



## Which Week?

This Week: Tuesday 7th May (Week 1)

Next Week: Monday 13th May (Week 2)

# Inside Kingshurst



## On Your Marks...Get Set...Exams Are 'Go'!

Although some assessments have already taken place, including food, art and Spanish orals, this week marks the beginning of the formal BTEC and GCSE examinations for Year 11, with those taking A Levels commencing as of next week.

ALL students have been issued with their bespoke exam timetable, that specifically lists each of their examinations. [CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE](#)

Please find a hyperlink (above) that will take you to the Academy webpage where a document lists every examination to check against times and dates where required.

If you are in any doubt, you MUST contact the Student Services Team via the Academy number (0121 329 8300) or the Examinations Officer, Mrs Gaffer ([exams@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:exams@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)) in order to access further advice and guidance.

## Insight into the NHS: One day careers event at Heartlands Hospital for Years 10/11

The Work Experience team at University Hospitals Birmingham is running an Insight into the NHS Careers Day at Heartlands Hospital on Tuesday 2nd July 2024.

The event will start at 9.00am and will finish at 3.00pm and students will be able to come along and meet the professionals from across the Trust and learn about the different roles available in the NHS and will include some hands-on workshops.

Heartlands would like to offer this opportunity to students who attend a school within a radius of the hospital and therefore places are available for our own students to attend if they are proactive in applying via the following Microsoft forms link: <https://forms.office.com/e/bNuB2X6DvB>

The application form is open until Monday 20th May and successful applicants will be emailed by Tuesday 28th May 2024 with more information.



Many, many congratulations to the Under16 Girls Football Team who played in the **Solihull Cup Semi-Finals** last week. After placing top in the North Solihull schools earlier this year they unfortunately lost in their semi finals match to St. Peters but came out ready against Grace Academy in their final match, winning 3-1 and therefore **finished 3rd in the Solihull Cup and are the top girls football team in North Solihull**. Congratulations to the girls and thanks to Mrs Lowe to coaching the team throughout the course of the year.

## National Online Safety: Online Grooming



Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit an offence.

This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion).

Applications for Sixth Form can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/sixth-form/apply-online/>

To provide feedback on the newsletter, please [click here](#).



Website: <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/>



Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the Internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coerced) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.



What parents need to know about

# ONLINE GROOMING



## CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.



## LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Live.me, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.



## ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The Internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



## CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity - 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening. If the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



## FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship / rapport stage', as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

## EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

## Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



### IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the Internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



### MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



### STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as dose family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



### DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends, in order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

### BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



## Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



## LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

- Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:
- Secretive online behaviour.
  - Late night internet or smartphone usage.
  - Meeting new friends in unusual places.
  - Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
  - Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
  - Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
  - Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
  - Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.

