

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy International Women's Day to each of you! It has been a pleasure celebrating this special day with the girls in our centre and acknowledging the invaluable contributions and dedication that women bring to everything we do.

This week the Ashley College Centre has been bustling with activity, particularly focused on reading. During our assembly, we had the privilege of engaging with Caroline, our English teacher, who guided us through reflective readings from renowned books and novels, encouraging us to take moments for introspection and inspiration.

Additionally, our students had the opportunity to explore the British Museum during a school visit. They immersed themselves in the exhibits and enjoyed the experience of venturing into central London, with many of them using public transport for the first time in a while – well done.

Have a lovely weekend,

Louise.

**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'**

If you would like to book an appointment with our school nurse Charlene please contact the school office or contact her directly on:

[charlene.stewart@nhs.net](mailto:charlene.stewart@nhs.net) 07931 733 526



Parent/Carer Support Group – ADVANCE NOTICE

Thank you to those that attended the session just before half-term.

Please do join us virtually or face-to-face for our next session on **Wednesday 27th March 9.30 -10.30**



Tuesday, April 2

**Autism-Friendly morning**

Enjoy an early opening of The Library at Willesden Green for a limited number of children aged 3-15 years with siblings, parents/carers

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-friendly-morning-tickets-772133140007>

**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**

Next week we look forward to catching up with any parents or carers that were unable to attend the previous year 11 parents evening to discuss the next crucial 10 weeks.

Please arrive at 3pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.



**The Importance of Reading Aloud to Big Kids | [Brightly \(readbrightly.com\)](http://Brightly(readbrightly.com))**

## Ways to support a child or young person



### Be there to listen

Regularly ask your child how they're doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings, and know there's always someone there to listen. You can get tips on [Young Minds: How to talk to your child about mental health](#).



### Support them through difficulties

Pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving and try to help them work through difficulties. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why. Learn more from [the Maudsley Charity on difficult behaviour](#).



### Stay involved in their life

Show interest in their life and what's important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.



### Encourage their interests

Support and encourage your child to explore their interests. Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team helps connect us and boost our mental wellbeing.



### Take what they say seriously

Listening to and valuing what they say makes them feel valued. Consider how to help them work through their emotions in constructive ways. [Anna Freud Centre's guide on ways to support children and young people](#) has more on this.



### Build positive routines

Try to have structure around regular routines, especially around healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up. The [Sleep Charity has relaxation sleep tips for children](#)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8



Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

### COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

### VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

### FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

### RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

### ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

### EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.