



# Sixth Sense

## Which Week?

This Week: Monday 18th Sept (Week 2)  
Next week: Monday 25th Sept (Week 1)



## Lincoln Leading the Way

We were so pleased to introduce Gareth from the University of Lincoln to you all at such an early point in the year. Despite it being so early in the academic, there are very much 'jobs to do' for both our Yr12 and Yr13.

**Year 13:** For ANYONE considering attending university in any way, shape or form next year, there are some essential jobs to do! Go to [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) to create a user account.

1. When completing your registration, it will ask you if you have a **BUZZWORD**. A buzzword ensures that the Sixth Form Team are able to see how you are progressing in your application in order to provide support. Please enter the buzzword **TGAK2024** in order to link us together.
2. Once you have registered you are then able to begin the process of adding personal information, education details and qualifications and can save your progress at any point. KEEP CHIPPING AWAY AT THIS!

**Year 12:** Despite course information not being available for your potential entry to university in September 2025, by researching an courses and seeing what the expectation might be to gain entry to a specific university for a specific course, it will provide an early impetus to work to your very best! It may also be time to start an early conversation with family and friends.



## And We're Off!

Make no mistake, the beginning of the academic year is always busy and is always challenging, whether you are a student or staff member!

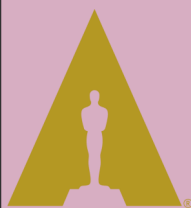
Once again, we have been so impressed with how you have all navigated this as 'old hands' in Year 13 adapting to a new routine and updated site, or Year 12 and having to adjust quickly to the nature of Sixth Form, it's systems, procedures or indeed us being a brand new environment for you to thrive within.

If at any point, you are unsure regarding anything, please ensure that you come to check-in with Miss Hunter in Student Services, or indeed myself within the Sixth Form Office in order for us to attend to your queries.

Many of you already do this brilliantly, but please do not be afraid to keep asking questions until you know the answer you require.

The year goes quickly (right, Year 13?) and therefore adapting to start making the most of INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS that appear on your timetables will need to be an area of focus for us this.

## Bragging Rights!



**Quiz Leaders:** Mr Hinsley's Form (congratulations!) - NO CHEATING!!!

**Attendance Leaders:** Miss Read's Form (congratulations also!)

"And the Oscar (or in our case, 'Barry') Goes To..." - To be announced

## KEY Info: 2

1. **READING** starts as of Monday morning. All of you will be issued with a reading group consisting of students only within the Sixth Form that is linked with the experience you have of reading as determined through the online reading test sat. You will go straight to this following morning registration.
2. **NEW TIMETABLES WILL BE ISSUED ON MONDAY** as a result of reading groups now being added to your timetable (for you and the WHOLE Academy. If you not sure of this, I will be based in the Student Foyer to assist students in finding their classrooms (that will be the same every day).
3. **MOVEMENT TIME** needs to be factored into your routine following brunch and lunch. We have a two-bell system that provides a 5 min warning—this is you queue to start moving to your lesson. The second bell indicates the START of the lesson (NOT your 'real' queue to move out of the Common Room). Good people do good things, and all of these positive behaviours support your own learning in addition to those around you in the same learning group.

## National Online Safety: Snapchat



This week's online safety guide focuses on online safety tips for Snapchat. Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app through which users can chat with friends via text or audio. Images and videos can be shared with specific friends, or as a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) which is visible to a person's entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose significantly during the lockdown periods, with many young people utilising it to stay connected with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. In the guide on page 2, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as sexting, visible location and contact from strangers.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

### EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



### 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202305036922-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://uk.snap.com/en-GB/how/privacy/notifications-from-strangers-and-how-safety-enhancements> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202304198644>