



World Book Day is coming! Thursday 7th March

Once again the English department and the Library will be celebrating World Book Day 2019 on Thursday 7th March. Students should look out for further notices but below are a few things to be thinking about:

We would like to invite any pupil to **bring in/wear an accessory that is a clue to their favourite book**- this will replace full costume dressing-up. Be creative with your accessory choice (however accessories deemed dangerous/inappropriate for a school environment will be confiscated). If you need inspiration then see our display opposite reception. The student should also bring in a copy of their favourite book to share with others.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

The library will be running **quizzes** throughout the day and if you want to get involved in the **Readathon** this year please see Mrs Carey. We also have **two authors** coming in as well as a creative writing competition, run by our author who visited last year.

ALL students and staff will **Drop Everything And Read** at some point on World Book Day so students will need to have a book with them to read on that day.

There are so many more exciting events planned! Please do get involved and spread the joy of reading.

The English Department



House Music

The House Music competition was held in the afternoon of Wednesday 13th February, this year's theme being Disney songs.

Each House performed an instrumental piece and a song or medley from their choice of film.

Wellman kicked off the competition with pieces from *The Lion King*, Prothero went second with their choice of film being *Aladdin*, Mabbs followed with their instrumental being an arrangement of the theme to *Pirates of the Caribbean* and a medley of songs from *High School Musical*. Kirkman performed pieces from *Mulan* with some rousing choreography that really sold the story! Johnson and then Collins closed the competition with Johnson choosing *The Little Mermaid*, singing in a variety of languages, and Collins with an instrumental from *Up* and a vocal medley from *Moana*. Collins included the traditional Disney theme in their performance which helped to round off the competition.

The judges this year were Mr Elphick and our new Head of Music Mrs Goddard, who between them gave the final result as; **6th Mabbs**, **5th Johnson**, **4th Prothero**, **3rd Wellman**, **2nd Collins** and **1st Kirkman**.

Congratulations to Kirkman and thanks to all the House Captains for their hard work in preparing their House' entry.

Mrs Snelling, House Leader



Revision Guides

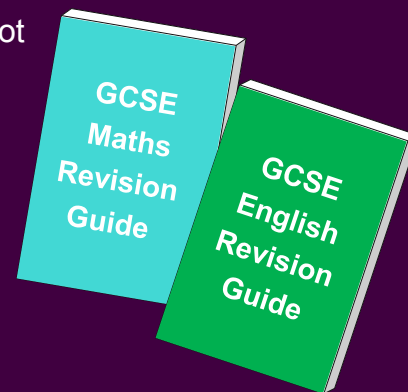
Many thanks to the parents who have donated their children's old revision guides to the school. It gave me an idea to ask for more.

Do you have old GCSE revision guides at home that are sitting there collecting dust?

No longer studying that subject or not in depth enough to help with your IB studies?

It seems a shame to throw them away after only your use. Why not instead, pay the help they've given you forward. I'd love to have them for my current Year 11s who are working hard towards their GCSE exams this summer. I know that they would certainly appreciate the help.

If you have any that you would like to donate then please drop them off at Reception or at the PE office and I will find them a good home within the cohort.



Mr Skinner, Director of Studies, Year 11

A whole new word ~ Year 10

Term 2 - Week 7



Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Classics
Computer Science
Drama
English

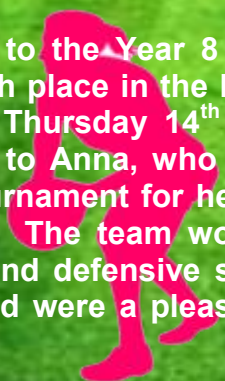
Function
Antigens
Globalisation
Precipitate
Superlative
Binary
Naturalism
Accentuate

Geography
History
Maths
MFL
Music
Physics
P.E.

Strategy
Constitution
Binomial
Conjunction
Syllabic
Alternator
Expressive

PE News

Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team, who achieved 4th place in the Bexley Netball Tournament on Thursday 14th February. A special mention to Anna, who was voted as player of the tournament for her outstanding defensive work. The team worked hard on their attacking and defensive skills throughout the court and were a pleasure to coach. Well done girls!



Miss Leffen, PE Department



Advice for parents and pupils from Mr Gilmore and Mrs Ellis

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see the attached letter from D.C. Paul. It highlights the importance of parental liaison regarding children sleeping over at each other's houses. Recently the lack of this has led to false reports of children going missing in Bexley and involved the misuse of valuable policing resources.

Please note that a child staying outside of the family home for a prolonged period of time could be considered to be in a private fostering situation, which is a safeguarding issue.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via School Enquiries.

Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head



DC Jean Paul
Missing Person Coordinator
Telephone: 0208 721 6800/ 0203 276 7062
Email: jean.f.paul@met.pnn.police.uk
www.met.police.uk

Dear parents and carers,

Child staying over and in your care - Who knows where they are?

Children are among the most vulnerable members of society and this is intensified when they are unaccounted for and potentially missing. As adults, we have a moral and legal obligation to safeguard them. The Metropolitan police are therefore seeking your assistance to enable the whereabouts of children to be known to those responsible for their care, especially when sleeping away from their usual home address.

Where a child seeks permission to stay at your address for any prolonged period and in all cases overnight, you should make every effort to clarify this is agreed with their parent or carer by making contact yourself.

Where a child is subsequently found to be staying without your agreement, you should make every effort to clarify whether their parent or carer knows of their whereabouts or alert them to the child's current whereabouts.

Where agreement is not forthcoming, you should not allow the child to stay at your address against the wishes of those with parental responsibility and agree the safest time and method to return home.

Your commitment and cooperation in these matters will greatly assist the continued safeguarding and care of children and minimise the involvement of the police in searching for those who may be reported as missing whilst staying with friends without the permission of those responsible for their care.

Yours faithfully,

D.C. Paul

Dear parents and carers,

You may have become aware of an e-safety issue regarding the so called 'MOMO Challenge', which has caught the attention of the media in recent weeks. Please see this information poster sent to us by the Safer School's Team.

Whilst it is likely that much of this is the work of pranksters spreading false information on Whatsapp and other platforms, including Youtube and games such as Fortnite, it is another reason for us to be aware of what our children are accessing online and having open conversations around social media use.

If you have any concerns regarding your child please contact me via School Enquiries.

Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head

It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.

Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly).... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.

Top Tips for Parents



TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is 0800 1111.

SOURCES
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56100000>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56100000>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56100000>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56100000>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Phone - 0800 368 8061

Exam News

Important information for all GCSE students

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 26th June 2019 as a 'contingency day' for examinations.

The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or local disruption to examinations. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. **Therefore all GCSE candidates must remain available until Wednesday 26th June 2019 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.**

Mrs Bono, Examinations Officer



Message from Reception

In recent weeks, before and after Half Term, we have had number of students with upset stomachs in school. If your child is unwell with an upset stomach, please may we ask that parents follow NHS advice that students should not come into school for 24 hours after their last bout of sickness, or 48 hours if they have sickness and diarrhoea. This helps to prevent it spreading to other students and staff.

Can we also request that you make sure we have up to date contact details for you to enable us to contact you if your child is unwell.

Thank you

Mrs Beasley & Mrs Denyer, Reception



8-17 March British Science Week 2019

The 20 Best Science Podcasts

Get Ready to Binge Listen!



As part of British Science Week (starting Friday 8th March), BGS will be promoting a range of activities both inside and out of the classroom. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming newsletters and in your assemblies. What better way to kick it off than listen to one of our recommended science podcasts.

Combat the pseudoscience and fake news that we are bombarded with on a daily basis by listening to one of our recommended podcasts. Whether you are interested in the origins of the universe, developments in modern medicine or the quirkier side of science there will be something to interest everyone.

For a more comprehensive list try this:

<https://www.geekwrapped.com/posts/the-20-best-science-podcasts>



Parents' Association News



Millennium Club Winners

January Winners

1st Prize - Number 64 - Bev Bailey
2nd Prize - Number 67 - Pamela Campbell

February Winners

1st Prize - Number 9 - Graham Threader
2nd Prize - Number 21 - Gary Russell

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 29th March

Doors open 7 pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £5 per person.

Max. 8 per team

Bring your own food and drink

**Please click [HERE](#) to
register your team**



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Rated 5 stars - Jan 2019

Barracudas, Airfield Industrial Estate, Unit 9, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2SH

Forthcoming Events

March

Thursday 7th

World Book Day 2019

Friday 8th

Beginning of British Science Week

Tuesday 12th

Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4pm - 6.30pm

Tuesday 26th

Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4pm - 6.30pm

Friday 29th

PA Quiz Night (see notice)



April

Tuesday 2nd

Power day 4

Friday 5th

Last school day of the Spring Term

Tuesday 23rd

First day of the Summer Term

June

Wednesday 26th

Awarding bodies designated GCSE 'contingency day' for examinations (see notice)