

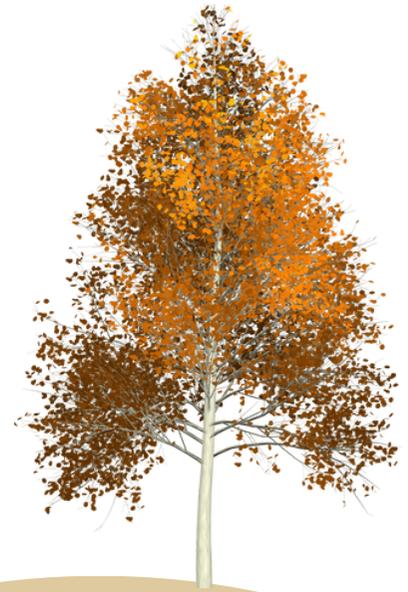
Autumn Term

# Elizabethan Highlights

In this issue...

Trips, School Shows, Dylan the Dog,  
MacMillan, Our Website and much more!

[www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](http://www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk)



@elizabethanac  
(The Elizabethan Academy)



@theelizabethanacademy  
@readwithdylan



The Elizabethan Academy



# Welcome... From the Principal



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. It has been an exciting half term with the Year 7 residential, the trip to Macbeth at the globe, inspiring alumni talks about careers and a whole host of other events! These are all part of our exciting and broad curriculum, which aims to raise aspirations. I am however always aware of ensuring we get the basics right. I.e. our 3 R's- or Respect Responsibility and Resilience. Part of that, is ensuring students attend school every day, unless they are really too ill to do so, as we know the evidence shows the hugely detrimental impact on their education and future opportunities. There is more of this later in the newsletter. Your support and guidance as parents is vital in maintaining excellent attendance but also ensuring students not only work in the classroom but complete home learning and come to school on time, prepared in terms of equipment and their uniform . We know some students find it difficult to work at home, however, we do have IT1 supervised everyday for students to work in as a study room at lunchtime. In addition, I would encourage students to make the most of the numerous lunchtime and after school activities on offer, which is important for their own personal development. It is obviously important now that our GCSE students in Year 10 and 11, and our A level students attend the revision sessions which are kindly being delivered by staff. Lastly, the impact of social media and technology on students mental health and wellbeing, is now well evidenced particularly in the latest research by the UN. We have made a decision not to ban mobile phones at the moment, but have decided to make Friday week Bs our unplug and connect days; so mobiles must remain in bags, as we want students to interact with each other in a different way during social times. I do hope you enjoy the half term break and look forward to welcoming students back on the 7th November!

*C. Harrocks*



# Dylan the School Dog

📷 @readwithdylan  
for reading and  
wellbeing tips  
every  
wednesday!

# Key dates & Information

Tues 7th Nov: School re-opens for ALL students

Wed 8th Nov: Sixth Form Open Evening

Thurs 9th Nov: Sixth Form Open Morning

Fri 10th Nov: Sixth Form Open Morning

Thurs 7th Dec: Year 11 Mock Interviews Day

Tues 12th Dec: Year 11 and Year 13 Parents Evening

Wed 13th Dec: Year 11 and Year 13 Parents Evening

Wed 20th Dec: Sixth Form Christmas Dinner Day

Fri 22nd Dec - Mon 8th Jan: Christmas Holidays



Messages...

A polite reminder to please remember to view our 'Community engagement and parental links' section under 'Parents' on our website. This section contains all external flyers for opportunities which may benefit you and/or your child, such as services, events, support etc. These are now under this section rather than posted on our socials.

**Year 11: Please find the link to the parent information and newsletter here:**

**<https://www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1201>**

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for everyone who has taken the time to respond to our Parent Questionnaire.

We are picking up on your replies and will keep you informed on any changes we implement as a result.

To Elizabethan Academy students, staff and families  
Thank you for your Harvest Festival  
donation!

We are grateful for  
your support!

from everyone at  
Bassetlaw Food Bank



The Elizabethan Academy

# SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



8th November 2023

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Meet the students, the staff, view our courses, look around and more!

**5PM  
-7PM**

A chance for prospective year 10/11s to see what really makes our Sixth Form great!

[www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](http://www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk)

01777 713700

[dainty1@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](mailto:dainty1@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk)

# Sixth Form Open Evening

Meet the students, staff, view the sixth form facilities, view our courses, ask questions and more!

+ refreshments!

# Hand Crafted Seasonal Gifts Free Parent Course

Enjoy a relaxed afternoon in school...  
making a range of different hand crafted items  
to give as gifts to friends and family!

All levels of ability welcome, we will be making lovely things each week; including resin jewellery and a personalised bauble in a gift box. This course is for **parent/carers of Elizabethan Academy students**.

## Wednesdays

## 1:30-3:30pm

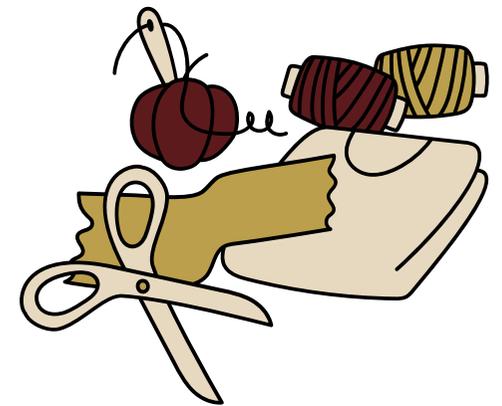
Starting 8th November: 5 week course

Parents with primary aged children can leave early to collect their child.

Free!

To book and for more information, please contact...

Mrs Fullwood: [fullwoodb@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](mailto:fullwoodb@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk)



# Other Sixth Form Upcoming Events



## 'Braking Point'

We have a theatre presentation called 'Braking Point' for both year 12 and 13, on [Young Driver & Passenger Safety](#):

Braking Point is an engaging, interactive theatre presentation that focuses on the responsibilities of being a young driver, or passenger, and the potential consequences of risk-taking behaviour. It is aimed at both passengers and young drivers, challenges perceived, 'low risk' behaviours, and anti-social driving.

**(Wed 15th November)**

## Previous Events...

On Monday 9th October, we had Leva Remeikyte, from NCS (National Citizen Service), come in and speak to our Year 12 students about opportunities coming up to take part in Residential Experiences at various venues around the country!

Participants will get the opportunity to meet new people, take part in a whole bunch of team building activities and learn new skills to help them smash their future goals.

NCS receives government funding, meaning that these opportunities are available to students for £95 for the entire experience, or fully funded depending on circumstances.

Sadly, all off the October dates are sold out, but more opportunities will be available in the Spring and Summer, and students are eligible until they are 18.

# Unplug Fridays...

Week B

**Every Friday Week B, we are going to unplug and revitalise by switching off our mobile phones and games consoles to fully interact with each other in the real world during the school day – EA will be a mobile free zone all day! Phones and other electronic devices must be switched off and put in bags to avoid temptation from the first bell of the day at 08:40 right through to the last bell at 15:15!**

**Any phones or electronic devices seen anywhere in the academy will be removed to the school office for collection at the end of the day (this does not however, include devices that students have been allocated to support with their learning or mobile phones being used by students to check blood sugar levels or any other medical conditions).**

**In tutor groups this week, as part of our weekly safeguarding update, students will be reminded of the benefits of unplugging from technology one day a week and discuss how and why the following are beneficial ...**

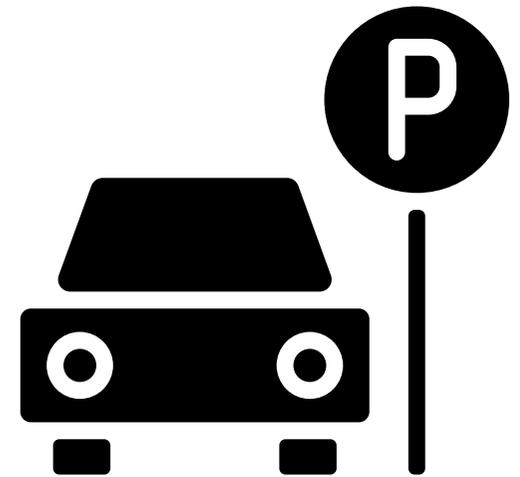
- **You will be more productive**
- **You will be more focussed**
- **You will sleep better**
- **It may reduce stress, anxiety and depression**
- **It will improve your relationships**
- **It will improve your health**
- **It will rewire your brain in positive ways**
- **It will make you a better person**



**Staff, where possible, will avoid using PowerPoint in lessons. We will keep this under review and adapt as necessary.**

# Parking Update

## Accessing the Academy car park:



**In our previous newsletter, which was published at the start of this academic year, and circulated to all parents, we advised that we operate a vehicle permit system, to ensure only those families whose children have specific needs are able to access the car park.**

**It is absolutely essential, for safety reasons, that the number of vehicles accessing the site is controlled and managed responsibly. Every day, we are still experiencing a situation where parents/guardians continue to access the car park without a vehicle permit. We would therefore ask you, to please refrain from entering the school car park/site to drop off and collect your child unless it is an absolute necessity.**

**If you think you require a vehicle permit, please access the link below and complete the electronic online form. Depending on the nature of the request, a vehicle permit will then be issued to your child to bring home.**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/7rL93ARRpN>**

# HALF TERM Food Hubs in Bassetlaw



Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November



## Harworth

Monday - 2pm @ Devonshire Road, Harworth

## Langold & Carlton

Tuesday - 9.30am - 2.30pm, Now Church, Langold  
Tuesday - 12.45pm, Limetree Nursery, Carlton  
Wednesday - 9.30am - 2.30pm & 7.00pm - 8.00pm, Now Church

## Retford

Friday - 2.00pm - Grove St Methodist Church, Retford

## Worksop

Tuesday - 2.00pm - St Paul's Church, Manton



Food Hubs are open to all and there is no eligibility criteria.  
Each bag of food costs £3.50 (except at Now Hub, which are £5).



HAF activities also available - please visit [www.bcvs.org.uk/haf](http://www.bcvs.org.uk/haf)



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MORE INFO: [APPLYFORBAKEOFF@LOVEPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK](mailto:APPLYFORBAKEOFF@LOVEPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK)

# MACMILLAN coffee MORNING

Thank you to everyone who contributed and donated for our MacMillan coffee morning. We had some amazing cakes!! Thank you also to the canteen staff for donating to our community coffee morning Friday afternoon, and our students for being fabulous hosts. Our current total from cash and online donations is [£240!](#)



# School Council

This half term we have seen our school council team meet for the first time! As well as being the voice of our students, our student leaders will also be working on different events throughout this academic year from fundraisers to working in our local community.



Team Ea



# Staff Spotlight

## Miss Moore

I am a returning member of staff to Elizabethan after 8 years (completed PGCE here). I left in 2015 to pursue responsibility and to gain further experience in the classroom. I currently teach all sciences at Ks3, and I specialise in Biology at GCSE and A level, however I do dabble in Chemistry .

I studied Forensic science at Staffordshire university, and I have a love of googling and reading a curious collection of books. However my true passion are my two elderly dogs – we now enjoy a slow stroll but we did have adventures ! I've landed back home in my old room Sc3, however I frequent the English corridor looking after my form, 8s2.

I`m super pleased and proud to be back with the family that is Elizabethan! 😊



**Mr Richards**

# Staff Spotlight

I was born in Cardiff, Wales, I went to Cardiff University, where I studied Chemistry...

My interests are... Reading! I am currently reading 'This going to Hurt'!, Rugby- Training under 11 at Newark Rugby Club, and I a member of RSC.

Interesting fact about me... I lived in Tampa FL for two years working for a drug development hospital, and can speak some conversational Welsh!



**Mr Bover**

# Staff Spotlight

I used to play academy football at Hartlepool, Sunderland and Middlesbrough football clubs, and then went on to coach at Hartlepool!

I then moved into a football scouting career working for Northwestern University in Chicago. I scouted for three years, and my claim to fame whilst living there is that I lived next door to the house home alone was filmed in.

I then went to university, and as part of University, went back to work with Middlesbrough FC as a sports scientist. During University, I was also called up to play for team GB in American football. My love of science is then what took me into a career teaching science.

Let's Get Social!

[www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](http://www.elizabethan.notts.sch.uk)

01777713700 | 01777713711



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@theelizabethanacademy

@readwithdylan



@elizabethanac

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# Exam tips, tricks & advice!

1

1. Always do your homework
2. Identify the gaps in your learning
3. Take practice papers: This is one of the best revision recourses!
4. Write notes by hand
5. Take regular breaks from revision
6. Teach someone else

2

1. Make a realistic revision schedule
2. Find a revision style that suits you
3. Customise your notes to make them more personal
4. Make sure you understand everything you need to know - don't just leave things out because they're too hard!

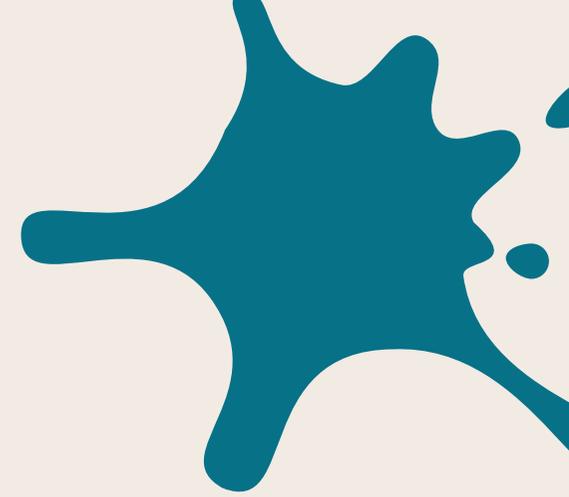
3

## General advice for exams...

- Know what you'll be examined on and when
- Keep all your revision organised
- Ask for help whenever you need it - find support and even try to speak with other students who have sat similar subject papers/tests etc
- Set yourself a revision schedule and stick with it.
- TIP: Stick post-its around your room on things you use everyday. It soon starts to get in your head!
- TIP: The night before an exam, eat a good balanced meal, lots of water, an early night - try not to cram revise either!

# Open Evening 'twenty three

A fantastic information and fun-filled Open Evening...we look forward to the next one and hope to see as many, if not more of you, next year!



# Safeguarding Matters...



Each week we talk about why safeguarding matters in our tutor period sessions to ensure we are all aware of specific issues including how to recognise behaviours and how to seek support. There follows a flavour of the topics we have discussed this half term so parents/carers can join in the conversations and reiterate the main messages ...

·Let's talk about ... what's on your mind?

World Mental Health Day was on Tuesday 10 October. The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'. Talking about what's on our mind can be the hardest subject ... so, what's on yours?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C74o1p4a7A>

Talking is one of the best ways we can look after our mental wellbeing. But a lot of the time, there are barriers which hold us back from having deeper and meaningful chats. Whether that's not having the time, finding it uncomfortable or not knowing how to open up.

Top tips for having difficult conversations ...

Get the set up right...

- Be flexible - use different communication methods depending on what people like and what feels right. It's the way you use media that matters
- Leave the other person space to speak - it's okay to have silence; don't try to move onto solutions too fast
- Try walking, driving or playing a game to take the intensity of eye contact out of a conversation
- Being consistently in touch even in small ways is a good way to form the basis for bigger conversations. It doesn't always have to be heavy

### Get the conversation flowing

- Ask open questions: "How do you feel about...?" "What did you do yesterday?" "Tell me about..."
- Try offering your own experiences to help someone help up - "when I feel down I tend to..."
- Ask a surprising or specific question to sidestep the usual conversation patterns

### Help someone open up

- Be present in the moment and give someone your full attention - put your screens away and make sure you're not thinking about something else
- Summarise back what the other person has said to show that you are listening
- Don't jump to conclusions about what someone means. Instead check how they feel about something by asking rather than assuming
- Try and remain empathetic and open minded - a negative reaction can shut someone down
- Pay attention to non-verbal cues - eye contact, body language, tone of voice, both yours and theirs. If you seem like you're paying attention they will be more likely to feel heard
- Follow up if you feel like someone isn't feeling good or is a bit off shows you have noticed

An NHS survey has shown Mental Health has declined in almost 40% of school children. That's why Britain Get Talking is setting the nation a different kind of homework this week. It's designed to help ease our stress and reduce our anxiety by asking what's on our minds.

## Get talking ...

- Ask your parent, carer, or an adult you trust if they'll help you with your homework. Tell them not to worry - nothing will be marked, and they won't even need a calculator!
- If you're not sure where to start, try writing or drawing your worries or fears. Remember there are no right or wrong answers
- Now, spend time together talking through any worries one by one. Discuss questions such as: How does it make you feel? What are you most afraid might happen? Would it help if you had more information?
- Get listening ...
- Even if we're used to talking together, it can be hard to open up about our worries or fears, particularly the more serious or scary ones. Perhaps you're afraid that talking about them might make you both worry more, but the reality is the opposite is more likely to be true. When we talk about the hardest subjects, we don't have to have all the answers. The important thing is to listen without judgment and try not to rush to resolve the problem.

## Get listening ...

Even if we're used to talking together, it can be hard to open up about our worries or fears, particularly the more serious or scary ones. Perhaps you're afraid that talking about them might make you both worry more, but the reality is the opposite is more likely to be true. When we talk about the hardest subjects, we don't have to have all the answers. The important thing is to listen without judgment and try not to rush to resolve the problem.

## What to do ...

If you are concerned about your own, friends or family's Mental Health, speak to a member of staff and it will be referred on to the designated safeguarding team who will support and intervene.

## Let's talk about ... child sexual exploitation (CSE)

### What is it?

- A form of child sexual abuse
- An individual or group taking advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity
- The sexual activity may be:
  - in exchange for something the child needs or wants, and/or
  - for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator, and/or
  - through violence or the threat of violence
- It can affect any child (male or female) under 18
- The child may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Children who are 16 or 17, and can legally consent to have sex, can be victims too
- It doesn't always involve physical contact - it can include non-contact sexual activity and can happen through technology, e.g. involving children in the production of sexual images or grooming a child via the internet
- It may happen without the child's immediate knowledge, e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media
- It can be a one-off event, or a series of events over time, and can be opportunistic or organised
- It can be carried out by individuals or groups, men or women, and children or adults
- It can be more frequent in difficult times like the cost-of-living crisis, where criminal gangs can take advantage of families struggling under financial pressure
- High tensions at home and less money to spend on activities/clubs means children may spend more time online or out and about unsupervised in places where they can be targeted

How can we spot it? A child may be ...

- Be frightened of some people, places or situations
- Be secretive
- Show changes in mood, character, behaviour or emotional wellbeing
- Have money or items that they can't or won't explain
- Change their friendship group
- Have an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Stay out late or overnight
- Be absent from school for prolonged periods or on repeat occasions
- Show physical signs of abuse, such as bruising or bleeding
- Misuse drugs or alcohol
- Receive an excessive amount of texts or phone calls
- Become involved in gangs or criminal activities such as selling drugs or shoplifting
- Suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant
- Display sexual behaviours beyond their expected level of sexual development

If you are concerned that you or someone else is being sexually exploited ... speak to an adult in school or at home. Our designated safeguarding team will always listen, reassure and ensure the right support is in place to ensure you are safe. Don't suffer in silence or allow anybody else to suffer at the hands of others, there is always help available.

Let's continue to talk about ... online safety. Understand and adhere to the online safety code below ...

# Online Safety - The Elizabethan Academy's Guide for Students



*Any misuse of social media will be taken very seriously by the school and students who do not abide by these rules will be subject to further disciplinary action.*  
*Any criminal offences using social media will immediately be referred to the police.*

## In School

- ✓ Internet access is filtered and monitored by staff and the internet history is logged
- ✗ Do not use social media in school unless directed by your teacher

## Settings & Friends

- ✓ Check that your privacy is set as high as possible and only allow friends to see your posts and images
- ✓ Check that the app you are using doesn't share your location
- ✓ Only connect with friends that are friends in the real world - because not everyone online is who they say they are
- ✗ Do not befriend people you don't know – Never start a conversation with a random stranger or someone that is flagged as having similar interests to you – as this can put you at great risk
- ✗ Do not meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer or school staff to report people suggesting you do

## Posting

- ✓ Social Media is public - Sharing information on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube is like having a conversation in public – so please think before you post
- ✓ Think carefully before posting any pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not in your control anymore
- ✓ Be kind to others – if you are rude online you could be breaking the law
- ✓ Remember that once something is posted it's hard to remove – future employers will be able to see your on-line identity and what you post could be reposted by others
- ✓ Remember the Academy's code of conduct and act with self-discipline, and respect at all times
- ✓ Respect other people's views and if you don't agree with someone else's views it doesn't mean you need to be rude
- ✓ Ask permission before using the Academy's name or school badge
- ✗ Do not post disrespectful or rude comments about the school, its staff or students
- ✗ Do not take or share photos of students and staff without their permission
- ✗ Do not post personal details like your mobile number, home address or email address
- ✗ Do not upload images or messages of a sexual nature as this is **illegal**
- ✗ Do not post abusive, untrue or harassing messages as this is **online abuse**

## Creating accounts

- ✓ Check the age requirements of the social media app or website - You have to be 13 years old to setup a Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat account
- ✗ Do not pretend to be someone else
- ✗ Never share your password

## Reporting

- ✓ Tell your parents or school staff if you receive offensive comments
- ✓ Save any offensive or hurtful comments that others make and block them
- ✓ If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried...leave the website and tell a trusted adult immediately
- ✗ Do not stay silent if you or others are being abused online...tell a trusted adult immediately

What to do if you or somebody else is behaving inappropriately and unsafely online ...

- Tell somebody ... a member of staff, a friend, somebody at home so we can intervene and keep you safe online
- You can share the information by emailing [safeguarding@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk) and a member of the safeguarding team will support you
- Be assured we will listen, take you seriously, show empathy and support ... you are right to report it. We will always agree a plan of action and support with you and monitor that you continue to interact online safely and not put yourself or others at risk

Linked to online safety and the law on protected characteristics, over the last couple of weeks PC Bev Jeffree, our school liaison officer, has delivered an assembly to each House about our responsibilities in standing against hateful behaviours and the importance of always interacting respectfully and with kindness towards others in the real and digital worlds. You can view the main messages of her assembly here:

[https://elizabethan-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/roweo\\_elizabethan\\_notts\\_sch\\_uk/EWL4apoIJcFJqeFJ73oP2kkBRSIQ8QjKT2bTJXIK8Yw35Q?e=I4BWcY](https://elizabethan-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/roweo_elizabethan_notts_sch_uk/EWL4apoIJcFJqeFJ73oP2kkBRSIQ8QjKT2bTJXIK8Yw35Q?e=I4BWcY)

...to further discuss with your child.

Please continue to stay across how and what your child is communicating online to ensure they stay safe and protect their own wellbeing.

We have a large dedicated safeguarding team which illustrates the importance our school places on your child's safety and wellbeing. They can talk to any member of staff in school if they are experiencing any difficulties involving adults or other children and they will judge

## Here to listen: our safeguarding team

**DSL** Miss A Clark Vice Principal

**DDSLs** Mr F Ciardulli  
Mrs S Wheatley  
Ms D Ager  
HoH Burghley  
Asst SENDCO  
SENDCO, Mental Health Lead and DT

**Designated Team**  
Mrs N Mason  
Mrs S Glaister  
Mrs A Foulds  
Miss T Lilley  
Mrs C Horrocks  
Mrs E Ferrarelli  
Mr L Dainty  
Miss S Withall  
Miss H McGill  
HoH Galileo  
HoH Shakespeare  
HoH Hardwick  
Idle Valley Coordinator  
Principal  
Vice Principal  
Assistant Principal/Director of 6th form  
Assistant Principal  
Director of Learning (Pastoral)

# Reducing screen time: Tips!

## 1. Be accountable

Set expectations with your children, and create goals to be intentional about reducing screen time. Many devices have features to set time limits for use.

## 2. Be realistic

If your child spends a lot of leisure time on screens, including watching TV, start by setting smaller, more attainable goals. Instead of jumping right to the recommended one to two hours or less per day, start by cutting their current screen time in half.

## 3. Be engaged

After school or work, spend time each day talking face to face with kids and giving them your full attention.

## 4. Put hand-held devices away

During screen-free hours, put devices away or at a charging station in a common area so they're not attracting your child's attention.

## 5. Create phone-free zones in your home

Making family meal areas a phone-free zone is an easy way to start.

## 6. Go outside

Putting down the phone and taking a walk or playing outdoors increases your endorphins, and provides that feeling of happiness in your brain, boosting your mood, and improving your physical health!

# Attendance Matters

As the winter takes its' grip, we need to ensure students sustain good health and maintain attendance at school to gain all the benefits that a rounded and inclusive education offers.

As part of our attendance strategy, we will expect students to attend every day, monitor attendance and listen to any issues, facilitate support if necessary before we are obliged to enforce the law.

Please see the DfE guidance that explains your responsibilities in ensuring your child attends school here...

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:c73ofcc4-c9dd-4664-997d-d731ab5222c2>

# High Adventure 2023

High Adventure 2023 was another example of our 3Rs threading through everything we do in and out of school. Students and staff pushing themselves out of their comfort zones in adverse weather conditions, experiencing new activities. Four students on each trip won prizes for their special contributions to their trip ... congratulations to

- Jacob Stokom 7G1, Henry Testo 7B2, Eliska Bailey 7B2, Brandon Harwood 7G2 on trip 1
- Joshua Nattriss 7S2, Blake Spriggins-Taylor 7H1, Anya Hosfield 7H2, Isabella Miskin 7S1 on trip 2

See what we achieved...[https://elizabethan-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/personal/clarkal\\_elizabethan\\_notts\\_sch\\_uk/Documents/ClarkAl/Activities%20Week/Year%207%20High%20Adventure%20Trip/High%20Adventure%202023.pptx?d=wd2b47cbb281048979637e7baaeae70f4&csf=1&web=1&e=iGjKbA](https://elizabethan-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/personal/clarkal_elizabethan_notts_sch_uk/Documents/ClarkAl/Activities%20Week/Year%207%20High%20Adventure%20Trip/High%20Adventure%202023.pptx?d=wd2b47cbb281048979637e7baaeae70f4&csf=1&web=1&e=iGjKbA)

# Reading



The new DEAR time initiative that is taking place at the beginning of all tutor periods has so far proven to be game-changing in boosting student engagement and confidence. Each year group has been assigned their own challenging text, and all students participate by reading anything from a sentence to a paragraph before passing it on. This strategy is not only proven to promote a love of reading of a wide variety of genres, but has also been linked with significantly enhancing students' fluency in accessing texts across the curriculum. Your child's literacy skills are flourishing with DEAR time!

Books were selected after considering established literary canons, input from staff, and insights from other schools with similar reading strategies. Initial focus is on war-themed literature aimed to create a shared thematic experience, fostering discussions and connections across year groups. While we plan to diversify genres in the future, we prioritised adult fiction to challenge the students in both content and vocabulary, steering away from young adult literature.

The selection of texts being read across the year groups are detailed below:

Thirteen by Tom Hoyle (Y7)

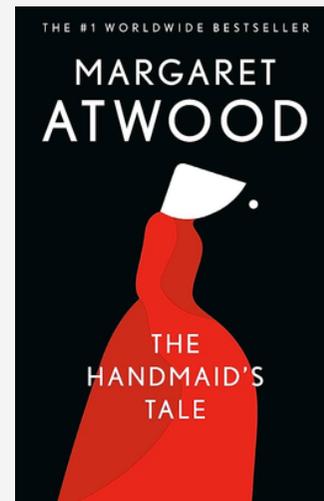
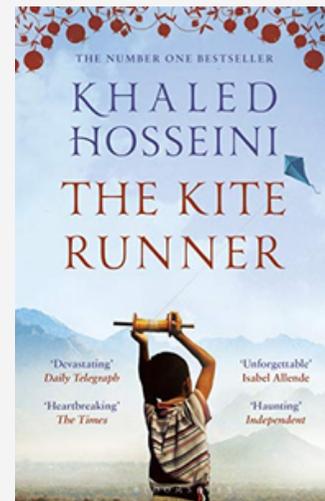
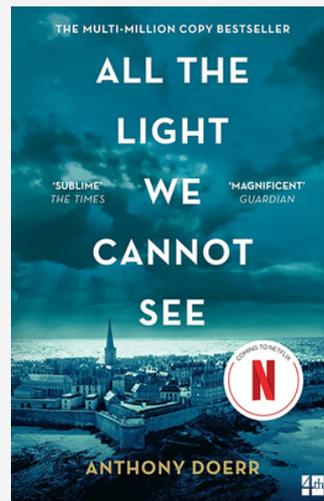
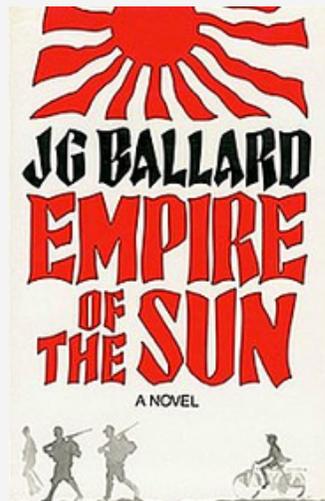
Empire of the Sun by J.G. Ballard (Y8)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Y9)

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (Y10)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (Y11)

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (Y12)



Within the English curriculum, Year 7 and Year 8 have one library lesson a week. They work on comprehension, decoding, oracy and group reading aloud. They read in groups of four and the aim is to improve their love of reading as well as confidence. Student voice this half term has shown a huge love of these lessons and students showing pride in their improvement of reading. During the library lessons they are also encouraged to ask for help with new vocabulary, stopping and learning new words, and we have seen a huge improvement in this area.

Reading is a fundamental skill that is pivotal for success in all school subjects. There have been a range of books selected for pupils to read and all are from the 2022/2023 Young Adult fiction list. These include important topics and views to be discussed in a mature manner, and in a safe space. It is essential for pupils to read a variety of genres and find what they love; these books cover the following genres: science-fiction, tragedy, fantasy, mystery, thriller, dystopian. When children are exposed to a range of genres, they also become better writers which is essential for their GCSEs when they are asked to write creatively.

# Assessment

To support academic success and support students and parents understanding of attainment, you will receive reports that link to the most likely grade to be achieved at the end of Y11 or Year 13. A strong pass is referred to as a Grade 5 and a standard pass is a Grade 4. These are minimum expectations for most colleges and sixth forms to enable opportunities to be available after year 11.

Year 7 - Y11 Students have been set target grades using KS2 data. Y12 and Y13 students have been set targets based on KS4 data. Please remember these are a guideline to support achieving expected progress and all students should aspire to achieve their full potential.

In Year 7, 8 and 9 student reports will state student attainment compared to national age related expectations. To support your understanding it suggests the grade most likely to be achieved in Year 11 if they continue to make progress they are currently demonstrating. These grades take into account work completed in lessons, summative assessments, attendance and homework.

Year 7, 8 and 9	Most likely grade for Y11
Excelling	Grade 8 - 9
Exceeding	Grade 6- 7
Meeting	Grade 4 – 5
Developing	Grade 2 – 3
Emerging	Grade U – 1

**In Year 10 and Year 11 you will see a target grade and student reports will show the grade they are most likely to achieve at the end of Year 11.**

**In Year 12 and Year 13 you will see a target grade and student reports will show the grade they are most likely to achieve at the end of Year 13.**

**Students will be regularly assessed during lessons to check understanding. Interim assessments will take place at a time relevant to the subject area and formative assessment will take place prior to reports being distributed.**

Students will also receive an attitude to learning Score - Excellent, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate, or Absent.

Reports are due to be distributed Week Commencing 11th December. Y7 - Y11 parents are then invited to the review day Wednesday 13th December, where parents will be invited to discuss students progress with their form tutor. Y12 and Y13 students will have a parents evening on Wednesday 10th January to discuss progress with the subject teacher.

Future dates include...

Y11 Subject Teacher Parents evening	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January
Y11 and Y13 PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations)	WC 26 <sup>th</sup> February - 8th March
Y7 - Y13 Reports to parents	WC 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Y7 - Y11 Review day with form tutors	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Y9 and Y10 Subject Teacher Parents evening	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Summer exam Window	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May - 26 <sup>th</sup> June
Y7, Y8, Y9 End of year assessments	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June
Y10 and Y12 PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations)	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June
Y7 - Y13 Reports to parents	WC 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

Have a wonderful half term!

