



Tudor Grange Academy
Kingshurst



Sixth Form

Sixth Sense



International Women's Day

Which Week?

**This Week: Monday 6th March
(Week 2)**

*Next week: Monday 13th March
(Week 1)*

#EmbraceEquity

International Women's Day (Wednesday 8th March) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

The theme for 2023 is 'Embrace Equity' (#EmbraceEquity). As the IWD website states:

Equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have.

A focus on gender equity needs to be part of every society's DNA.

*And it's critical to understand the difference between **equity** and **equality**.*

The aim of the IWD 2023 #EmbraceEquity campaign theme is to get the world talking about Why equal opportunities aren't enough. People start from different places, so true inclusion and belonging require equitable action.

What can you do to show your support?

- Embrace equity within your own sphere of influence
- Challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and seek out inclusion.
- Seek out and celebrate women's achievements to collectively help to create a more inclusive world.
- Fundraise for/ donate to a female focussed charity
- Strike the #EmbraceEquity pose to show solidarity and send in an image via the website: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

At Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst, our belief in doing things 'the right way' by demonstrating a readiness to take responsibility and show respect allows us to consciously embrace equity and make a difference within our own community.



Key words:

Embrace: verb - to willingly and enthusiastically accept, adopt, and espouse

Equity: noun – refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality. Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make these adjustments to imbalances.

Important Reminder:

Times of the day



Take note...

Year 12 have **early lunch** at **12:35pm**

Year 12 Period 4 starts at 1:10pm

Year 13 have **late lunch** at **1:35pm**

Year 13 Period 4 starts at 12:40pm

REMINDER: TGA INSET DAY THIS FRIDAY 10th MARCH

The Academy will be closed to all students this Friday due to our staff INSET day. We hope students make use of this day productively.



Please find this week's information sheet from National Online Safety, which stresses the importance our voices have in shaping society and reminds us of the need to 'think before sending'. Apps such as 'NGL' may have hugely negative consequences on individuals as they discourage people from taking responsibility for their own words. Words matter! **Please go to Page 3 for more information.**

For any feedback, please email: (Yr12) Mr Curran: ccurran@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, (Yr13) Miss Foster: jfoster@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk;

(Learning Mentor) Ms Akhtar: norakhtar@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, Mr Bowers: jbowers@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk (Director of Sixth Form)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NGL



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NGL (which stands for 'Not Gonna Lie') is an app through which users share a link to their Instagram story or Twitter account, inviting their followers to give anonymous feedback. The app includes some prewritten questions (such as 'if you could change anything about me, what would it be?'), plus the option to ask followers to simply 'send me anonymous messages'. All replies go into the user's NGL inbox, with the sender remaining anonymous – although subscribers to the app can receive hints about who each message was from.

ANONYMITY AND OVERSHARING

Anonymous messaging gives rise to the 'online disinhibition effect', which causes users to feel detached from their words and actions in the digital world. This can make young people in particular (as they tend to act more impulsively online) for more likely to disclose personal information on the internet, as well as making ill-advised confessions or revealing their fears and insecurities.

PROTECTION FOR BULLIES

Having their identity hidden makes bullies feel safe from repercussions, so anonymous chat sites are a major avenue for cyberbullying. NGL claims to use AI to filter out insulting terms, but our expert sent a range of such phrases (starting with 'cow' and 'ugly', and becoming progressively more offensive) to a 'dummy' account. All of these trial messages were delivered to the recipient's inbox.

COSTLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

NGL offers a subscription where – for a weekly fee – users can unlock hints about who's been messaging them, including the sender's approximate location and which device they used. Young people will naturally be extremely curious about who sent which message (especially if they have a lot of Instagram or Twitter followers) and may be unable to resist spending money to find out.

INFLATED ENGAGEMENT



In June 2022, NGL had to revise its terms of service, informing users if a message was sent by the app's developers as opposed to genuine followers. It emerged that, previously, NGL's makers had attempted to boost engagement with the app (as well as enticing users to pay for subscriptions) by sending fake anonymous messages from bots. This update was rolled out very quietly by the team.

QUESTIONABLE SUPPORT

NGL does have a 'report this message' button for users to flag upsetting content. After sending a message, however, an automated reply arrives stating "... NGL is 100% anonymous and we have no way of knowing the identity of the user and would not be able to find out, even if we tried." This did not fill our expert with confidence that the app can address bad behaviour adequately.

ACCIDENTALLY GOING VIRAL

The messages on NGL itself are anonymous, but users can share these messages via their Instagram story or Twitter feed – enabling all their followers (or anyone, if their accounts are set to 'public') to see them. If a young person has disclosed something embarrassing or identifiable on NGL without realising, this information has the potential to be re-shared very quickly to a far wider audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DEALING WITH NEGATIVITY

Blocking another user on NGL will prevent them sending anonymous messages to your child in the short term – although a determined abuser could get around that obstacle simply by setting up a new Instagram account. If your child continually receives negative messages that upset them, it might be worth encouraging them to consider whether they really need to use the app at all.

EXPLAIN ANONYMOUS APPS

We understand that a conversation with your child about the risks of anonymous messaging may seem difficult to initiate (especially if you aren't that comfortable with using social media yourself). It is vital, however, that young people understand that, for some people, having their identity obscured online can make them feel more powerful and less accountable for their actions.

BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

To avoid your child running up an eye-watering bill through an NGL subscription (or indeed any kind of costly in-app purchases), go into the settings on whatever devices they use to go online and either disable the ability to make purchases or protect that function with a password. If those options aren't available, it's prudent to ensure there aren't any payment methods linked to their account.

THINK BEFORE SENDING

Regardless of whether a messaging app is anonymous or not, it's a good idea to regularly talk to your child about how it's wise to think through what they're sharing before they post it. Emphasise that nothing is truly private once it's online. If the post is something your child might hesitate to say to someone face to face, then it's probably not the sort of thing they should be writing online either.

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.



Source: https://ngl.link/#what-s_ngl