



Which Week?

This Week: Monday 19th June (Week 2)

Next week: Monday 26th May (Week 1)

Staff Training Day Reminder!

Friday 30th June is a Staff Training Day. No students will be required to attend the Academy and will return as normal on Monday 3rd July

Inside Kingshurst



Leaders of the academy met with some wonderful parents and carers over the last few weeks. We hope that these meetings were as purposeful for these families as they were for us. We really value and appreciate the support shown and found these meetings to be really positive. We welcome any families to book appointments with teachers, leaders and staff at the academy as we really

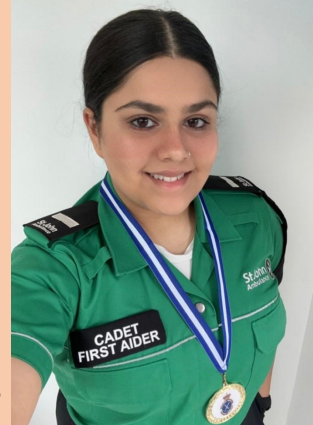
value these conversations and they really do help us too. This community is important, and we need to continue to work together for our young people.

If you would like to book an appointment with the Principal, or senior leaders, we will be holding fortnightly surgeries. The next one is on the 28th June 2023 and the one following will be on the 11th July 2023. If you would like to book onto the next surgery, please follow this [link](#).

One key element raised at these meetings was the phonedlines and long wait times for getting through to administrators or reception. As a result of these meetings, we are now looking to work with our external provider to see what better solutions we can find – and we will update you on this as soon as we can. At present we would advise when contacting us by phone, to select **Option 1 for 'College Admin'** before then selecting the number that corresponds with your child's College in order to be directed by the College Administrator to speak to, or leave a voice mail that can be specifically accessed and actioned by the College team.

High Praise for the High Sheriff

The Academy was delighted to hear of the incredible news that one of our former Year 11 students, Ishani Mistry, has been appointed as the High Sheriff's Cadet for St John Ambulance as a result of her long and distinguished time volunteering for the organisation from the age of 10 (!).



Perhaps even more telling is this opportunity having arisen as a result of her being nominated by her Youth Leaders. We would that to take the opportunity to congratulate Ishani in her appointment and wish her all the very best of luck as she completes new duties aligned to this role alongside Police cadets whilst striving to work towards the goal or working within the field of critical care as a paramedic or medicine. An incredible achievement for an incredibly well deserving individual!

Parental Survey: A second opportunity is available for ALL parents and carers to provide us with ongoing feedback based upon a similar set of questions asked in the previous month. The results of this feedback continues to enable us to monitor and inform our actions and we greatly appreciate all of you who are able to spare some time to complete this short survey.

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE SURVEY](#)

Fun Fact: The Sahara Desert helps the Amazon Rainforest to grow!

Each year, dust swept up from an area called the Bodele Depression, within Africa is blown across the 3000+ mile span of the Atlantic ocean and into the Amazon Rainforest at the top of South America.



A lot of it falls into the ocean along the way but the dust that makes the full journey, contains a chemical called *phosphorus* that acts as a fertiliser, helping the rich plant life to grow.



Congratulations to all of our Year 11 students for successfully completing their GCSE examinations!

Following an exciting Year 9 Solihull Cup Final at Kingshurst on Thursday afternoon, Mr Hinsley's excellent team were sadly defeated by a well matched St. Peters squad. Despite the 3—1 final score line, it did not necessary reflect the closeness of the match, where with St. Peters 2—1 up in the final ten minutes, a tactical decision to make a concerted attack and push many players up led to being beaten on a counter attack and additional goal being scored. Mr Hinsley credited the outstanding manner in which the match was played with both first-rate sportsmanship and fair-play by both sets of highly skilful players that were collectively a credit to their respective schools. Very well done to all of our squads this year!



National Online Safety: Fortnite, Chapter 4 — Given Fortnite's relatively young user-base, though (as many as one in four pre-teens are reported to have played the game, despite its PEGI 12 age rating), it's prudent not to conflate immense popularity with absolute safety. The guide on the second page of the newsletter assesses the latest version for potential pitfalls that parents and carers of young Fortnite fans should be aware of. In the guide you'll find a number of potential risks such as compulsive playing, audio chat with other gamers and in-game spending.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers ... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

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 long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS
National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety