



Sixth Sense

Which Week?

This Week: Monday 18th Dec (Week 2)

Return Date: Tuesday 9th Jan 2024 (Week 1)

Message to Year 13: UCAS

Quite simply, the message to all Year 13 students is 'UCAS'. Therefore for those of you planning to apply to university next year (for September 2024) you must complete all of the parts of your application and then **SEND** it, at which point the UCAS system will make Miss King and I aware of your application.

Please keep an eye on your email as you may still have some fine-tuning to do. For example, Miss King and I have found that you have made spelling/ grammar errors on your personal statement or have neglected to add the full details you have studied or are currently studying. These need to be dealt with swiftly and RESENT back to us to approve.

Please also ensure that you have **spoken-to** and provided a copy of your personal statement to your **referee**.



Recommendation of the week (Seasonal): BBC Podcast, You're Dead To Me

This week's recommendation is a seasonal episode of the brilliant 'You're Dead To Me' podcast, in particular, one that is focussed on Charles Dickens and Christmas as they take a walk through the many Christmases of the renowned Victorian author. This includes

elephants walking on ice, the Dickens' punch recipe and takes a closer look at the factors that may have influenced some of his most famous works. Follow the link to explore the BBC podcast online or access via your podcast provider: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0gyg74g>.

'A Christmas Carol' can be downloaded for free via the following Amazon Kindle link—[CLICK HERE](#) (the Amazon Kindle app is also free to download and use on your phone).

End of Term Arrangements



Final day of term: Friday 22nd December.

This day will be a NON-UNIFORM DAY, with a £1 donation that will be collected during tutor period.

End of day: 12.30pm

School holiday: Saturday 23rd December 2023 to Sunday 7th January 2024

Staff training day: Monday 8th January 2024 (except for those BTEC student who need to come in ([via Main Reception](#)))

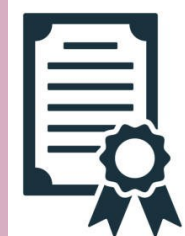
Return to school for ALL students: Tuesday 9th January 2024 @ 8.30am

Year 12: GCSE Cert Collection

For all of our current Year 12 students who attended the Academy, your GCSE and BTEC certificates are now available for collection (hooray!).

These can be obtain by speaking to Mrs Gibbs in the Main Reception area (**not in a big group thank you**) who will issue you with an envelope containing your certificates and ask for you to sign a sheet to acknowledge receipt for these.

Given that we are issuing our certificates, it is likely that for student who have studied elsewhere, that your certificates are also ready for collection and would therefore encourage you to contact the exams officer from your respective schools. PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOUR CERTIFICATES AND KEEP THEM IN A SAFE PLACE as replacements cannot be provided. These 'physical' copies will be required throughout your life as part of applications process where only the originals will be accepted.



National Online Safety: Social Media Safety Tips



With Christmas only a week away. Many will be using social media to share their excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following the social media safety tips on page 2, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

In the social media safety guide on the next page, you'll find tips such as don't accept friend requests from strangers, block online bullies and to never share your personal information with people you don't know.

Christmas Cracker Joke: What do you call a snowman with a six pack? An abdominal snowman



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.



2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.



5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.



8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

