



### Which Week?

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

# Inside Kingshurst

## Early Warning

The Academy has its first **Trust Staff Training Day on Friday 6th October 2023** (the Friday after next). During this day, no students will be required on site and will instead, return as normal on Monday 9th October at 8.30am.

## T G A K SPORT

## 'Inter' Kingshurst!

Mr McEvoy was delighted to report the success of the Year 9 football team who had to travel to King Edwards VI Sheldon Heath for a friendly football match in preparation for the start of their season in earnest this coming Tuesday.

The squad are to be congratulated for achieving a staggering result of **KESH 0—17 TGAK (!)**, with goals being scored by Lennon Moss (7), Kayden Yates (3), Zion Tuitt (3), Kyle Andrews (2) and Brodee Smith (1). We look forward to this season with great anticipation!

## Parental Feedback

The feedback we receive from parents and carers is of the utmost importance to us.

We aspire to maintain a positive relationship with all of our parents and carers and value all of your feedback.

As such, we would appreciate a moment of your time to provide us with feedback based upon the following short survey that can be accessed via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/h0HAUx4iG6>

A similar link will be sent out on a regular basis to continue to monitor your feedback as we progress through the academic year.



## Year 6 Parent Open Evening

**Open Evening**  
Wednesday 27th September 2023  
**4.30 - 6.30pm**  
Talks by the Principal at **4.45pm and 5.45pm**  
[www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](http://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)  
0121 329 8300 | [info@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)

A final reminder for parents and carers with younger children or indeed, family and friends with younger children that our Year 6 Open Evening takes place on **Wednesday from 4.30pm.**

## A Good Read

Please find a list of the books that students have begun reading as of this term. We hope they can keep you updated as to what is happening on a daily basis!

- Some Yr7 and Yr8 - Wrath by Marcus Sedgewick.
- Some Yr9 to Yr13 - Jane Eyre: A retelling by Tanya Landman.
- Some Yr7 and Yr8 - The Wolf Wider by Katherine Rundell.
- Some Yr9 to Yr13 - The Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray.
- Some Yr7 and Yr8 - The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna.
- Some Yr9 to Yr13 - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon.
- Some Yr7 and Yr8 - Watership Down by Richard Adams.
- Some Yr9,10,11,12,13 - The Wolf Road by Richard Lambert.

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

-J.K. Rowling



## Open Evening Helpers

Just a reminder to our parents and carers of any of our brilliant students from Year 8 to Year 13 who are planning on supporting during the open evening event, that consent must be provided prior to Wednesday evening. A form will have been provided to them already (or can be acquired from the Student Services Office), that similarly, once completed, can be returned to the Student Services Office.

## National Online Safety: Boundaries Around Gaming



This week's online safety guide focuses on online safety tips for setting boundaries around gaming. Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK. In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game. The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and the guide on page 2 has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>



#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national\_online\_safety