



### Which Week?

**This Week: Monday 26th June (Week 1)**  
Next week: Monday 3rd July (Week 2)

### 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

## I'm Still Standing!

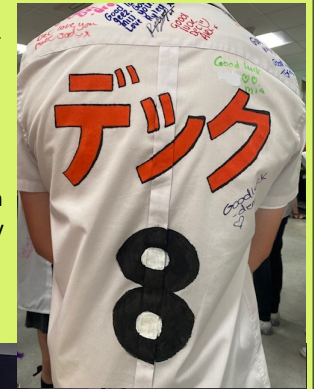

With Elton John headlining the Pyramid Stage at this weekend's Glastonbury Festival, it was the Academy that had a celebratory atmosphere on Friday afternoon where our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students that came back to Kingshurst for a final time this year to join their peers and teachers for their respective Leavers' Assemblies.

The Year 11 and Sixth Form College Teams were pleased to see the students were **still standing** and having followed the **circle of life** for an exam-year student, the final one of which took place last Friday, the students didn't go **breaking our hearts** and made the **sacrifice** to come in during a beautiful summer afternoon to celebrate their collective experience, commitment and efforts with their peers.


The year group teams of Miss Walker, Mr Tindall and Mr Shahzad for Year 11 and Miss Foster and Mr Bowers for Year 13, led brilliantly poignant assemblies, full of reflections, sage advice and plenty of light relief and smiles along the way thanks to the generosity of staff and students sharing their stories of their journey in addition to few photos to jog our memories of how the world looked back in 2016/2018 when the majority of students joined us as Year 7s!

The completion of the assemblies led to what has now become a tradition within the Academy of holding a BBQ, playing some music and inviting an ice-cream van or two in order to allow students relax as they are fed and watered and get their shirts signed by their friends and teachers and for everyone to have the opportunity to share their appreciation, check-in with their teachers and friends and leave on a genuine 'high-note' having enjoyed the event in the right way.


An amazing afternoon and one where it was a privilege to congratulate our students as they begin their summer break and next steps, before many progress on to university or indeed back to study in the Sixth Form next year. We look forward to their encore!


**University Sector Partnership**  
We are extremely proud to have joined the Phoenix Partnership with Coventry University as part of a commitment to build a sector leading partnership with students at the very core of this initiative as part of our careers interactions.



**Mock exams take place next week for Year 10 GCSE and Year 12 A Level students. A copy of the schedule can be found on [page 3](#).**



**Fun Fact: Ice Cream Peril!!!**  
During the 1800s, London was one of many cities that sold ice creams in small glasses rather than a cone (that hadn't been invented!). Unsurprisingly, the glasses were licked clean of their ice cream and given back to the seller...who would then re-use the same glass to give to another 'happy' customer. In part, this way of selling food was linked to the spread of tuberculosis which was a deadly lung disease. As a result, sellers created new ways of serving up their ice cream, including the edible cones that we know of and love today!



**National Online Safety: AI Virtual Friends**  
Artificial intelligence is probably the hot topic in technology circles right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of the human race. In the short term, however – definitely as far as its impact on young people is concerned – the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered 'virtual friends' which are springing up all over the internet. Information on this up-to-the-minute topic can be found of page 2 of the newsletter.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there’s a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn’t always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it’s being told or replying insensitively to a young user who’s already struggling could potentially impact a child’s emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they’ve been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child’s own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they’re aware of and how they’re using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they’re suitable. Once you’re totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you’ll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it’s appropriate. It’s important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we’d strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It’s unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it’s probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn’t a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn’t entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), 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 we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



Week 1 of Exams (Week 1 in calendar)	Morning Exam Session: 0900-1110						Afternoon Exam Session: 1300-1505					
	SLT Lead(s)	EXAM	Minutes	Year	No.	Venue	SLT Lead(s)	EXAM	Minutes	Year	No.	Venue
<b>Monday</b> 26/06/2023		AQA-English Literature 1	60	11	186	Sports hall		Edexcel-Maths Paper 1-Non Calculator	90	11	186	Sports hall
		AQA-A Level English Literature 1	120	12	7	Sports hall		AQA-A Level-Biology 1	90	12	7	Sports hall
<b>Tuesday</b> 27/06/2023												
		AQA-Combined Science-Biology 1	75	11	186	Sports hall		Edexcel-Maths Paper 2-Calculator	90	11	186	Sports hall
<b>Wednesday</b> 28/06/2023												
		AQA-Combined Science - Chemistry Paper 1	75	11	186	Sports hall		Edexcel- A Level Maths Paper 1	90	12	6	Sports hall
<b>Thursday</b> 29/06/2023		AQA-A Level-Chemistry 1	90	12	4	Sports hall						
		Edexcel-Maths Paper 3-Calculator	90	11	186	Sports hall		AQA-Combined Science-Physics 1	75	11	186	Sports hall
		AQA-A Level-Chemistry 2	90	12	4	Sports hall		AQA-A Level-Biology 2	90	12	7	Sports hall