



Sixth Sense

Which Week?

This Week: Monday 13th March (Week 1)

Next week: Monday 20th March (Week 2)

“The Best Never Get Bored With The Basics”

Every so often, I get the opportunity to share something I believe has real resonance and importance, and this week’s issue allows me to do just that in highlighting the former NBA star, Kobe Bryant.

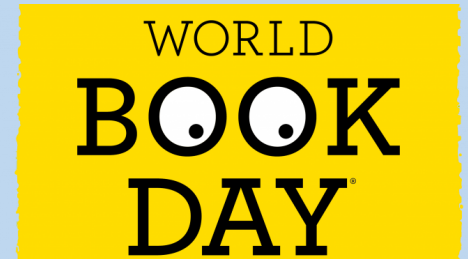
Having listened to an interview with Alan Stein Jr, an American Performance Coach who used to work with professional basketball players, he shared a story of being invited to work on a project by Nike and watching Kobe Bryant perform an early morning basketball workout. He was surprised to see Kobe performing a series of ‘basic’ practices that he thought were too simplistic for someone of his ability. When he questioned Kobe to say “you’re the best player in the world; why are you doing such basic drills?”, he reported that Kobe gave him a smile and winked, but in a serious tone replied “**I’m the best the best in the world because I never get bored with the basics.**”

In this moment, Stein reports that this crystallised his belief that just because something is basic in principle, it doesn't mean that it is easy to actually do. The only way that we can make it easy is by putting in the hours of purposeful practice working towards our version of high performance that we are individually working towards.

In a world that is filled with ‘hacks’ and attempts to find ‘short-cuts’ to getting to the top, we must not forget that the only sure method of us achieving within any walk of life, be it academic or sporting, is to put in the requisite time. Rarely will you be let down if you are able to look in the mirror and know that you have invested this time in yourself.



Obviously, books have become common place for us all and I very much hope that all of you are fostering a greater enjoyment of reading and are growing in confidence as readers. Every year I enjoy taking my own daughters to Waterstones to use their WBD vouchers, and this year was no different. For Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 students these vouchers are now delivered electronically rather than physically. Therefore, please find a hyperlink to your own WBD voucher that is still valid for the next two weeks should you care to use it. If you do choose a book, please let us know what you went for (I purchased The Midnight Library by Matt Haig)! Link to voucher to print: https://worldbookclone.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/WBD23-digital-1-book-token_UK_secondary.pdf



Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March, will again see a third series of planned strike action days. Decisions are yet to be confirmed as to what you will be doing on these days so **PLEASE** play close attention to messages delivered by **Miss Foster and Mr Curran** in addition to referring to your own **Academy EMAILS** and communications published on the www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk **website homepage**.



Given the interest in Artificial Intelligence solutions for so many aspects of our life, it was a matter of time before they started to impact upon education.

This week’s information sheet from National Online Safety seeks to advise you of the limitations of such systems in addition to my own advice of the severe consequences that both the Sixth Form Team would be required to take in addition to that of any examination board, were these systems be found to produce any of your own coursework.

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 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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