Tudor Grange Academy
Kingshurst

Sixth Sense

Sixth Form

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS OPEN MONDAY!

Undergraduate SFE appliccations for the 2024/25 academic year open Monday (11th)

HOW TO APPLY?

- Go to https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login
- Students do NOT need a confirmed University place to apply

World (Book Day) of Fun!

Last Thursday saw the TGAK staff fully commit to World Book Day! With the stimulus of Roald Dahl as a starting point, each faculty took a book of their choice as inspiration for their own area and to build their costumes around.

The ebb and flow of a normal day was therefore somewhat different as you bumped into Fantastic Mr Fox in the corridor, a 'Giant Peach' at the photocopier or indeed Miss Trunchbull at Student Services!!!

As ever, the students were on great form in accepting this change to the norm, were generous in the comments to staff in letting them know how good their costumes were and for playing their own part in taking part in a reading session specially centred around World Book Day during the morning reading session.

Staff have already started thinking about what their costumes might look like next year! For those who are feeling confident, **I think it might a good opportunity for the Sixth Form to play a part in through dressing up as a book related from their favourite book. What do you think?** Further details about World Book Day and the books that be exchanged for their voucher (that can be collected from their tutor if not already) can all be found via the following link: https://www.worldbookday.com/

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Information, Advice and Guidance: Massive thanks to Gareth from the University of Lincoln coming in to speak to our Year 13 students regarding the next steps for their applications to University in order for them to be fully informed of what the process is moving forwards, that essentially begins with applying to Student Finance England (SFE) via the **www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login** page that sets-out the process in addition to providing further advice and guidance such as their '**Get undergraduate student finance: step by step**' section.

National Careers Week Opportunities

#NCW2024

Despite National Careers Week taking place last week, there are some great events coming up for students to take advantage of. For **Year 12**, this includes Unifrog's virtual **UK University Fair.** My experience of the online platform used for these has been exceptional, allowing you to move to the virtual 'room' for the aspects you are interested in an easy to use and effective manner. ALL of you are registered with Unifrog and can register for the event via the following link: **CLICK HERE**.

For **Year 13**, please find a link to a variety of **Apprenticeship** vacancies related to HS2. Please click on the link below to go to their careers portal: **CLICK HERE**. Apprenticeships are a great option for you to launch a careers, upskill, or retrain in a diverse range of exciting industries – from space engineering to sports coaching to food preparation and beyond. There are thousands of apprenticeship vacancies on offer, and more than 690 high-quality apprenticeships approved for use by employers.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
WHATSAPP

...MSG ME...

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversions and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers

...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know *never* to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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.

...HEY OSCAR...

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter | https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332 | https://faq.whatsapp.com/38005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav
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