



Inside Kingshurst



“Together always: united in diversity”

This week marks The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. The occasion was created almost 20 years ago in order to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex people, and all of those with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

This initiative has a global reach and is managed in regional context and as such is brought together through this year’s theme, "Together always: united in diversity," that recognises the power of solidarity, community, and support across different identities in bringing about change and will be introduced as part of our own tutor-based sessions in support of the theme of anti-bullying during next week thanks to the work of Miss Read.

Fun Fact!

Given our focus on being a Reading-Rich school, we thought it might be interesting to include the following literary fact: **Shakespeare created over 1,700 new words and phrases commonly used today.** If you use any of the following words or phrases, you have William Shakespeare to thank!



- Amazement
- Gloomy
- Wearing your heart on your sleeve
- Dead as a doornail

You Said, We Did!

Education continues to be a highly dynamic field with constant changes being made that are not always apparent to the untrained-eye. We are keen to share some these areas in order to increase the transparency of our information.

One such example of this ‘You said, we did’ process is the feedback from parents outlining that they were not always aware of what their child was learning within each subject. In order to respond to this, the Academy has gone to considerable lengths to share the learning ‘journey’ that each child can expect to experience over the course of the academic year within every area and has created a focussed subject page that shares this information subject-by-subject that is openly accessible and can be reached through clicking on the following link:

[SUBJECT SELECTION PAGE](#)

Congratulations to the Year 7, 9 and 11 Boys Football teams, each of whom successfully managed to get through to the Solihull Cup Semi-Finals, where two of the fixtures pitted them against Tudor Grange Academy Solihull!

Each of the squads of have battled and played brilliantly as both skilled sports people and in a thoroughly sportsmanlike manner for which they are to be congratulated.

Since reviewing the performance of the Solihull School teams this season, we were pleased to see that TGAK was the only North Solihull school to make it through to one of the finals and therefore we are proud to take on the challenge of attempting to notch-up a win for the area this season.

Results: Yrr 11 Boys Football Solihull Cup (Semi-final): TGAKingshurst 1—2 TGASolihull (TGAK Lost)

Fixture: Yr9 Boys Football Solihull Cup (Final): TGAKingshurst vs St. Peters (to be played at the beginning of June).



National Online Safety: In this week’s edition of the advice and guidance from the National Online Safety organisation, please find an overview of the instant message app Telegram, which is enjoying a recent increase in usage by young people.. The guide highlights the potential risks including a lack of age verification, inappropriate content and cyber-bullying, and can be found on the second page of the newsletter.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION

17+

Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually is who they say they are.

POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING

If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by to people they weren't intended for.

UNMODERATED CONTENT

Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

PREMIUM COSTS

Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Pay details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

SECRET CHATS

Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'; we'd recommend either the second or third options, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

DISCUSS SECURITY

It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT

If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION

Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS

Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



PREMIUM ACCESS

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.telegram.org/> | <https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explained-2022-163035068.html>

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