

22nd September 2023

Tomlinscote School NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Charity Fun Run last week. It was a fantastic community event with the students and staff coming together to create a lovely atmosphere. They ran or walked around the school field and down through the school site for a thirty minute period. As it stands our **Tomlinscote community has raised a superb £3795 for Cancer Research.**

The staff also held a cake sale for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** and raised **£150** for the charity.

It has been a lovely start to the term and I have been impressed with how easily Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life and routines. They have been well supported by a brilliant team of Year 10 mentors.

The focus now turns to the Year 6 parents who will visit Tomlinscote for the school tours and the Open Evening next Thursday 28th September. I have sent a letter home to everyone outlining our plans for early closure on Thursday and a later start on Friday. I know that 400+ students are going to be involved in the event. If your child is taking part then please can you complete the parental consent link within the letter.

[download](#)

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Major

Key Dates

Mon 25th - Wed 27th Sept

Year 11 Geography Trip - Guildford

Wed 27th Sept

Year 10 & 11 Blood Brothers Theatre Trip

Thu 28th Sept

Year 6 Open Evening

5.30-8.00pm

Early School Closure - 12.55pm

Fri 29th Sept

Late start

10.45am

Thu 5th Oct

Meet the Year 7 Tutor

Fri 6th Oct

Year 10 Photography/Art Trip - Kew



Tomlinscote



Last Friday, the sun shone down on the Tomlinscote community and added to the sheer joy of students and staff taking part in Tomlinscote's Race for Life.

Over the course of the day, Year 7 –11 ran, walked, 3 legged around the school site and field. The atmosphere was fantastic and it was great to see the school coming together for Cancer Research UK and to remember our dear colleague Elaine Myall.



Tomlinscote's very own Joe Wicks (Mr Taylor) demonstrated warm up exercises.

Morning warm up led by PE Prefects!



Fancy Dressers!



A Principal runner!



Showing support (staff!)



We never tyre of hearing about their success!

On 10th September, 8 students 2 members of staff and 5 families went to Dunsfold airfield to race in the heats for the international finals at Goodwood in October. The races were against the clock to see who could go the furthest in two 90 minute races each with a pair of charged 12volt batteries.

We improved significantly from our last heat at Goodwood going further at a good steady pace beating our local engineering rivals, Collingwood, in both races!

The Tomlinscote crew showed great team spirit throughout the event, supporting each other and offering advice. They are now turning their attention

to building the new scratch car for racing in the new season in F24.

The F24 class has 50 competitors comprising 11-16 year olds from all parts of the country and others teams from Europe.

Tomlinscote have been competing for a very short time, while some of our nearest competitors have been taking part for nearly 20 years. This demonstrates just how dedicated and committed our band of Tomlinscote racers and engineers are.

We look for ward to hearing about their future successes.



*We're right
on track!*



Lettuce get chopping!



Year 7 students have been honing their knife skills in Food Technology. They have concentrated on safe cutting techniques while slicing and dicing vegetables for their salad jars.



Students added other ingredients like pasta and various tasty dressings which were then shaken to ensure that all ingredients were coated. The jars also ensured that they travelled home safely!





LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical JR.



It's an Elle of a role!!

Year 11 students Katie and Amelie are sharing the lead role of Elle Woods in the school production of Legally Blonde Jr.

"At the beginning of the play Elle is really a ditzy airhead, but she's also smart and she's prepared to fight for what she wants," said Katie. "I really like her as a character, she's very self-aware and a very different type of character."

Amelie sums up Elle's character as energetic, resilient and bubbly. "So to bring that to the stage we are trying to be very over the top! Lots of squeals and big facial expressions!" Amelie is also preparing to wear a blonde wig for the production. "Elle's blonde hair is a big part of her personality so yes – I think I'll be wearing a wig!"

The Elles are really enjoying the rehearsals. "We're having great fun and there is already such an energy about the production as people come together across the school and really start to get to know their roles," said Katie.

There are still lots of opportunities for people to come and be on stage or help backstage. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in the main hall 3.10 – 4.30.

The production will take place on 22nd, 23rd and 24th November.

Find Mrs Frater in the Drama Department R12 or email

rfrater@tomlinscoteschool.com



Katie and Amelie share the role of Elle Woods in the school's production of Legally Blonde Jr this November.



Katie and Amelie practice being over the top to play energetic and bubbly Elle Woods.

Trip of a lifetime!

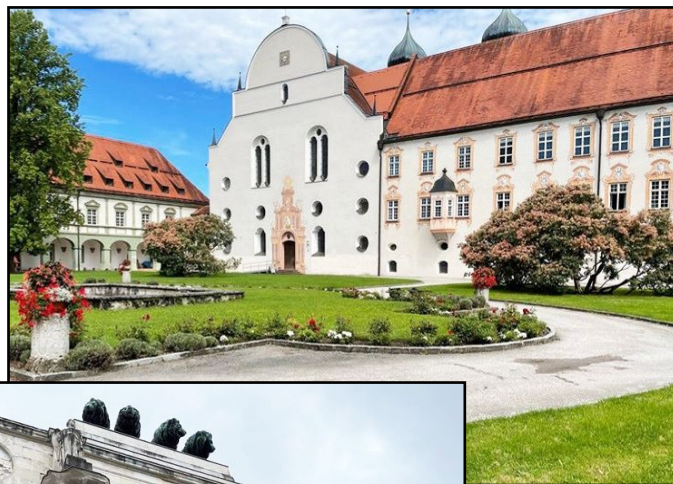


"Over the holidays, I went to Germany for 3 weeks to a summer camp in Benediktbeuern in the south of Germany. This was one of the most amazing experiences ever and it was FREE because I was sponsored by the Goethe Institut (this is because Tomlinscote School is a PASCH school). There were people from 20 different countries all there to learn German, I met loads of new people from Panama, Slovenia and many other countries.

In the mornings we would have German lessons and in the afternoons there were loads of fun activities to choose from like sport, graffiti and baking to name a few. At the weekend, I went to both Munich and Innsbruck in Austria. We visited libraries, universities, an Olympic ski jumping slope and the Swarovski museum. I initially thought this wasn't for me but the artwork was absolutely stunning. If you ever get the opportunity to do something like this, I strongly recommend it as this was one of the best experiences of my life."

Jay Prince - 11R

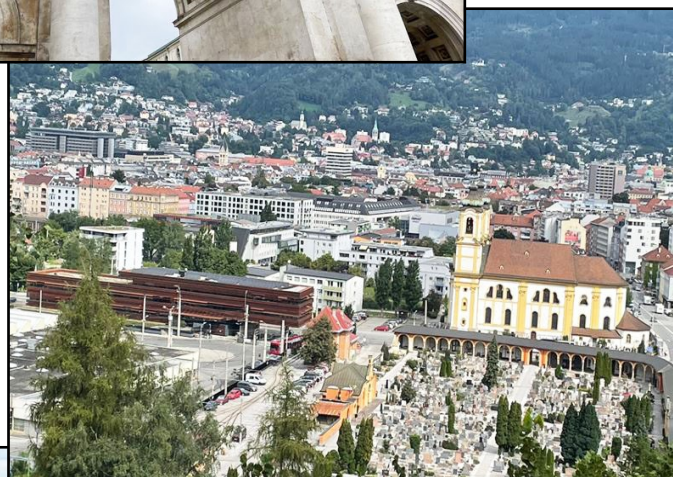
**Youth Hostel
I stayed in.**



**Landmark in
Munich**



**View of
Innsbruck in
Austria**



**Entrance to
Swarovski
Museum**



**Artwork in
Swarovski
Museum**



What's bugging 7H?

7H had a fun Science lesson this week, where they were exploring bugs in the wood chip area.

They had a brilliant time comparing all the sizes of the bugs and looking at how they've adapted to the environment around them.

A shout out to Jacob, who managed to find a huge spider and cared for it very well, before releasing it back where he found it.



British
Gymnastics

TumbleTastic!



Emily in Year 8 has just competed at the 2023 British National Championships in Birmingham. As we have learnt to expect with Emily she did rather well! Emily was 1st out of over 30 girls in her tumbling category.

Emily went into the finals with the added pressure of ranking 1st and performed one of the highest allowed skills in her age group. Out of all the other competitors, Emily was the only youth female to perform this skill and she absolutely nailed it.

Emily has one more competition this year in France. These are the French Nationals at the end of this month and then she continues to build ready for next year.

This latest result in Emily's acrobatic journey is just fantastic and we too are 'head over heels' for her.

We look forward to hearing about how Emily gets on in her next competition in France.




Tomlinscote Team Results

Tomlinscote Year 11 Football Team	v	Bohunt School 	 Score 0-0	Players of the Match Luca Boeber James Banks
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Year 11 boys started their league campaign yesterday with a 0-0 draw to Bohunt. This was a disappointing result for the team given the shot ratio between the two squads. They were, however, pleased to take the point and they look forward to their next match.

Tomlinscote U13 Girls Football Team	v	All Hallows 	Score 6-0	Scorers Alexia Abbotson - 4 Isobel Scott - 1 Imogen Scott - 1
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Player of the Match - Alexia Abbotson

Tomlinscote U13 Girls Football Team	v	Weydon 	Score 1-3	Scorers Alexia Abbotson
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Player of the Match - Alexia Abbotson

On Wednesday, Tomlinscote hosted the first of 2 DRC Cross-Country Series. We entered teams from Year 9 and 10 boys and girls. Both teams finished 2nd overall which were brilliant results for Tomlinscote. There were honourable efforts from Amelie Burnett who won the girls race a year younger than the rest of the competition and Fergus Swift who finished 4th in the boys race.



KS4 English Clubs



ENGLISH CLINIC

Need revision materials?
Not sure where to start?
Come along to the
'English Clinic' every
Tuesday in C37 until 4pm
to create your English
revision materials!



Shakespeare Simplified



Not sure who is who?

Come along to Shakespeare
Simplified every Thursday in C37
until 4pm to go through the key
plot, characters and ideas in the
play ~~Macbeth~~

"O this learning, what a thing it is"

William Shakespeare, "

School Photographs Information

Our school photographers came in and took portraits of our Year 7 & 9 students on 7th September and Year 11 students on 12th September 2023. The school photographer always remarks on how well behaved our students are and what a pleasure it is to visit Tomlinscote School.

If you did **not** receive a proof of your child, please click on the link below and our photographers will search for any photos and let you know (*this link applies to Year 7, 9 and 11*):

www.ordermyphotos.co.uk/proofs/index.asp?eventcode=678101

Please don't forget to order with your early bird 10% discount code **VP3WVR** as it expires on 29th September!

Thank you.

Taking a break for cake!



On Tuesday of this week, Tomlinscote staff showed that they were prepared to 'step up to the plate' for a good cause.

Faced with trays of home baked and shop bought cakes, staff dug deep and shared in the delights, thus supporting the Macmillan Coffee Morning. In just 20 minutes staff managed to raise £150.50.



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Information for Parents & Carers

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



@natonline_safety



/NationalOnlineSafety



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