

The Telford Langley School Newsletter



ENSURING
EXCELLENCE

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Message from the Headteacher

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer break. As the year has progressed it has been pleasing to see how we have managed to re-establish so much of our usual provision. Some highlights have been the return of our extensive extracurricular programme, including inter school fixtures and a cup final for our Year 11 football team. The Performing Arts department have also taken advantage of the removal of restrictions, with the return of Instrumental lessons, Rock School and our student Choir. We particularly enjoyed the Summer Concert last week!

The students have shown incredible resilience over the last few years and continue to adapt brilliantly to the many changes with flexibility and a positive approach, maintaining the highest standards in every aspect of school life. Despite all the changes parents/carers, staff and the students have worked together to maintain an environment that has continued to be calm, happy, orderly and purposeful. I would, also, like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for the incredible amount of hard work and commitment that they have shown throughout this year. The staff should be justifiably proud of the contribution that they continue to make for the students and the wider community as we return to a 'new normal'. Finally, I would like to offer my sincere and ongoing thanks to you as parents and carers for the fantastic support and understanding that you continue to show as we work together, doing our utmost to ensure the best provision possible for the students.

Oscars Ceremony

On the 11th July, We were delighted and privileged to host our very own Oscars Award Ceremony, celebrating reading endeavour. We were joined at the event by Ian Preece, the Mayor of Great Dawley Town Council. It is a testament to the strength of the school and the consistent excellence of the students in striving for the highest levels of achievements. The beautifully decorated theatre was the piece de resistance on what was a splendid evening. A thank you must be extended to Dawley Town Council in their continued support with the event. It goes without saying that events like this would not be possible without the diligent work of so many.



We wish all of our students an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming them back on Tuesday, 6th September 2022, with students in Years 8-11 starting at 9.25am, with our new Year 7 starting at 8.25am.

Cadbury World Visit



The Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students went on an educational visit to Cadbury World where they enjoyed a curriculum linked talk and tour, had a go at chocolate tempering and of course, did a little tasting. The students were exemplary ambassadors for the school.



Well Done and Good Luck Mason!

Our Year 9 student Mason recently took part in a trial and testing day with British Cycling in the hope of making it onto their track sprinters pathway. We wish Mason the best of luck with his trials!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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