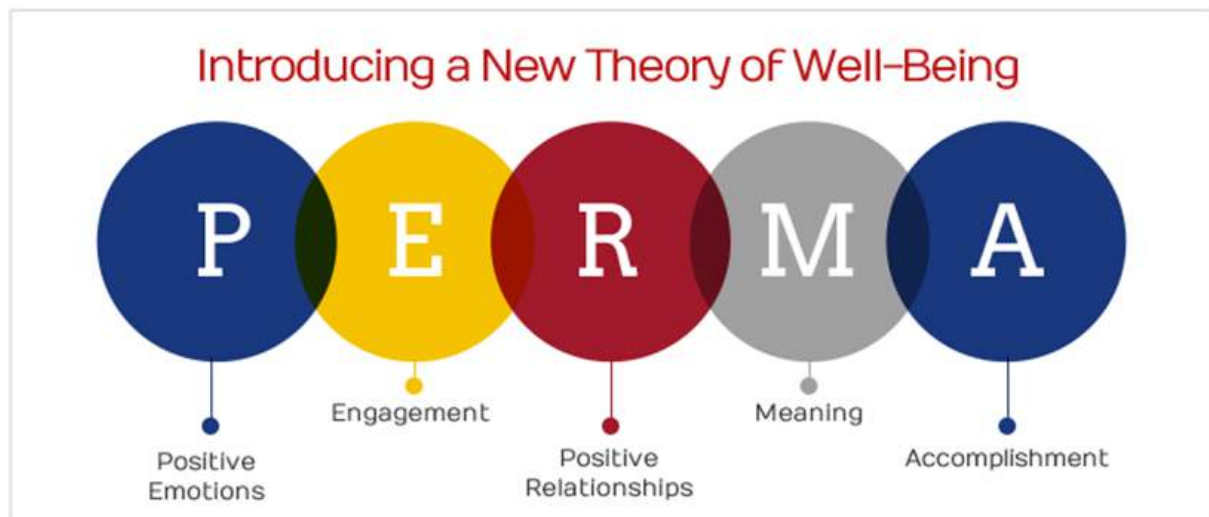
In addition to our Friday wellbeing, many are involved in Secret Buddy once more. Using well developed espionage skills, the buddies have been ensuring their assigned target has been inundated by kindness! It has culminated in a massive turnout for Secret Santa ex-

Positive Behaviour Support

This term, The Behaviour and Pastoral team has continued to implement and reinforce SW-PBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support). As we have reached full capacity now, it has been very crucial for all the behaviour strategies to be clear and consistent.

We use all opportunities to teach our pupils new skills (eg. coping and self-management) through reflections and restorative justice, instead of just giving them consequences. It has paid off, as majority of our pupils can now use these skills and receive positive outcomes from challenging situations.

Furthermore, in the spirit of Positive Behaviour Support, we have been exploring PERMA model, to improve the wellbeing of our pupils. PERMA stands for Positive emotions, Engagement, Positive relationships, Meaning, Accomplishment. Once all the components are present in a person's life-, their wellbeing is being improved. We have been working really hard to make sure that we provide these to our pupils.



Mr Ocansey



Miss Puzia

E-Safety

You may be aware that in October 2019 the Children's Commissioner produced a Report called *Gaming the System*. It was the result of research into computer gaming activities by children between 10 and 16. One of the areas of concern was the appearance of loot boxes (randomised in-game purchases) which constitute a type of gambling and have significantly increased the potential cost of gaming. More information about loot boxes has been attached to this newsletter. Please contact Andy or Hannah if you have specific concerns.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Understanding Video Game LOOT BOXES & SKIN BETTING

ONLINE GAMING

Much is written in the media about online gaming, gambling and "skin" betting. These terms can be confusing as they mean different things in different contexts. Online gaming has historically meant gambling websites with cards, slot machines and roulette. More recently, as we are discussing here, online gaming has also come to mean video games you play over the internet. In online video games, players can often start playing for free. As they progress, the game offers in-app purchases that provide equipment, weapons, outfits and enhancements to characters. These are usually small purchases of just a few pounds. However, games offer many hundreds of these purchases that can mean children spend a considerable amount of money.

LOOT BOXES

Some video games also offer what has been called "loot boxes" as a way to purchase these items. Similar to purchasing a pack of Panini football stickers or a Lego Minifigure in foil packaging, players don't know exactly what they will get. They may get a common item that has a low value in the game. Equally, they may get a rare item that has a high value. These interactions are not considered to be gambling according to the UK Gambling Commission, although sometimes they have a similar appearance because the items obtained have no monetary value outside the game. Only games that contain simulations of real-world gambling have the PEGI Gambling descriptor. However, games that offer in-app transactions of any kind are flagged with the PEGI In-App Purchase descriptor on the box or at point of sale online.

SAFE SETTINGS

It's important that parents try this out with children as they venture into the world of gaming. Together they can build an understanding of how these purchases work and discuss which are really good value, and which are over-priced. Like pocket money, it can be a good way to teach children about virtual currency and online purchases.

It's important to understand that it can be easier to make repeat purchases online compared to buying toys or stickers over the counter. Also, many games offer high-cost top-ups of virtual currency (up to £79.99) in a single purchase. While these are sometimes labelled "best value" they represent a significant investment in a game that should be considered carefully before purchase.

It's worth noting that Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo have agreed to disclose the odds of getting rare items in loot boxes. Game publishers on these platforms will have to reveal the chances of each purchase. Some publishers do this already. Together with your child, you can set-up spending limits to stop accidental purchases. A good approach is to use the pocket money feature on consoles to allow them to spend a small amount each month. You can also avoid putting your credit card details in by using pre-paid cards that work like book tokens. If you do add credit cards ensure you set up a password on the account.

SKIN TRADING

Because players can trade and swap items in games, the relative rarity of these items creates a thriving market where these items are exchanged. This trading aspect of games like Rocket League can be an enjoyable way for players to get the items they want, similar to swapping football stickers in the playground.

Because these items are often just visual changes to how characters look they are called "skins", although, in reality, this includes items that do more than change appearance. It's important for parents to understand that these "skin" trades are often arranged on websites or apps outside the game itself. This can mean that parents are unaware of trades. Also, the third-party communities are unregulated and beyond the control of the game creator.

SKIN BETTING

Use of this "skin" currency can be taken further by websites that use it for gambling. "Skin betting" is when players use these virtual items they have earned or purchased in games as gambling currency. Players can also use these sites to bet with "skins" on sports competition outcomes. It's important for parents to be aware of this activity, as it can consume considerable amounts of money if a player is buying in-game items for this purpose.

Where this becomes a legal issue, is when the "skins" you win can be converted to cash. As the Gambling Commission stated in its Young People and Gambling 2017 Report, "Where gambling facilities are offered to British consumers, including with the use of in-game items that can be converted into cash or traded (for items of value), a gambling licence is required."

In particular, this means that these sites must not be accessible or advertised to children. Tackling operators making gambling facilities available to children is one of the Gambling Commission's priorities. This has been demonstrated by action taken against unlicensed websites providing facilities for gambling using in-game items as methods for payment. Along with the Gambling Commission, the games industry strongly opposes "skin" betting sites as they infringe the legal agreements that underpin games. Games companies work with law enforcement agencies to clamp down on these sites.

VALUING IN-APP PURCHASES

Understanding how modern games make money enables you to guide your family to find the best value in the games they play. Whether it's taking advantage of the many free to play games now available, making informed decisions about in-app purchases or spending weekend pocket money after a hard week at school, this way of paying for games can work.

Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His Taming Gaming book helps parents guide children to healthy play.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Spring Term Lunch Menus

WEEK 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option One	BEEF BURGER POTATO WEDGES BBQ BEANS	BEEF CUMBERLAND PIE POTATOES CARROTS	ROAST TURKEY POTATOES CABBAGE GRAVY	CHICKEN & BEAN CHILLI	HOME-MADE BATTERED FISH FILLET & CHIPS WITH PEAS
Option Two	VEG BOLOGNESE PASTA (v)	ARRABIATA PASTA(v)	CHUNKY VEG PASTA	NEW YORK QUORN DOG	MARGHERITA PIZZA(v)
Desert	BANOFFEE PIE	GINGERBREAD CAKE	JELLY	CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY SWIRL	CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

WEEK 2					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option One	CHICKEN MAYO BURGER POTATO WEDGES REDSRAW	CHILLI BEEF RICE SWEETCORN	ROAST TURKEY POTATOES CABBAGE GRAVY	BEEF LASAGNE	HOME-MADE BATTERED FISH FILLET & CHIPS WITH PEAS
Option Two	BEANY PASTA	CHEESEY PIZZA	VEGETABLE BURRITO	MARGHERITA PIZZA	ITALIAN CHICKEN PASTA
Desert	MANGO FROZEN YOGHURT	CHOCOLATE SLICE	JELLY	BANOFFEE PIE	VANILLA ICE CREAM

WEEK 3					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option One	CHICKEN KORMA NAAN BREAD PEAS	COTTAGE PIE PEAS	ROAST TURKEY POTATOES CABBAGE GRAVY	CHINESE CHICKEN NOODLES GREEN BEANS	HOME-MADE BATTERED FISH FILLET & CHIPS WITH PEAS
Option Two	ARRABIATA PASTA	VEG & BEAN QUESADILLA	MAC 'N' CHEESE	VEGEBALL CARBONARA PASTA	MARGHERITA PIZZA
Desert	LEMON DRIZZLE	BANOFFEE PIE	JELLY	CHOCOLATE SLICE	STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

Term Dates

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January — INSET (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 7th January — start of term for pupils

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February — Half term break

Monday 24th February — INSET (school closed to pupils)

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR SPRING TERM

Tuesday 4th February—Curry and Quiz Night

Tuesday 24th March—Sixth Form Launch

Friday 27th March—Parent Meet

Wednesday 1st April—Parents Evening

Our Tweet of the term...



Parent Meet

Parents engaged in a very informative workshop on how to look after their mental health and learnt about strategies to enhance their and their child's wellbeing. Moreover, they were given a mindfulness kit to take home.



Absence Hotline

If your child is going to be absent from school or late, please call and leave a message on the following number by 8am on each day of absence.

02080990644

