

19th April 2024

Tomlinscote School NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone had a lovely Easter and that you managed to have a break. The students have returned looking smart in their polo shirts. Thank you for ensuring that we experienced very few gel nails and other uniform issues on our return, this means that the focus can be on learning. My walk of the school this morning highlighted calm classes with students engaged in their lessons. It was lovely to see the students so focussed and the strong relationships with their teachers. Year 10 are at the end of their two week examination period. I am sure that they will be pleased to have finished and their exam results will start to be distributed in the next couple of weeks. The Year 10 reports are due to go out to Parents and Carers on 10th May 2024.

GCSE exams have started this week for Year 11 with Spanish speaking exams, this will be followed by Greek, German, Italian and French speaking, Art and Photography all next week. Year 11 also had their PE practical moderation this Thursday - the exam season has started!

Next week we have an international theme with a group of German students visiting the school and the Spanish Exchange trip. In addition, Year 10 Geography students are heading off on a field trip studying the River Tillingbourne.

I hope the sunny weather continues this weekend.

Best wishes
Mr Major

Key Dates

Mon 22 - Wed 24th Apr

Year 10 Juniper Hall Trip

Thu 25th Apr - Thu 2nd May

Spanish Exchange Trip

Thu 25th Apr

German School Visiting

“Nothing
ever feels
impossible
in spring “



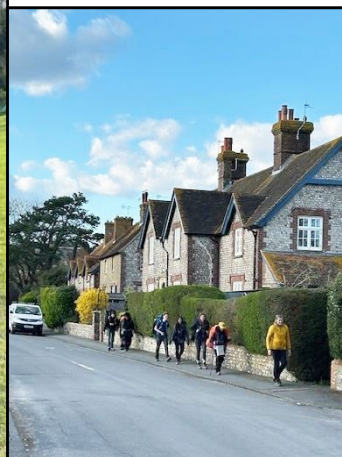
A Silver Lining despite the weather!

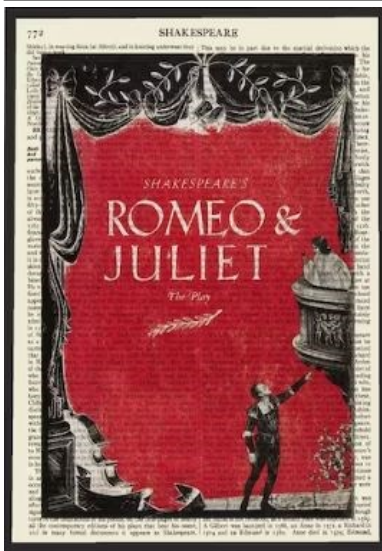


Just before the Easter Holidays, a group of Tomlinscote students set off on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition to the beautiful South Downs. The expedition provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to develop crucial life skills, build friendships, and experience the beauty of the great outdoors. Upon arriving at the campsite, students were greeted by their instructors who guided them through setting up their tents. Amidst much hilarity and the occasional culinary mishap, students prepared their meals consisting mainly of rice and pasta! It was a particularly chilly night and with the help of warming porridge for breakfast, students prepared for the second day.

The South Downs lived up to its reputation for unpredictable weather, treating the students to a sampling of all four seasons in a single day. Undaunted by the fickle climate, the students persevered through their first full day of hiking and team-building activities. Despite the tiring nature of the expedition, the prospect of hot food and a good night's sleep kept spirits high. On their second day, the group faced challenging high winds but were fortunate to have dry conditions. They further honed their navigation skills and discussed their aims for the upcoming final assessment in the New Forest this July. Throughout the day, they continued to foster a strong sense of camaraderie, supporting one another along the way. As the expedition came to a close, the students reflected on their respective accomplishments.

Despite the cold nights and varied weather, no one got lost, and everyone maintained a positive attitude throughout the entire experience. The South Downs Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition proved to be an incredible journey filled with laughter, friendship, and unforgettable memories for all those involved.





Globe Trotters!



A group of Year 8 students embarked on a journey to London's world-renowned Globe Theatre. Despite the day's horrendous traffic, their spirits remained high as they arrived just in time for their briefing before the performance of a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet.

Settling into their seats, right in front of the stage, the students watched the contemporary adaptation which upheld Shakespeare's intended message of love, passion, and tragedy.

During the performance the heavens opened, but the rain only enhanced the mood of the play. Thankfully, the roof provided cover, ensuring that the enjoyment of the play continued.

Throughout the production, the modern elements interwove with the original text, creating a fresh and engaging experience that still paid tribute to the Bard's masterpiece. Students were really interested in the innovative staging and powerful performances, all the while gaining a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's timeless tale.

The whole experience was invaluable, with the students leaving the Globe Theatre with a newfound appreciation for Shakespeare's work and the magic of live performance.

Despite the challenges of the day, from the traffic to the rain, the students returned home having seen a wonderful production in the iconic Globe Theatre.

All SySTEMs Go!

A group of Year 9 students participated in an exciting STEM Day at Wellington College, joining peers from various local schools. Organised by the Wellington College Student Alliance, the event aimed to inspire young minds through hands-on Science and Technology activities. Throughout the day, students engaged in various challenges designed to test their problem-solving skills and promote collaboration. One of the highlights was the construction of a cardboard marble run, where students worked in pairs to create a functional track that could keep a glass ball moving for as long as possible. Tomlinscote students took the prize with a winning time of 19.87 seconds, showcasing their teamwork and engineering skills.



Another engaging activity involved building a straw structure capable of bearing weight, allowing students to explore the principles of engineering and structural design. Additionally, the STEM Day included a catalase experiment, where students measured the acidity of different mixtures, and it also provided students with the opportunity to decipher ancient ciphers.



Lessons led by the Wellington College Student Alliance covered a range of subjects, including Computer Science, Biology, and Mathematics. In total, 84 students from various local schools participated in the event, gaining valuable insights into the world of STEM. As a result of the highly successful day, students returned to school with a deeper appreciation for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

A Spook-tacular Bacterial Experiment

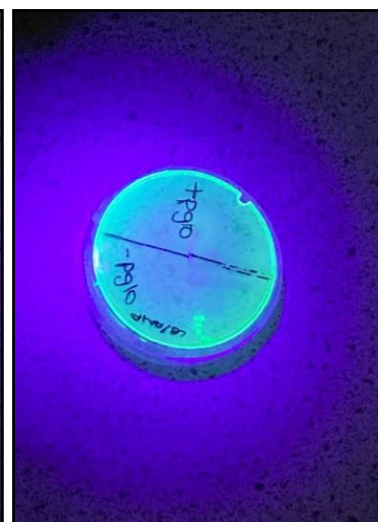
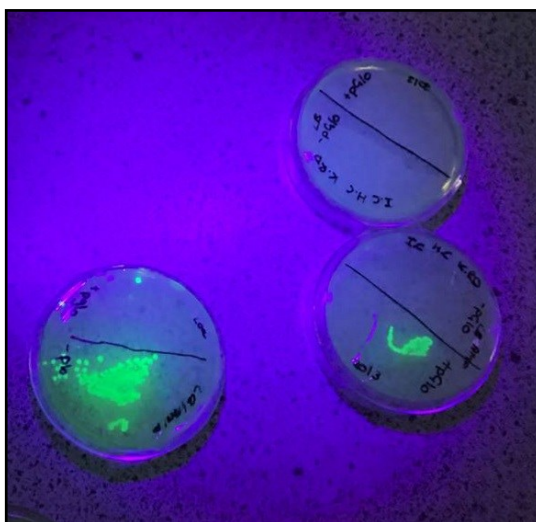
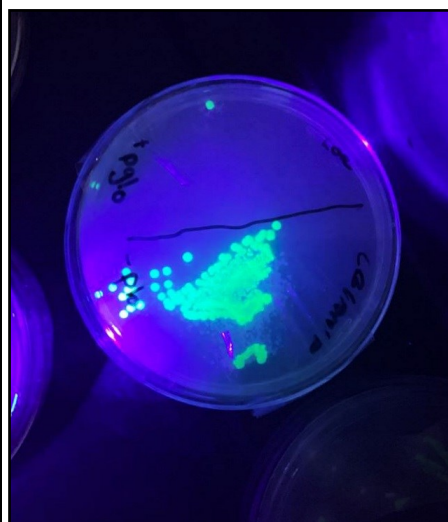


Year 10 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of genetic modification. Students set out to create a strain of E-coli bacteria that could glow under UV light in the dark. To achieve this eerie effect, the students utilized a pGLO plasmid, which contains the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene from a jellyfish and a selective ampicillin-resistant gene. With the help of Dr Radley, they carefully introduced the plasmid into the E-coli bacteria, initiating the transformation process that would result in the creation of a brand-new, fluorescent strain.

Throughout the experiment, students honed their aseptic techniques to prevent contamination and ensure the precision of their work. They observed selection pressures in action as they added ampicillin to the bacterial cultures, effectively selecting for the modified E-coli cells.

As the lights were dimmed and the UV lamps switched on, the students' efforts paid off in a spectacularly spooky display. Their newly-engineered strain of E-coli bacteria glowed eerily under the UV light, showcasing the fascinating results of their genetic modification experiment.

This hands-on experience not only provided the students with an opportunity to explore cutting-edge scientific techniques but also sparked their curiosity and enthusiasm for the incredible possibilities that genetic modification holds for the future.



Tomlinscote was delighted to be invited to take a group of Year 9 students to Wellington College Student Alliance Humanities Day. The trip provided an immersive exploration of the Humanities faculty at Wellington College, offering invaluable insights and inspiration for our students.

Led by teachers from Wellington College, the event aimed to broaden students' horizons and raise aspirations for their future. Throughout the day, our students had the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of subjects within Humanities, each offering a unique perspective on the world.

In Geography, students delved into the topic of migration, exploring the intricate patterns and processes that shape the movement of people across the globe. From understanding the push and pull factors driving migration to examining the impact on both sending and receiving communities, students gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities of human mobility.

Psychology offered a fascinating journey into the workings of the mind, with a focus on memory. Students explored the mechanisms of memory formation, storage, and retrieval, examining the factors that influence our ability to remember and forget. Through interactive exercises making neurons out of pipe cleaners and discussions, students gained insights into the profound ways in which memory shapes our perceptions and experiences.

Economics opened doors to future opportunities, as students explored the principles of economic theory and their real-world applications. From understanding supply and demand to exploring the role of technology in driving innovation, students gained a deeper understanding of the forces that shape our economic landscape and the possibilities that lie ahead.

In English, students unleashed their creativity through the art of creative writing. From crafting compelling narratives to exploring the power of language and imagery, students honed their writing skills and discovered the boundless possibilities of self-expression. Through workshops and collaborative exercises, students explored literary techniques and genres, inspired by objects given to them for inspiration.

We extend our thanks to the teachers and staff at Wellington College for organising the event.

High intensity Humanities Hub!





MFL Student of the Month



March 2024



Emily York - 8Q - Outstanding effort, participation and attitude to learning in every German lesson.

Imogen Scott - 8X - Continued outstanding effort and excellent progress in German.

Gianna Bronyah - 8L - Consistently works to a very high standard in German.

Gianna Bronyah - 8L - Excellent effort and attitude to learning in French.

Ethan Weighill - 8H - Excellent effort and attitude in French.

Alyssia Kennedy - 7L - Outstanding effort, participation and attitude to learning in every lesson.

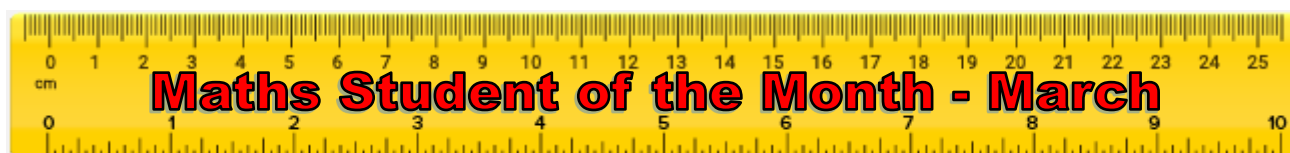
Emily Goggin - 9L - Outstanding effort and attitude to learning, leading to excellent progress in Spanish.

Zoe Snelling - 8Q - Outstanding effort and attitude to learning, leading to excellent progress in Spanish.

Darcy Devine - 7R - Super effort and participation in every Spanish lesson, well done!

Bella Dove - 8H - Outstanding effort and attitude to learning in Japanese.

Bailey Jones - 8H - Consistently finishes homework to a very high standard in Chinese.



Maths Student of the Month - March

MATHS

Henry Godfree 7H

Cherry Cox 9Q

Ewan Horner 10P

Lambert Louw 9P

Niamh Fox 10Q

Theo Benger 7Y

Evie Macleod 11L

Annabel Griffiths 7P

Karla Izzett 7X

Olivia Raath 7X

FURTHER MATHS

Sean Free 10L

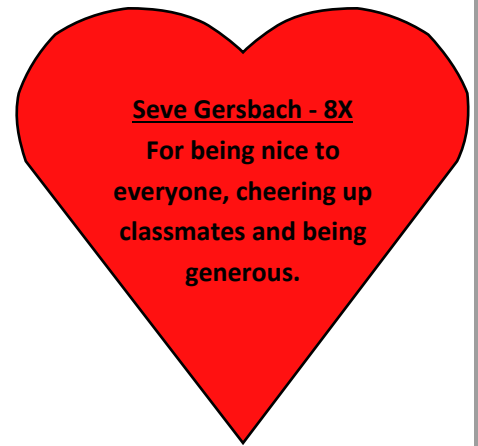
Ben Brooks 11R

Congratulations to all of the students named by the MFL and Maths departments for their hard work, perseverance and incredible effort.



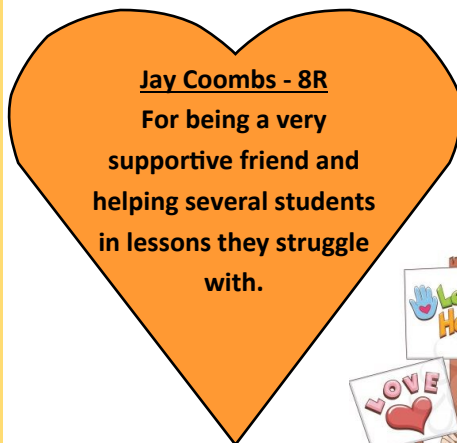
Congratulations to the students named below who have been nominated by their peers to receive the most recent 'Act of Kindness' Award.

The reasons for their nominations speak for themselves.



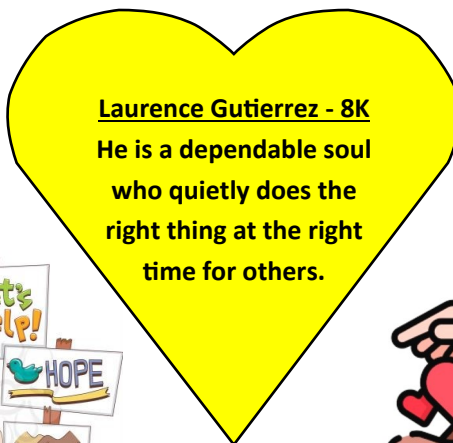
Seve Gersbach - 8X

For being nice to everyone, cheering up classmates and being generous.



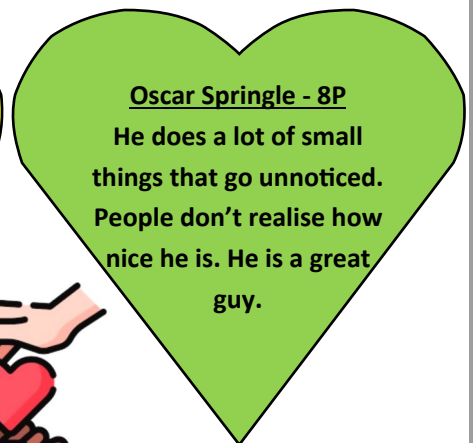
Jay Coombs - 8R

For being a very supportive friend and helping several students in lessons they struggle with.



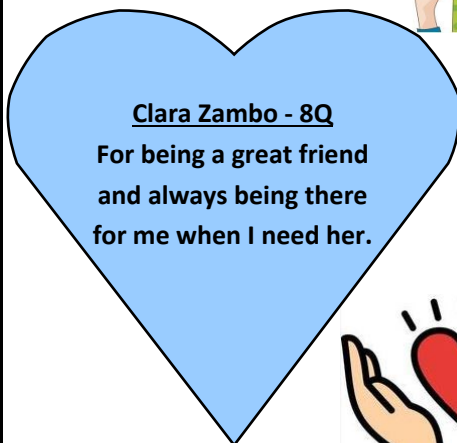
Laurence Gutierrez - 8K

He is a dependable soul who quietly does the right thing at the right time for others.



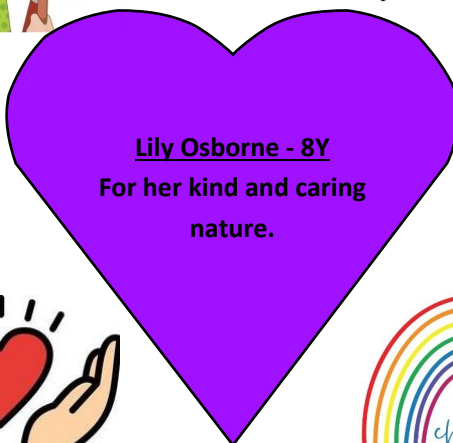
Oscar Springle - 8P

He does a lot of small things that go unnoticed. People don't realise how nice he is. He is a great guy.



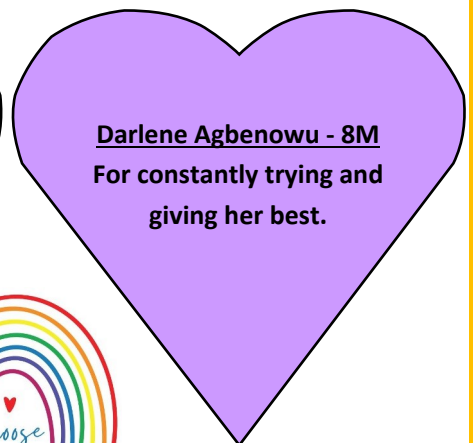
Clara Zambo - 8Q

For being a great friend and always being there for me when I need her.



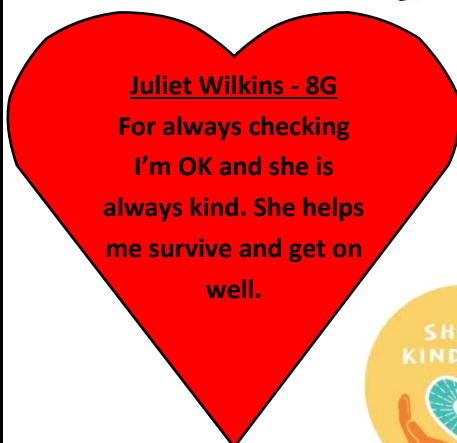
Lily Osborne - 8Y

For her kind and caring nature.



Darlene Agbenowu - 8M

For constantly trying and giving her best.



Juliet Wilkins - 8G

For always checking I'm OK and she is always kind. She helps me survive and get on well.



Bryan Skowronski - 8L

For being so generous towards his peers.



Alfred Fabian - 8R

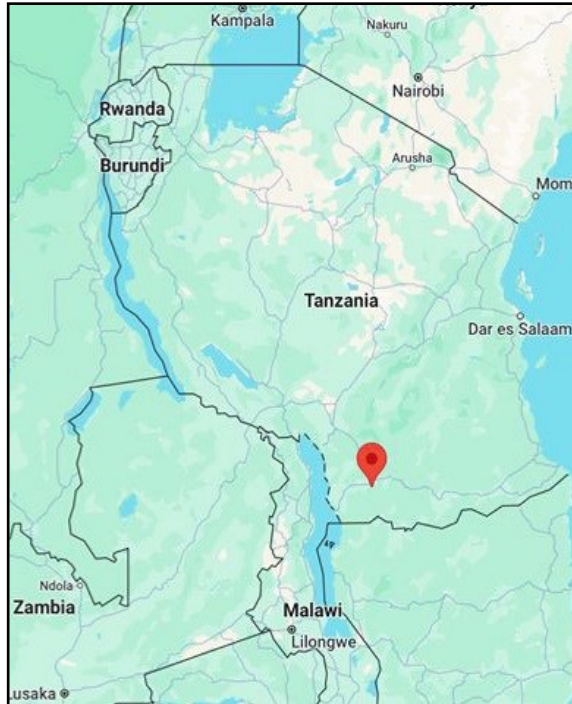
He is always nice to others and cheers people up.



Bridging Continents

As part of the International School Award initiative with the British Council, the Tomlinscote School International Ambassadors are developing a link with a school in Tanzania.

8Q and 9L created videos of Tomlinscote School which they exchanged with Matogoro Secondary School (also known as Mazoezi Secondary School). The school is in the Ruvuma region, in Songea District, in the south of Tanzania. The Tanzanian School has sent us videos of daily life in their school. This project will develop over the coming months and we look forward to collaborating on different projects.



**Distance from
Camberley to
Ruvuma District:**

4819 miles

**Population of
Tanzania:**

65.5 million

**Tanzania is
home to the
tallest
mountain in
Africa :
Kilimanjaro**

**Tanzania is
home to Lake
Tanganyika, one
of the largest
freshwater lakes
in the world**

**The Serengeti
National Park in
Tanzania is
known as being
one of the
greatest areas
for wildlife in
the world**



The Big Plastic Count - the results!

During the week commencing 11th March, Tomlinscote students took part in 'The Big Plastic Count'.

The bottles, wrappers, pots, lids and trays have been counted and we can reveal the following:



PLASTIC FOOTPRINT OF TOMLINSCOTE

Average year 9 Tutor group

IN ONE WEEK,
THREW AWAY:

2,326

PIECES OF PLASTIC

OVER A YEAR THAT'S
EQUIVALENT TO:

120,952

PIECES OF PLASTIC

WHAT WAS PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE USED FOR?



79%

FOOD & DRINK



13%

TOILETRIES & CLEANING



8%

EVERYTHING ELSE

WHAT HAPPENS TO PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE?



16%

RECYCLED IN THE UK

Plastic waste that is sorted and processed in the UK then turned into new materials.



14%

EXPORTED

Plastic waste that is shipped overseas for processing, but much of it also ends up being dumped or burned.



59%

LANDFILLED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burying it in the ground.



11%

INCINERATED

Plastic waste that is disposed of by burning it. This releases carbon, toxins and pollutants.

Crackin' Easter Characters

Just before the Easter holidays students entered a House competition to come up with an Easter character to represent our school. There were lots of really great entries, however, after a lot of deliberation, Elleana Joel was chosen as the winner.

Veronika Avlassevits, Tilly Bourke and Izzy Alhambra were also recognised for their wonderful entries.

Congratulations to everyone who entered, particularly Elleana who produced 2 eggcellent characters.



Elleana Joel



Izzy Alhambra



Veronika Avlassevits



Tilly Bourke

A running talent blossoms in the park!





In a remarkable display of athleticism, Camellia from 7G took part in the Frimley Lodge Park Run, recording an impressive time of 22.06. Out of over 300 runners, she placed an astounding 33rd, demonstrating her exceptional talent and dedication to the sport. What makes Camellia's achievement even more incredible is her ranking within her age group. Her remarkable time has propelled her into the top 1 percent of runners across the country.

The Frimley Lodge Park Run is a popular event for both seasoned athletes and casual participants alike, making Camellia's accomplishment all the more noteworthy. With determination and focus, she navigated the challenging course, pushing herself to the limit and crossing the finish line in record time.



Tomlinscote Team Results

Tomlinscote Year 11 Boys Quarter Final Match	v	Wavell School 	 Score 4 - 2	Scorers Zahir Al-Nawab - 2 Luca Boeber - Penalty James Banks - 1
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Player of the Match - Luca Boeber

Please find below some helpful information. The website link is for Surrey Mindworks which provides a lot of resources for Parents and Carers.

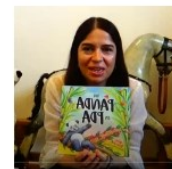
<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/i-am-parentfamily-membercarer>



Support offered by Mindworks

- Access to general advice and support through an **out-of-hours advice line for Neurodevelopmental support** (0300 222 5755), which is available from 5pm - 11pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- Strategies and interventions relating to a potential neurodevelopmental need that may be helpful are available on the **website: Neurodevelopmental needs Mindworks Surrey**.

Navigating the Maze Week 1



- Access to a free **24/7 mental health crisis line** (0800 915 4644) for children aged from six years, young people and their families or carers whose needs require immediate support.

School Attendance and Penalty Notices

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Please familiarise yourself with our Attendance Policy which can be found on our website under 'Policies'. Further information about attendance and absence can be found on the school website under the Parents & Carers' section, Attendance & Absence.

If your child is unwell and it is necessary to keep your child away from school, please report their absence *on each day* from the start of being unwell via one of these methods:

- telephoning: 01276 709050 ext 253
- emailing: attendance@tomlinscoteschool.com
- texting: 07860 095747
- Edulink app

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, asocial and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as "8 Facts You Won't Believe Are True". Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for *Forbes*, *TechRadar* and *Wired*, among others.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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