



George Eliot Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Parent Bulletin

October 2025

ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is a geographic area where plants, animals, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a unit. Ecosystems contain biotic or living parts which include plants, animals and other organisms, as well as abiotic factors, or nonliving parts including rocks, temperature, and humidity.

There are two types of ecosystem: Terrestrial Ecosystem and Aquatic Ecosystem. An ecosystem can be as small as an oasis in a desert or as big as an ocean, spanning thousands of miles.



Self-Discipline

Tenacity

Ambition

Responsibility



Senior Assistant Principal’s Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As we reach the end of the first autumn half term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm and hard work. It has been a busy and productive start to the academic year, and the energy across the school has been fantastic.

A special thank you goes to our wonderful PTA, whose dedication and creativity have brought so much joy to our community already this term. From the Bonkers Bingo to the ever-popular Halloween Disco, your efforts have made a real difference and created lasting memories for our pupils—thank you! We cannot wait for our second annual fireworks event on the 4th November.

Looking ahead, we know that Year 11 pupils are preparing for their first round of mock examinations, which begin on Monday 10th November. These examinations are an important milestone, and we are proud of the focus and determination our pupils are showing as they get ready. We wish them all the very best and encourage them to keep up the great work.

Thank you once again for being such a vital part of our school community. We hope you enjoy a restful and well-deserved half-term break.

Warm regards,

Craig Bonny-Meekings
Senior Assistant Principal





PTA Newsletter

PTA Newsletter – Half Term Highlights

This half term, the PTA has been working hard to bring fun and excitement to our school community!

Bonkers Bingo – Adults Only Event

We kicked things off with our very first adult-only event, Bonkers Bingo, held at Attleborough Sports Club — and it truly lived up to its name! Although attendance was small, everyone who came had a fantastic time, so much so that they are already asking when the next one will be.

Year 7 & 8 Halloween Disco

On Tuesday night, our Year 7 and 8 pupils danced the night away at the Halloween Disco. There were some amazing costumes, and DJ Steve had everyone up on their feet — especially during the dance-off to Mr C The Slide Man – Cha-Cha Slide! DJ Steve even joined in the fun, dressed up and keeping the energy high. The photo booth was a big hit with both pupils and staff, capturing lots of spooky (and silly!) moments.

Firework Night – Monday 4th November

Next up is our biggest event of the year — our Firework Night! Following last year’s fantastic success, we’re back with even more fun and games, including Hook-a-Duck, chocolate tombolas, inflatable slides, teacups, and much more.

Don’t forget to check out our delicious food stalls serving burgers, hot dogs, cakes, Indian food, and sweet crepes. It’s going to be a brilliant evening for the whole family — we hope to see you there!

Save the Date – Christmas Fair, Tuesday 16th December

Mark your calendars! Our Christmas Fair will take place on Tuesday 16th December.

- Pupils can visit from 2:00pm
- Doors open to everyone from 5:30pm

This year’s theme is The Grinch, and we have a very special guest arriving at 5:30pm — all will be revealed soon!

We’d love your support — whether by coming along or helping with donations. We are currently collecting chocolates, bottles of wine, and unwanted gifts suitable for our tombolas. All donations can be left at school reception.

Thank you for your continued support — we cannot wait to see you at our upcoming events!

— Your PTA Team 

Bonkers Bingo



Fireworks Night



GEORGE ELIOT ACADEMY'S PTA INVITES YOU TO THEIR SECOND ANNUAL...

Fireworks Night

Join us for an unforgettable evening of fireworks, food and family fun!!

- Hot Food and Drinks
- Cakes and Treats
- Fun Activities
- Entertainment for all ages!

Support your community school in the most spectacular way possible... under the stars!

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025
6PM - 8PM

Tickets: (Ticket Tailor or on the gate)

- Child - £3.50
- Adult £5.50
- Family (4) - £17

This event is open to the public





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Halloween Disco



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Children In Need Bake Sale

Our children in need charity Bake sale is happening on Friday the 14th of November.

Our pupils and staff will be creating delicious treats for sale.

Are you able to donate cakes? If so, please bring them to form time to support this charity event.

Stop by during break one, and grab a treat to help make a difference.



The poster is light blue with colorful confetti. In the top left is the George Eliot Academy logo. A speech bubble on the left says "Every bite makes a difference!". Below it are illustrations of two cupcakes and two cookies next to a glass jar filled with gold coins. On the right, the text "CHILDREN IN NEED BAKE SALE" is in large blue letters, with a cartoon bear head above "NEED". Below this, a banner says "FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER". At the bottom right, it says "BREAK 1" and "Grab a treat, and help make a difference!"

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Every bite makes a difference!

CHILDREN IN NEED BAKE SALE

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

BREAK 1

Grab a treat, and help make a difference!



BBC
**Children
in Need**

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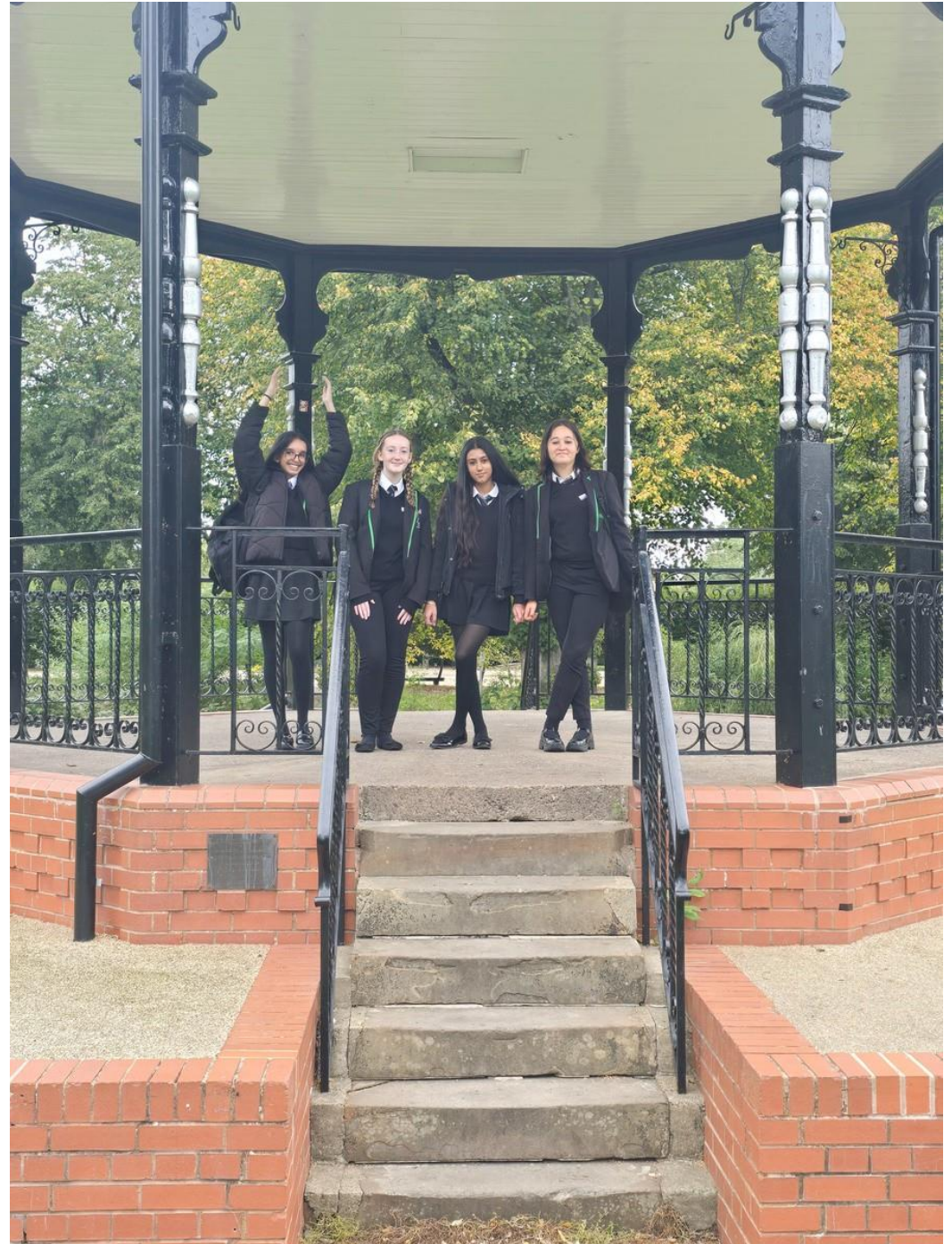
Thank you!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents and pupils for supporting our charity events this month. We had our annual Macmillan Coffee morning which was a huge success, as well as our Jeans for Genes event.



Youth Parliament

A group of our Year 10 pupils visited Nuneaton Town Hall to take part in the inaugural meeting of the Nuneaton Youth Parliament. They joined pupils from across the town to discuss key issues affecting young people, met with the local MP Jodie Gosling, and took part in group discussions to help shape the future direction of the Youth Parliament. The event marked an exciting first step in giving young people a stronger voice in local decision-making.





Iceland Trip

In October 2025, pupils from George Eliot Academy travelled to Iceland for an unforgettable geography tour, exploring one of the world's most unique landscapes and discovering how it connects to future careers.

Travel and Tourism Careers

At Manchester and Birmingham Airports, pupils experienced first-hand the scale of jobs involved in global travel — from airport security, check-in staff, air traffic control, flight crews, and engineers to tour operators and travel coordinators. This highlighted how teamwork, communication, and attention to detail are essential in keeping international travel running smoothly.

Throughout the trip, we used Hópbílar coach company which provided insight into the logistics of running large group tours, showing careers in transport management, travel planning, and sustainable tourism.

Hópbílar has a carbon-offset programme demonstrating how the travel industry is adapting to be more environmentally responsible.

STEM and Environmental Careers

The itinerary included visits to:

- The Bridge Between Continents – exploring tectonic plate movement and geology careers.
- Gunnuhver Hot Springs and Krýsuvík Mud Puddles – learning how geothermal energy supports sustainable living and engineering innovation.
- Thingvellir National Park – where science meets history, giving insight into careers in environmental conservation, geography, and heritage management.
- Sólheimajökull Glacier and Seljalandsfoss Waterfall – where pupils witnessed the effects of climate change, linking to careers in climate science, glaciology, and environmental policy.

A highlight was the visit to the Secret Lagoon, powered naturally by geothermal springs — an example of Iceland's commitment to renewable energy. Pupils learned how engineering, science, and sustainability work together to balance tourism with protecting fragile environments.

Skills for the Future?

- Teamwork – working together on long travel days and field activities
- Independence and organisation – managing their own equipment, timetables, and responsibilities
- Communication and problem-solving – adapting to new environments and challenges

This trip brought geography to life and showed how classroom learning links directly to the world of work — from aviation, hospitality, logistics, and travel management to environmental science, research, and renewable energy. Pupils returned inspired by the possibilities for future study and career pathways across science, technology, engineering, tourism, and sustainability.

Iceland Trip





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Sea Cadets- Membership and Instructors



Who are we?

Sea Cadets is proud to be the main MOD Sponsored Cadet Force for the Royal Navy

What can I do at Sea Cadets?

You can explore lots of opportunities and skills at sea cadets:

Rowing

Mountain Biking

Band

Powerboating

Engineering

When can you join?

You can join as a Junior Cadet when you are 10, and enjoy summer camps and making new friends as you head towards becoming a Sea Cadet at 12.

How to get in-touch and join?

T: 02475 353717

E: nuneaton.sccoffice616@gmail.com

Charity Registration No. 1059141

www.sea-cadets.org/apply



Nuneaton & Bedworth

SEA CADET INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

Ready to Make a Difference?

Are you eager to inspire and help young people reach their full potential? Join us at the Sea Cadets as a Volunteer Instructor and be part of something truly rewarding!

What you'll do:

- Lead exciting activities
- Empower cadets to build confidence and gain valuable qualifications
- Receive free training and enhance your skills

No experience? No problem! We're looking for passion, enthusiasm, and a desire to make a real impact.

This is your chance to get involved, learn new skills, and become a positive role model. Ready to dive in?

Apply now and start making a difference today!

sea-cadets.org



/SeaCadetsUK

nuneaton.scc616@gmail.com



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal
Marine Society & Sea Cadets, a charity
registered in England and Wales 313013
and in Scotland SC037808

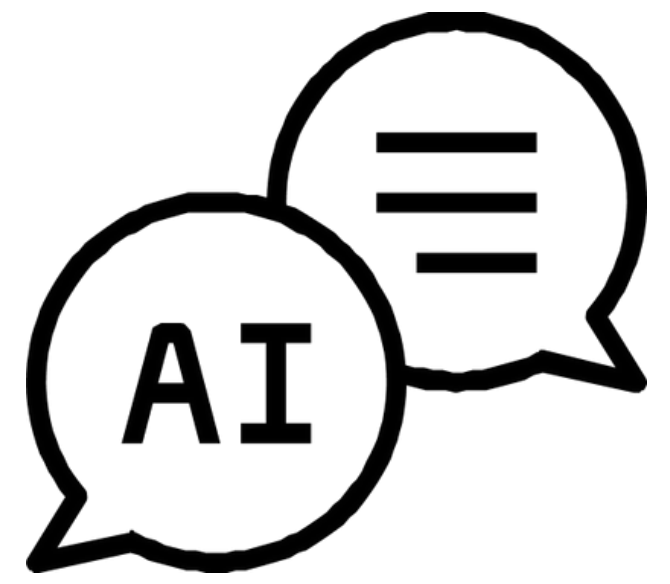


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Safeguarding Bulletin

EDITION 1- AI Chatbots and screentime

What is AI and how are children using it?

Artificial intelligence, or AI, like any digital tool, can be incredibly supportive, time-saving and life changing, but used in the wrong way it can be destructive. AI comes in a variety of forms, the most common and most accessible to young people being Chat GPT, a chatbot that allows users to ask it questions, which it in turn generates a response to based on data it is scanned across the internet. However, it can also take the form of modern apps that are able to, change peoples' voices, edit images and generate fake videos or images of whatever the user types in as a prompt.



Open AI is one of the most popular AI companies with apps such as Chat GPT and Sora

Image and video generators are becoming some of the most used app downloads amongst young people, allowing them to create new images from scratch or edit existing images in ways that could be inappropriate. "Deep faking" is a term used to describe when an image or video of a real person looks so realistic it has to be verified by additional technology that it isn't real and has been generated. As of February 2025, Britain is one of the first countries to release new laws and guidance for AI that is used in sexual abuse or grooming cases.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach-policy-proposals/outcome/a-pro-innovation-approach-to-ai-regulation-government-response>

While image and video generation may seem fun, it can lead to harmful fake content being created without peoples' consent that can look so realistic it's hard to deem it AI generated. Over 35% of teens say they have been misled by AI generated content online. This may have been videos, voice notes/audios, images, or data. While it is understood to question newspapers or TV broadcasts, when the information is originating from social media it can become more challenging to differentiate between what is real authentic information and what is fake. It can create a distrust in technology for young people, with some teens even saying the anxiety brought on by the amount of time they spend online has effects their real life relationships.

Helpful Links:

What are Chatbots? www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmUHEvrpYoU

How do AI image generators work? www.youtube.com/watch?v=1P-7Mi4JnOg



Safeguarding Bulletin

EDITION 1- AI Chatbots and screentime

Screentime and doomscrolling

Over 1 in 10 young people (11%) have shown signs of problematic social media behaviour creating unhealthy relationships with technology. Negative effects can manifest in a variety of ways such as: negative self image, addictive use of technology, sleep disruption, increased anxiety and many more. Girls reported higher levels of problematic social media use than boys (13% vs 9%), however, in gaming, boys were more likely than girls to show signs of problematic gaming (16% vs 7%). (<https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/25-09-2024-teens--screens-and-mental-health>).

Research shows negative body image and low self worth have direct links to increased social media usage.

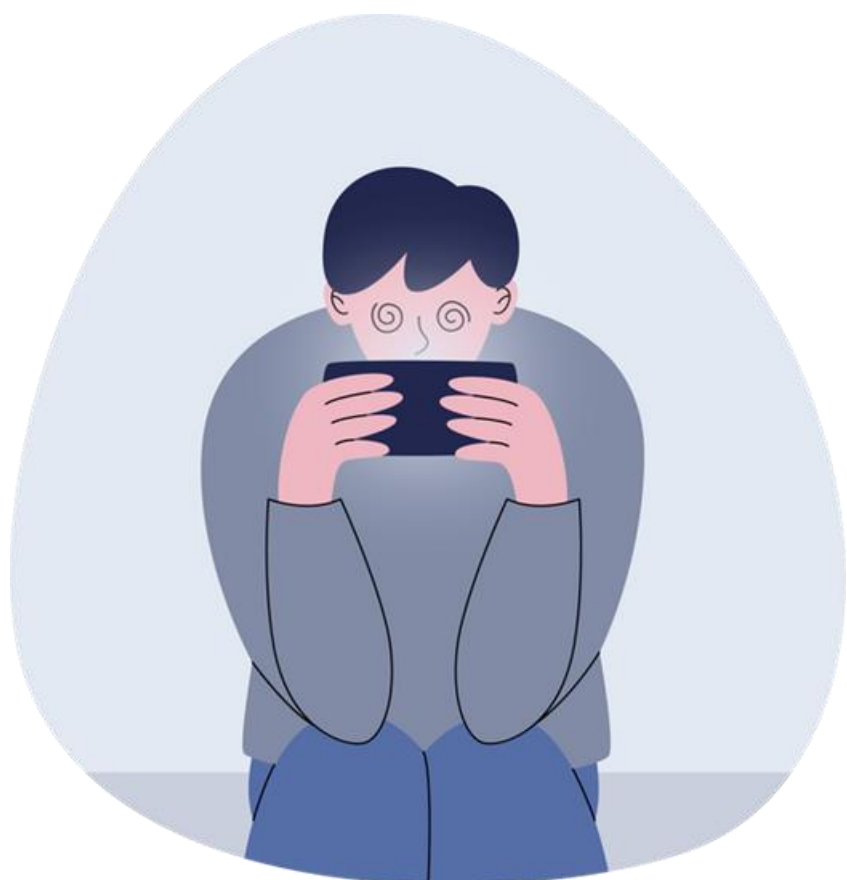
Doom scrolling

Doom scrolling is when a person gets stuck in a continuous cycle of scrolling the internet and reading negative news online. This can vastly impact a person's mental and physical health as it can lead to increased anxiety and lack of sleep due to screen time. Social media, negativity bias, and fear of missing out (FOMO) all encourage doom scrolling and reinforce bad habits increasing: stress, anxiety, and bad moods. Setting screen time limits, coming off your phone before bed and curating positive social feeds can all help prevent getting stuck in the cycle of doom scrolling.

Helpful Links:

Advice for young people using screens: <https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/25356458.nspcc-advice-long-children-spend-using-screens/>

For more information on doom scrolling head here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/worklife/article/20210226-the-darkly-soothing-compulsion-of-doomscrolling>





Safeguarding: Warwickshire County Council Workshops



AUTUMN TERM VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMMES

Workshop/ Programme	Date and Time	Venue
Sleep and Routines	10th October 09:30 – 11:30	Virtual
Boundaries and Rules	15th October 10:00 – 12:00	Virtual
Routines	16th October 12:45-14:45	Virtual
Keeping your child in mind	16th October 17:30 – 19: 30	virtual
Understanding Children's Behaviour	23rd October 12:45 – 14:45	virtual
Parenting Together	28th October 10:00– 12:00	virtual
Sleep and Routines	6th November 09:30 – 11:30	virtual
Boundaries and Rules	6th November 12:30 -14:30	virtual
Routines	12th November 12:30 – 14:30	virtual
Understanding your teenager	14th November 09:30 – 11:30	Virtual



**Book your
free place**

**For Warwickshire
parents only.**

For further information about this
programme please email
ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk



Safeguarding: Warwickshire County Council Workshops



AUTUMN TERM VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMMES

Workshop/ Programme	Date and Time	Venue
Understanding Children's Behaviour	18th November 09:30 – 11:30	Virtual
Boundaries and Rues	21st November 09:30 – 11:30	Virtual
Understanding your teenager	27th November 10:00-12:00	Virtual
Sleep and Routines	28th November 09:30 – 11: 30	virtual
Parenting Together	1st December 17:30 – 19:30	virtual
Understanding Children's Behaviour	9th December 10:00– 12:00	virtual



Book your free place

For Warwickshire parents only.

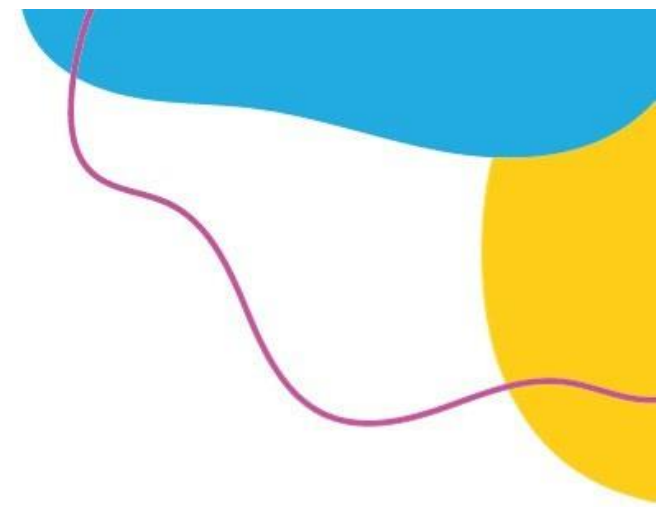
For further information about this programme please email ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk



Safeguarding: MHST Tips for Wellness



Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Thoughtfulness

Being thoughtful is when you consider, or think about, how your actions and words will affect other people's feelings. Taking the time to make ourselves aware of the needs and feelings of others and then taking action to help them is great for our mental health; it helps reduce stress, improve friendships and creates a sense of belonging.

When we think about how others feel and show kindness, it makes us feel good inside and boosts our confidence!

Our tips for Thoughtfulness:

You can be thoughtful through small acts of kindness; it doesn't have to be a grand gesture! Here are some examples below:

Smile at someone.

Listen carefully when someone is talking—it shows you care about what they're saying.

Give someone a nice compliment.

Help out without being asked, like sharing your things or tidying up.

Think about how others might feel before you act or say something.

Hug someone you care about (e.g., parents/carers, family members or a friend).

Hold the door open for the person behind you.

Say kind things to others and try to cheer someone up if they're feeling sad.

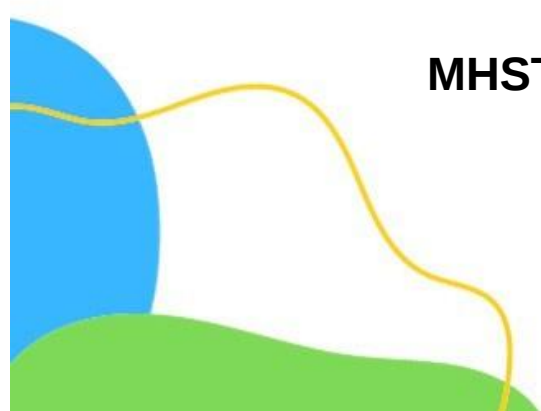
Say "thank you" and "please"—small words can make a big difference.

Tell someone that they are important to you.

Scan the QR code for more information about the benefits of being kind and thoughtful to ourselves and others:

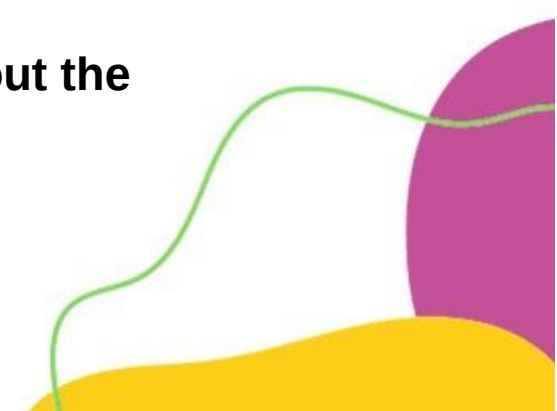


In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.



MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.



Leave of Absence during term time- Updated information

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.



Leave of Absence during term time- Updated information

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.



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Warwickshire Family Information Service

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



School meals are free for lots of families, check if you are eligible to apply!

So much more than lunch...

A free school meal:

- creates healthy eating habits
- improves learning and behaviour
- saves money and time
- helps schools get extra funding

Did you know that claiming free school meals means that your child will get access to free school holiday activities and food?

HAF

To find out more and for help to apply for free school meals, please contact:
freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or call 01926 359189



Can I apply?

Your child could be eligible for free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from National Asylum Support Service (NASS)
- Guarantee Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You should still apply if your child is aged 4-7 and receives a universal free school meal

Find out more and apply at
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fsm



WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

Contact us for a wide range of information relating to children and young people aged 0-25, including:

- Childcare
- Money and benefits
- Housing
- SEND
- Health and wellbeing



warwickshire.gov.uk/
childrenandfamilies

Scan me



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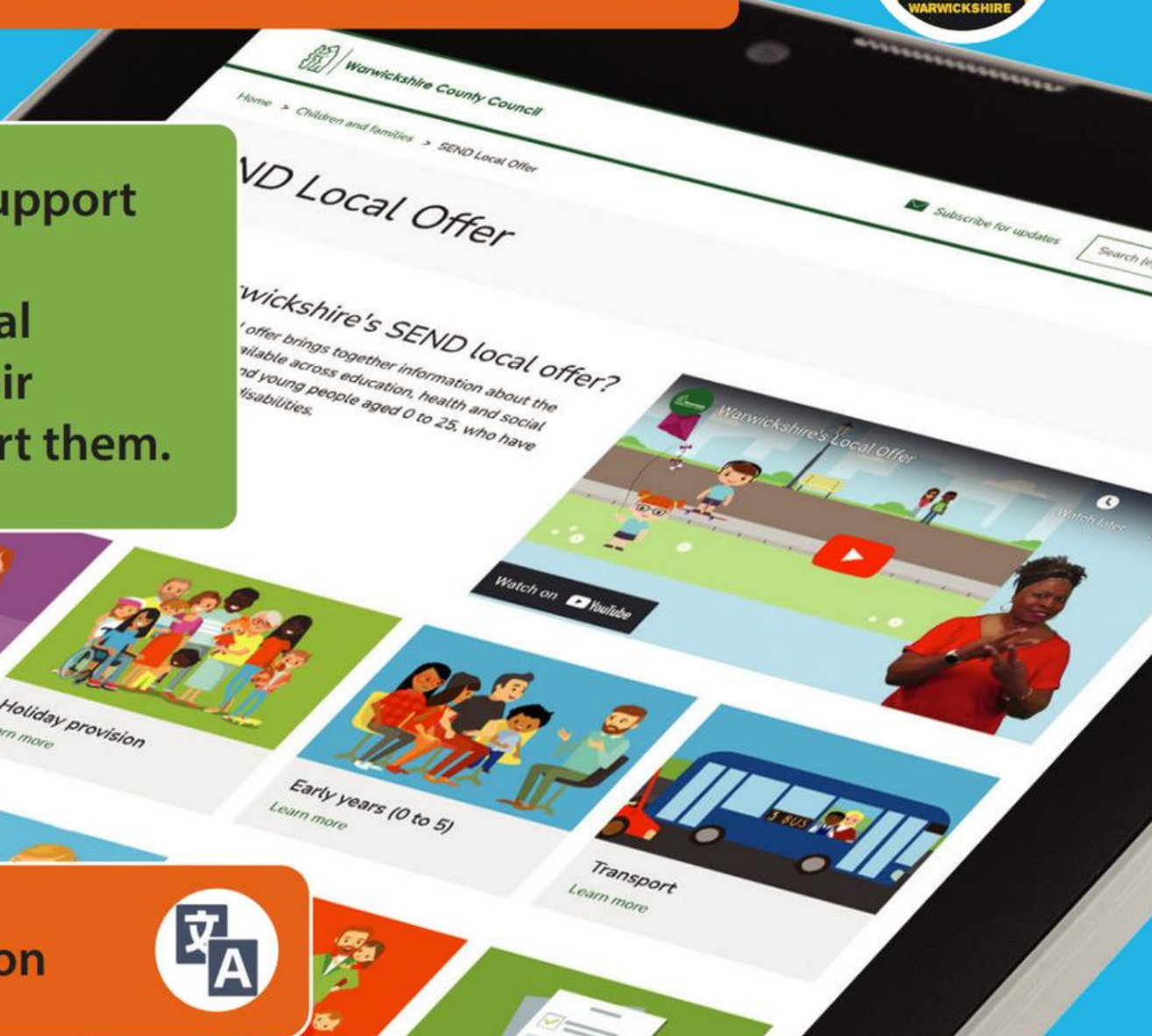
Ambition

Responsibility

Warwickshire Family Information Service

Warwickshire's SEND Local Offer

A single place for the local services and support across education, health and social care for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, their families and the practitioners who support them.



Easy to access and customise by clicking on



Find our SEND local offer online www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send

 @WarksLocalOffer



Warwickshire's SEND Local Offer

Has lots of information and support for children and young people with SEND and their families including:



- Early Help
- Education
- Preparing for Adulthood

- Early Years
- Health and Wellbeing
- Travel and Transport

- Parenting Support
- Social Care
- Community Support

If you need help accessing the local offer, please speak to your school or early years setting, local library or children and family centre.

Or contact the Family Information Service on 0800 408 1558, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send  @WarksLocalOffer

Upcoming events:



Contact Us

To visit our new look website: [Click here](#)

To see our home school communication chart and contact links for the school: [Click here](#)

To follow our social media channels, please visit Instagram, Facebook and X.

[Return to contents page](#)