



### Which Week?

This Week: **Monday 18th Sept (Week 2)**

Next week: *Monday 25th Sept (Week 1)*

# Inside Kingshurst

## “Celebrate Good Times...”

Despite it being only the third week of the academic year, there is already much to shout about in that September marks the Academy’s Presentation Evening, where we are able to pause, praise and reward the respectful, responsible and ready nature of the students.

The Key Stage 5 Presentation Evening will welcome back the outgoing Year 13 students who have completed their respective A level or Level 3 BTEC National qualifications. Many are poised to progress to university to study such incredible courses as Politics and Philosophy, Geology and Paramedic Science, whereas others have chosen to begin their careers through further training with an apprenticeship provider or indeed full-time employment. We look forward to being able to celebrate the successes from the release of their grades in the summer period and to catch-up with them before their inevitable next-steps into the ‘big-wide-world’!

Both of Key Stage 3 and 4 share a Presentation Evening, where invited students from Year 8 to Year 11 are able to receive either their Subject Prize Award in recognition by each faculty for their outstanding effort over the course of the previous academic year in addition to a range of Special Awards that recognise specific students for the contribution they have made towards the Academy.

**The Presentation Evening takes place from 5.30-6.30pm on Wednesday 20th September for both events, with Key Stage 5 based in the Drama Studio and Key Stage 3 and 4 in the Main Hall. Staff will be on hand to direct students, parent and carers upon their arrival to the main reception and will be able to enter the site via the gates in the car park that would have previously led to the ‘turning circle’ (outside of D Block).**



## The Long & Winding [Yr 11] Road

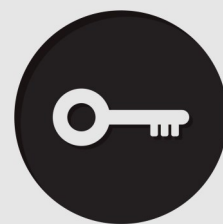
With another year already in full swing and 36 weeks remaining before the first examination (!), the Year 11 Team have swung into top-gear to provide information, advice and guidance for our parents and carers of Year 11 students through the Road to Success event being held on Tuesday 19th of September 2023 at 4.30pm in the Main Hall.

This event draws upon the wealth of experience within the Bronte (Year 11) Team in addition to that of Subject Leaders, who will also be supporting the event.

Further information on this popular event and content that will be covered can be found via the following hyperlink: <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2023/09/Y11-Road-to-success-evening-letter.pdf#y11-road-to-success-evening-letter/>

## Key Info

The Academy is committed to supporting students in order to remove any barriers that prevent them from being able to thrive and succeed. Were, your child to be affected by something or someone or wanted to report an incident of what they believe to be bullying, **we encourage all students to go to the Student Service Office in order to complete a YELLOW CARD** to allow our brilliant College Teams to attend to their information.



## Ready, Steady, Read!

Monday morning sees the return of ALL year groups to reading each day. We have an exciting range of books ready for students to immerse themselves within that are year-group appropriate, reading-age appropriate and exciting. All books have been curated by our experienced staff team that we know students are going to enjoy immersing themselves within. New timetables will be printed for all students to reflect this addition to their timetables in the morning, following registration.



### 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/early-warning-signs-for-medical-and-new-safety-enhancements> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202304198644>



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