

The Bulletin

Friday 17th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all our families who celebrated Diwali this week, we hope you enjoyed a special time with your family on Tuesday and wish you prosperity for your new year ahead.

On the topic of "new", it has been wonderful to see new students starting at the centre this week and see our school population growing. We also welcomed "new" members to our student council and thank a particular student for standing in as chair for a short interim period. We enjoyed discussing our plans for celebrating all the student's achievements this term including our end of term rewards trip, Christmas Lunch and Secret Santa gift giving.

We spent the week focusing on Anti-Bullying and the importance of understanding that bullying can take many forms

Next week we look forward to meeting our year 11 parents to discuss the upcoming mock exams.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Louise.



Our value this half term is

TOLERANCE

Our vision:

- To provide a safe, enriching and nurturing environment, with wellbeing at its heart; where children and young people, can learn, gain confidence and thrive.

Our values:

To promote **resilience**, **self-confidence**, **tolerance**, and **respect**

Our aims: 'Building confidence for the future'

SAVE THE DATE -Christmas Lunch

All centre students and their families are invited to a Christmas lunch on **Tuesday 19th December at 12:30pm.**

Further details to be sent nearer the time.



Parent and Carer Support Group - 6th December 9:30 – 10:30

Our next session will run at the above date and time. Please come and contribute to this safe space which will be supported by our school therapist Amanda. We will be delivering a session on "Post 16 Options".



We have had an increase of students wanting to understand more about the conflict in the Middle East and we understand that some of our families may be personally affected by what is happening. Children always look to their parents and carers for a sense of safety and security – even more so in times of crisis, please see attached advice and guidance from UNICEF which you may find a helpful read.

Monday 20th November – 4-4:30pm

We invite all parents and carers of our year 11 students to a "Maximising Potential" evening in light of the upcoming mock exams. This will be run by Ann-Marie and Louise and will discuss the best way to support your child through the 2 week exam period.

This will be an **online** meeting via Google Meet.
<https://meet.google.com/zbn-hspo-spz?hs=122&authuser=0>

Remembrance Sunday 2023

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.



Here to listen: our safeguarding team



Designated safeguarding lead (DSL): **Louise Togher**
Contact details: **07735826382**
ltogher@ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk



Deputy DSL: **Ranjna Shiyani**
Contact details: **07900192271**



Deputy DSL: **Anne-Marie Mika**
Contact details: **07866217122**

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself, from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.



INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.



REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.



UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.



A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.



CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.



Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.



CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.



SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.



CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



Meet Our Expert

Cathy Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Cathy is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday