



Message from the Headteacher

"And the angel said unto them, "Be not afraid: for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"

Luke 2: 10-11

Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful is the only way I can describe our Carol Service. Wonderful singing from the Year 7 and the Staff and Student choirs, including soloists **Rozalia O** (Year 7) and **Elisha O** (Year 7). A wonderful nativity, written by **Grace C** (Year 7). Wonderful performances from the Concert Band and Jazz Band, and the Year 9 Music Scholars. Joined by Governors, the Friends and the Old Wandsworthians, it was lovely to see so many parents and carers in the congregation.



Last night, I had the pleasure of joining Mrs Ann-Marie Grant and colleagues from St Michael's Primary School, for Nine Lessons and Carols, and had an equally enjoyable evening.

Despite the chilly weather and snow, there has still been an abundance of fun activity across school this week. We can celebrate the sporting success of two pupils in Year 11, **Jack H** and **Grace E**, with their selection for the Under 17 Surrey Cross Country Team, and two Artists of the Week – **Rachel S** and **Antonija P** in Year 9.

Now that assessments and projects are complete, and deadlines are met, the Christmas break is a great opportunity for pupils and students to relax, recharge and spend time with family and friends.

I look forward to seeing everyone when we return to school on Wednesday 4th January.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

God bless,

Renata Joseph
Headteacher

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday 13th December, I had the privilege of attending my first live Carol Service since taking up my chaplaincy here, and it was a truly wonderful evening. It was great to see so many families there and to be able to say hello to a few of you.

Besides singing in the staff choir, my only other contribution to the service was to give the closing blessing. I compiled this by bringing together lyrics from some carols we sang on the night. A few people have asked me to share it with them, so here it is:

Carol Service Blessing

A prayer reflecting on the carols we sang

God of God, light of light,
In Your love, You gave unto us a Son
Whose name is called Wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God,
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Let your light shine so brightly in our hearts today and in this
Christmas season, that no forces of darkness will be able to
prevail against us.
Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,

You are the Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Appearing so that we might have peace and mercy
Appearing so that God and sinners [might be] reconciled
Appearing so that we can have light and life to the fullest
Arise O Lord, with healing in Your wings
Open our eyes so that we might see You through Your own
redeeming love
Not just as a baby in a manger, but as the Saviour, who is
Christ the Lord.

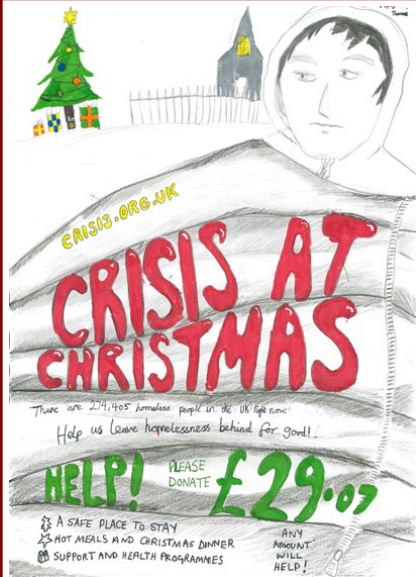
As we bring to an end this Carol Service, and continue in this
Christmas season, we ask you to
be near [us], Lord Jesus [we] ask You to stay close by [us]
forever and love [us] I pray.

And so, may the blessing of the God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit surround you and all those you love,
now and for evermore. Amen.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!

Alex Shoderu
Chaplain

Crisis at Christmas



This half-term Year 7 pupils have completed a cross-curricular project on homelessness. The main task was to create a poster based on everything that they had learned and then take part in 'The Little Sleep Out'. I have selected this poster by **Thomas H-J** as an excellent example of the work produced.

On Thursday 8th December, Year 7 pupils, Sixth Form students and staff took part in the sixth annual 'Little Sleep Out', for Crisis at Christmas. This was perfectly timed to coincide with the sudden drop in temperature! However, the Year 7 pupils managed to keep warm by singing with some dance moves thrown in too.

Mr Rick Leitch entertained staff, pupils and students alike by setting up his telescope: we managed to see Mars, the Moon and Jupiter. If you look closely, you can see Jupiter in the picture below.

Maired Gibbons
Teacher of English



Musical Bonanza Rounds off the Term

Crown Lane Studio – Year 9 Music Scholars’ Christmas Song

Every year, we ask the Year 9 Music Scholars to write their own Christmas song for performance at the Carol Service. The pupils break up into smaller groups, and create their own lyrics, music, and ideas before coming back together to share what they have come up with and choosing the best song to develop and perform as a whole group.

This year, the standard of writing was incredibly strong. **Ethan B** and **Petra B** wrote a beautiful melody and chord pattern for the chorus and verses of the song, taking inspiration from Christmas carols and songs. Once they heard the tune, **Ruby H** and **Ana V** worked on writing the lyrics. The group then needed an introduction to the song, so **Bertie D** worked with **Oscar H G** to develop the haunting introduction on the piano. **Jasniq S** and **Ava V** started to improvise over the piano accompaniment to create countermelodies and harmonies, to enrich the overall sound of the song. **Nicolo M T** worked on creating the guitar accompaniment to fill out the chords, whilst **Joshua M** ensured the song had the obligatory sounds of Christmas with wind chimes and tubular bells. It was a whole group effort to create a brilliant Christmas song.

As part of our new partnership with Crown Lane Studio in Morden, the group had the opportunity to record their Christmas song in a professional studio. On Thursday 8th December, the group made their way to the studio decked out in fairy lights and tinsel. When we arrived at the studio, Mr John Merriman, owner and studio engineer gave a tour of the studio and explained the process of recording.

After getting tuned up, it was time to get into position to do a sound check. The scholars were split between several live rooms, so that they could be recorded accurately. They found it hilarious that they could hear each other, even though they couldn’t see each other! After the sound check, it was time to get the live stream on YouTube and into Metronome Café at the front of the studio (where parents, carers, staff, governors and guests were waiting for the performance) up and running before the recording could take place.

With everything working, the scholars recorded their song. It was brilliant to see them enjoy performing in a professional studio, and see their song come alive. The final track can be found on the school website [here](#). Fingers crossed for a Christmas No.1!

Well done to all the Year 9 Music Scholars for a brilliant song and for creating their first professional recording.

Fairfield Halls – Friday 9th December



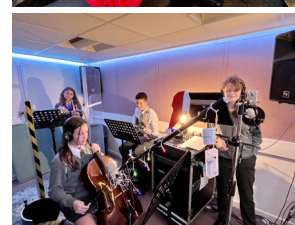
On Friday 9th December, the school Concert Band and Jazz Band performed as part of Wandsworth Music’s *Winter Sounds* concert at Croydon Fairfield Halls. The bands performed brilliantly, getting the audience dancing and swaying with some fantastic tunes, including a medley of John Williams’ movie themes, ‘Take on Me’ by a-ha and ‘All of Me’.

Here is **Bea R**’s (Year 8) account of the day: “Last Friday was a great success. Not only was it fun socialising with other people in the bands, but we also felt a rush of excitement to be performing in such a big venue. We rehearsed on the stage in the afternoon, and then had a little time to kill before our big performance in the evening. The backstage atmosphere was slightly nerve racking but thrilling, as we waited for our turn. One minute we were waiting behind the stage and then we were walking on to a huge round of applause from the crowd. Mr Robinson counted us in, and we started - the sound of our instruments filling the air.

In my opinion we chose two of our best pieces to get the party started and the audience loved it. After the Concert Band played the two pieces, some players left the stage to leave the audience with our amazing Jazz Band. At this point the whole crowd was really getting into it, jamming away. Sadly, all good things must come to an end, including our performance. After a round of applause, we left the stage and headed upstairs to watch the rest of the performance, which was amazing. We heard from a variety of Wandsworth’s finest musicians.

It was definitely a night to remember, where we showed off all our talents. The teachers worked very hard to prepare us, and they did a great job! We all work hard, with everyone chipping in with their bit whether playing percussion, flute or French horn, but we love it! I really enjoyed Friday - it was wonderful to be able to play with the band and of course have good old laugh like we always do.”

James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



Musical Bonanza Continued

Carol Service

It was lovely to remember the true meaning of Christmas with our annual Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, and to finally have a live event after two years of recorded video services.

The Carol Service is a truly magical event in the school calendar, with Year 7 leading with the readings, singing and drama. The sound produced by the Year 7 choir was amazing, and energised the congregation with 'Calypso Carol', 'For Unto Us A Child Is Born', 'Away in a Manger' (sung in Spanish, French and English) and 'Ring out the Bells'. This might well have been the best Year 7 choir performance we have ever had!

A group of Year 7 pupils also performed a modern nativity drama piece, demonstrating their acting skills and showing what brilliant budding actors we have. **Aysia F** (Year 7) has this to say about the drama: *"The Year 7 drama performance was a lot of fun. We rehearsed every Monday for the last few weeks to practise for the final performance. Everyone enjoyed it as it was a great way to build friendships within the year group."*

The Concert Band and String Group performed the congregational carols, with the Concert Band also performing 'Sleigh Ride' with hoof noises, neighs, sleigh bells and whip! The School Choir sang beautifully, with a great solo from **Elisha O** (Year 7). The Year 9 Music Scholars performed their Christmas song 'Wonderful Winter's Night' live, to great applause from the audience. The Staff and Student Choir, under the direction of Mr John Wells, performed with energy and enthusiasm, and it was great to see so many new faces in the group. The evening was rounded off by the Jazz Band performing 'Jingle Bell Rock'.

A very Merry Christmas to all our musicians.



Year 10 Christmas Performances

To help the Year 10 GCSE Music pupils develop their ensemble skills in preparation for their performance coursework, each GCSE group was given a Christmas song to learn, arrange and practise, with the goal of performing at the end of term Collective Worship in front of the whole school.



The groups were given Slade's 'Merry Xmas Everybody' and Brenda Lee's 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. Both groups rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly to the rest of the school. These are such talented musicians, and we look forward to following their success in their GCSE and beyond!

Pictured right is the Year 7 Choir rehearsing for the end of term Collective Worship, where they enjoyed singing together for the last time this term.



James Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

A Level Philosophy and Ethics Oxbridge Conference

The entire A Level Philosophy and Ethics cohort were invited to attend a prestigious conference hosted by Ethica on the Philosophy of God. Held in Bloomsbury, it offered lively debate and ground-breaking discussion from some renowned scholars. We heard from Oxford and Cambridge fellows as they talked through their latest research and publications. Students received study tips from the academics who inform the exam board and met with legendary figures such as philosopher and theologian, Professor Keith Ward.

It was a truly wonderful opportunity for students to grapple with ideas such as the nature of conscience and reality, as well as the role of feminist viewpoints within the Church. The knowledge gained in this trip will further students' understanding of philosophy and will be of great use for exam preparation.

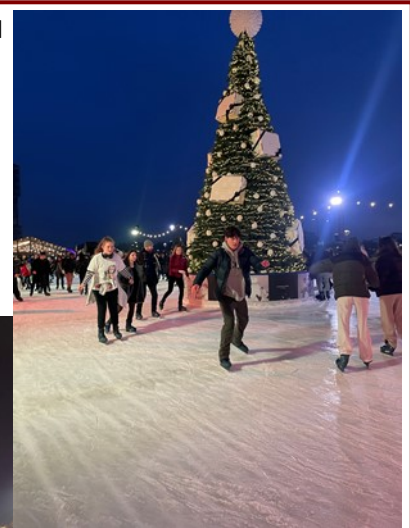
Kaan Cengiz
Teacher of Religious Studies



Sixth Form Head Out on the Ice



On Monday 12th December, Year 12 and 13 rounded off this term with their annual ice-skating trip. This year, students headed to the new Glide ice rink outside Battersea Power Station. This huge open air venue has three inter-connecting rinks around a 30 foot Christmas tree. It really was a magnificent setting to celebrate the end of term. I'm pleased to report there were no broken bones!



Paul Bishop
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form

Snow Day



Even Sixth Formers still enjoy a snow day! **Oskar K**, **Eduardo O** and **Alejandro C** spent their break making a giant snowball.

Alex Shoderu
School Chaplain



Book Buzz 2022 - Free Books for Year 7

Each year, Book Trust offer schools the opportunity to take part in 'Book Buzz,' a school reading programme. Research suggests that once young people start secondary school, they read for fun less often. So, as part of their mission to encourage reading for pleasure and supporting literacy in young people, Book Trust curate a list of titles each year that they think young people would like and offer them to secondary schools for £3 per book. This means that we can offer each Year 7 pupil a free book of their choice from the list to keep.

In their English lessons before half term, Year 7 were given a chance to peruse the list, watch video summaries from the authors and choose their book. After waiting somewhat patiently, "Miss, are they here yet?!", the books finally arrived this week and pupils have been excited to get them in English lessons.

They are encouraged to read them and, if they want, swap with others so that they can read them all! There is a real range of styles and genres so there is something for everyone! The titles are also available from the school Library. Happy reading, Year 7!



Catherine Bull
SENCo and Whole School Literacy Coordinator

Netball News

On Wednesday 7th December, a large senior netball squad travelled away to Wallington High School for Girls. After a warm up, the girls took the lead 6-2 in the first quarter. With such a large squad, and having a comfortable lead, we were able to try out lots of different defensive and attacking combinations. The girls won a convincing 28-7. Well done to all girls who played, particularly to **Amelia F-M** for being the Coach's Player of the Match, for her ball placement and defensive pressure.



On Wednesday we hosted the annual Christmas netball tournament for Years 9-13 in the Sports Hall, as the outdoor courts were icy. There was a fantastic atmosphere, with Christmas music playing and lots of girls participating. Teams were all mixed ages, with

a senior player captaining each team. All games were close, with brilliant netball demonstrated by many of the players. I am so proud of the girls' commitment to school netball this term. Finishing off with a fun festive tournament was the perfect way to end the term. A huge well done to all, particularly to **Azzura S, Hannah B, Alexia S** and **Faith E** for all being chosen as Captains' Players of the Day.

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE



Year 8 Team Work in Art and Design

I was able to capture the concentration on the faces of Year 8 pupils as they added decorative stitching to their pop art inspired pencil cases. The class have worked so well as a team, helping each other with different processes. Well done all!

Jonathan G and **Sura L** in the foreground, **Mehdi U**, **Alistair A**, **Eliza C** and **William B** in the background.



Christopher A and **Malik M** pictured above

Victoria England
Teacher of Art and Design

Artist of the Week



'Artist of the Week' goes to two artists jointly, both in Year 9. **Rachel S** (left mask) and **Antonija P** (right mask). Year 9 have worked hard and been motivated to complete intricate, detailed masks inspired by the colour, shapes and ideas of steampunk. Pupils created these mixed media pieces using a wide range of materials and processes. Well done to **Rachel** and **Antonija** for their enthusiasm and determination to complete these beautiful masks.

Stella Allan
Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design

News from the Library

I always think it is interesting to look at statistics, as well as words, in the Library. Here are the facts and figures I have drawn together to summarise this term.

Library facts and figures for Autumn Term 2022	
28,469	Number of Library visits
4,177	Number of books issued
2,417	Number of books borrowed by Year 7 pupils (most active year)
379	Number of books borrowed by 8S pupils (most active mentor group)
105	Number of new books added to our catalogue
46	Number of English class and mentor group visits to the Library
22	Number of fabulous Pupil Librarians

Most popular graphic novels: Heartstopper series; One Piece series; Assassination Classroom series

Most popular fiction authors: Jeff Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid series); JK Rowling (Harry Potter series); Jennifer Lynn Barnes (The Inheritance Games trilogy)

Most popular non-fiction titles: 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall; 'Computer Coding for Kids' by Carol Vorderman; 'The Descent of Man' by Grayson Perry

Rachel Goodhart
School Librarian

Spanish update

Spanish pen pals

Our Year 10 pupils have been doing a long distance project with Mr Jimenez Aranda's school in Malaga. Mr Jimenez covered Mrs Munoz's maternity leave last year at Saint Cecilia's. Our pupils wrote letters in Spanish about a typical English Christmas, whilst pupils from Aloha College, Marbella wrote about their Spanish Christmas traditions. This has been a great opportunity for pupils to learn about a GCSE topic (festivals and costumes) and put their writing skills into practice whilst making a Spanish pen friend.



Esther B, Rory E, and Patrick H

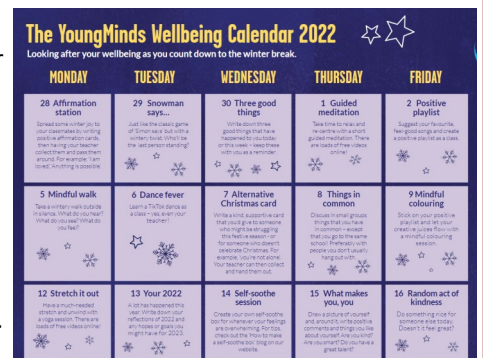
Spanish Christmas

Pupils have learnt about Spanish Christmas traditions and how families in Spain prepare for the birth of Christ. Learning independently, they have researched decorations, food and Christmas songs. They have been able to experience special Spanish Christmas events such as 22nd December Lottery Day (El Gordo) by participating in a lottery in class to practise Spanish numbers and have written 12 resolutions for 2023 in Spanish using the future tense.

Year 10 Mentor Time with The YoungMinds Well-being Advent Calendar



This has been a busy start to the year for Year 10 as they began their GCSEs with a focus on revision, homework and exams. To ease the stress, between one-to-one meetings, praise cards, mentor reports, revision skills, assemblies and our Christian circle times, since 1st December we have been following a daily well-being activity. If your child feels stressed during the Christmas holidays, perhaps



they can practise some of the challenges that Year 10 have followed during mentor time, including a walk in the cold, some 2023 resolutions, finding things in common with a person they don't speak to often, writing a kind card to a teacher to show appreciation or dancing as a whole mentor group to name but a few. The well-being Advent calendar is pictured above right and, above left, pupils are participating in reflection time.

Spanish Panto Reinforces Learning



Year 10 pupils enjoyed performing a Spanish Christmas pantomime. They played the roles of famous Hispanic people such as Isabel Allende and Rafael Nadal. The play was set in a restaurant to help them revise food vocabulary, as well as talking about Christmas traditions. Overall, they had a lot of fun while improving their speaking skills.



Omara Munoz Asensio
Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages and

Sara Navarro Martinez
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Running for Surrey



Jack H (Year 11) and **Grace E** (Year 11) (pictured left) were both selected to run for the Under-17 Surrey Team at the South of England Cross Country Inter Counties Championships on Saturday 10th December. This was held in Oxford. It was a freezing cold but sunny day and the course was brutal! A huge well done to both **Grace E** and **Jack H** for being selected to run for their county, this is a fantastic achievement!

Harriet Field
Teacher of PE

Christmas Tree

Thank you to Pines and Needles for the donation of our beautiful Nordmann Fir premium Christmas tree this year. It stands proudly in Reception having been decorated by office staff.

If you are still to purchase your tree, they are offering the Saint Cecilia's community a 10% discount when you quote code CEC10. Their pop up shop is in Wimbledon Park at the Wimbledon Park Road Entrance, SW19 6PE.

Andy Barrett
Premises Manager



Free Virtual Parent Workshops

Education Wellbeing Service
Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents 2022/23
Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

- 22ND, 26TH OR 27TH SEPT** Mental Health during the teenage years - an Introduction and overview
For year 7 & year 8 parents
- 9TH, 10TH OR 15TH NOV** Supporting your teen through emotional storms - emotion regulation skills and strategies
For all secondary school parents
- 26TH, 30TH OR 1ST JAN/FEB** Understanding and supporting anxiety during the teenage years
For all secondary parents
- 13TH, 16TH OR 17TH MAR** Supporting and managing exam and assignment stress: top tips and ideas for parents
For all secondary parents - year 11 and 13 focus
- 4TH, 9TH OR 11TH MAY** Understanding and supporting teen sleep: an overview of the research and recommendations
For all secondary parents

Scan QR code with your phone's camera to sign up for free via eventbrite or search:
www.eventbrite.com/cc/secondary-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-725989

We also provide free 1:1 support programmes for parents to support with their child's anxiety or behavioural challenges. Speak to your school to find out more

The series of interactive parent workshops called 'Supporting your Teenager's Mental Health' run by our local education well-being service will continue next year. All sessions are free, held remotely and can be easily booked by scanning the QR code on their poster (left) or [clicking here](#).

Workshops take place in the morning, afternoon and evening so there should be options to suit your day. Currently they are not recorded, but there is no limit on spaces, so do please book if you feel any of these sessions would be beneficial to you and your family.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Team Leader for PHSE

Young Minds



If your child's attendance at school is being affected by low moods, stress or anxiety, please do take a look at [this resource from YoungMinds](#). YoungMinds is the mental health charity we support as a school and they have excellent resources to help young people and parents.

Please also refer to the school's [well-being page](#) for information, advice and guidance for parents and carers regarding mental health and well-being. There are over 20 links on this page to fact sheets, contact numbers, a video workshop, a counselling service and referral forms for further support.

Anessa Lee
Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Team Leader for PHSE

HiPal App Warning

We want to highlight safeguarding concerns surrounding a new social media app called HiPal. This app turns devices into walkie-talkies and enables users to connect with friends or strangers even when their device is locked. The National Online Safety organisation has produced a poster (right) to help pupils, students and parents be aware of the issues and know how to deal with anything they encounter.

We are talking to pupils and students about this in school and strongly recommend they discuss with parents why they would want to use this app and if their parents or carers will monitor their use and connections with others.

Our advice is for pupils and students to NOT download or use this app. It is not moderated, control of users' data is limited, the age verification system is poor and there are safeguarding concerns over interactivity with strangers and exposure to inappropriate content.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HiPAL

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, of sending people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

12+ (Age-restricted Accounts for under-12s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct conversations with strangers. However, users can connect with other users, including with strangers, even if the user is not a friend. There is a 'Public Forward' option to share photos and videos on social media. There is always the risk of other users contacting a user, including on a completely private, unmoderated chat.

SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS
Although moderation is in place, users can send explicit content, including for sexual or suggestive purposes. There is a 'Public Forward' option to share photos and videos on social media. There is always the risk of other users contacting a user, including on a completely private, unmoderated chat.

NEED FOR VALIDATION
Some users - particularly girls - have been known to use the app to contact people for sexual or suggestive purposes. There is a 'Public Forward' option to share photos and videos on social media. There is always the risk of other users contacting a user, including on a completely private, unmoderated chat.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION
Although users are given an initial choice of the content they can see, there is no moderation in place. There is no age gate or moderation in place. There is no age gate or moderation in place.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES
HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, of sending people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

LARGE GROUP CHATS
The app allows group chats with up to 100 members. There is no moderation in place. There is no age gate or moderation in place.

Advice For Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app to contact people for sexual or suggestive purposes. There is a 'Public Forward' option to share photos and videos on social media. There is always the risk of other users contacting a user, including on a completely private, unmoderated chat.

TALK ABOUT SEXING
It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images or videos. Remind your child that sexting is a crime and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any explicit images or videos.

BUILD RESILIENCE
With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's important that children are prepared for comments they might receive after posting on the app. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage those comments by encouraging them to share any comments they receive. Highlight that it's not their fault if someone sends a comment that is hurtful.

AVOID OVER-SHARING
Young people should think carefully about what they share in their posts and photos. Talk to your child about not uploading personal details such as phone numbers, email details, friends details, or photos which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can identify a person or someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING
Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring or to boost self-esteem. Some users may use the app to bully or harass others. Remind your child that it's not their fault if someone sends a comment that is hurtful. Encourage your child to report any comments that are abusive or harassing to a trusted adult.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Sarah-Jane Houghton, an expert in child psychology, explains why it's important for parents to talk to their children about online safety. She discusses the risks of using social media apps like HiPal and offers advice on how to protect your child's online safety.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationonlineofsafety.com @nator@nesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationonlineofsafety

Tina Simpson
Teacher of Computing

Upcoming Event Reminders

- Tuesday 3rd January 2023:** Spring term starts. Professional Development Day for teachers
- Wednesday 4th January 2023:** First day back for pupils and students