

# Newsletter



MEADOW PARK  
SCHOOL

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Thank you to all the Year 11 families who attended our Year 11 Information Evening last night. It was lovely to see such a high turnout. The evening gave families the opportunity to meet with subject leaders to discuss how best to support their child in preparing for the final examinations and coursework / controlled assessments. We were delighted to have a number of external visitors for the evening too to enable families to learn about the different courses on offer at universities and colleges; as well as employers who offer apprenticeships and different career entry points. In addition, we had the Army and Royal Air Force in attendance who were able to share the different options available to students. Families were also able to have a free hot meal cooked by our catering staff. There was a real buzz in the theatre and dining room and I hope families found it very useful.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November we will be hosting our Business and Innovation Sixth Form Centre Open Evening, where students in Year 11 will be able to learn more about the comprehensive list of courses we will be offering. Our current Year 12 and Year 13 students have settled well into our new Sixth Form building. To make it feel 'home' for them,

I set aside some money for Sixth Form students to spend on small furnishings and things for the kitchen and I am working with people behind the scenes to plan the expansion for next September.

We have two full weeks ahead of us before we break up for the half term, with a number of sporting fixtures, visits and celebration events planned. Thank you for supporting your child to arrive promptly to school each morning. As a reminder, Tutor Time starts at 8:45am and students therefore need to be on site ready to learn prior to this. They can take advantage of our free breakfasts that are available to all students each morning.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Mrs Pettman  
Headteacher

**Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together**





## Class of 2025

It was lovely to see parents, carers and students at the Information Evening last night – hopefully you picked up some useful tips on ways that you can support your child through their GCSE year. The resources from the evening will be available [here](#) soon. There are now only 3 weeks until the first Year 11 written mock exams which start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Practical exams in art and photography start on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. This means there is still time to make a difference to grades by attending school, arriving to lessons on time and revising at home.

Each week, in this newsletter, there will be a revision tip. Your child will be learning these revision strategies in their lessons. This week's tip allows students to test themselves. In order to support them, once they have made the flashcards, please test them on the information.

## Flashcards

Flashcards are small sheets of paper or card with matching pieces of information on either side. They are a useful tool for learning facts and allow your child to quickly check whether they have remembered something correctly.

1861	groynes	osmosis	Where is the pharmacy?
Pasteur published his paper about germ theory.	A low wall on the coastline which slows longshore drift	Net movement of water from a high concentration to low concentration across a partially permeable membrane	Où est la pharmacie?

## When making and using flashcards:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Do:</b>  | <b>Don't:</b>  |
| ✓ ...make flashcards quickly.   | X ...spend more time <i>making</i> flashcards than actually using them.    |
| ✓ ...put a single piece of information of each flashcard.                     | X ...put lots of information onto each flashcard.                          |
| ✓ ...sort your flashcards according to your confidence with them (see below). | X ...revise the flashcards in the same order every time that you use them. |
| ✓ ...test yourself on the flashcards from memory.                             | X ...only read through flashcards.   |

## Revision Guides

Revision guides are available on Parent Pay until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please place your orders before this time.

**Mrs Secker**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

**Word of the week is “displaced”**

**Miss Russell**  
**Director of English and Literacy**

# News from the Library

It's Fantasy Premier League time!

To get started, go to <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/> and click on 'sign up now':



## Register to Play Fantasy Premier League

With over 11 million players, Fantasy Premier League is the biggest Fantasy Football game in the world. It's **FREE to play and you can win great prizes!**

Sign Up Now

You'll need to enter a few details, including your school email, and create a password for yourself. (Students may also need to add a parent's email, so the appropriate adult can give them permission to join.) Once you've done all that, you should get an email with a link to click on to verify your account ... and then you're in!



Status

Points

Pick Team

Transfers

Leagues & Cups

Fixtures

The Scout

Podcast

Stats

Prizes

Help

Draft

More

The next step is to pick your players: you'll need to choose a full team (including substitutes) - but you only(!) have £100million to spend, and you can't have too many players from any one club. Mr Spencer will be available to help with this next Sporty Thursday lunchtime, so don't worry if you're not so sure about this bit.



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Finally, you'll need to go to the 'Leagues & Cups' tab in order to join the Meadow Park league. It's an invitational league, which means you'll need to enter a code to be allowed in; the code is `qklkxu`. (If you already have a team, this is the important bit for you!)

The whole week looks like this .....

Here's next week's plan ...

**Chillout Monday**

Mrs Dearden's Monday Book Club

**Rowdy Tuesday**

Game Off: a game of multiple mini head-to-head challenges

**Geeky Wednesday**

Lego Harry Potter game

**Sporty Thursday**

Fantasy Premier League: How to pick a team and join the Meadow Park league It's back

**Creative Friday**

Make your own board game

We look forward to seeing you in the Library, whatever you come for.

Happy reading!

**Mr Spencer**  
**Librarian and English Teacher**

## News from Science

This week in STEM club students learnt how to make bath bombs. Students used sodium bicarbonate, added some citric acid and mixed with oil to make the powdery texture of a bath bomb. Students then began experimenting by adding different colours to their mixture. They then added them to a variety of molds! Students will come back Monday to see if their bath bombs fizz!

STEM Club is every Monday after school in S04 with Miss Smallman, come and join us for some fun experiments!



**Miss Smallman**  
**STEM Co-ordinator**

## **News from PE!**

On Monday September 30th, athletes from Meadow Park School showcased their resilience and determination at a highly competitive cross-country KS3 and KS4 event, featuring 12 schools.

Despite the demanding course, our runners demonstrated exceptional spirit, pushing through to the finish line with great amounts of effort. Each athlete's performance was a testament to their hard work, making us super proud of their achievements. Well done Meadow Park 😊

**Miss Taylor**  
**PE Teacher**

Head of House Awards  
The Head of House Awards for last week  
were awarded to:



Hussain

Nita

Ollie

Halima

## New Parent App and School Communication

Please sign up to our new parent portal MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).



**DON'T FORGET** to enable push notifications for the MyChildAtSchool app on your phone so you can see all emails and letters the school sends you.

All schools in the Trust are using Bromcom and MCAS so for Meadow Park School, it means MCAS replaces School Synergy.

MCAS is now live, so as soon as you sign up you will be able to see your child's information. As School Synergy is linked to our old MIS it is no longer updating, therefore in order to view your child's timetable, see their attendance and behaviour points you will need to sign up to MCAS.

You have access to all the same information as you had in School Synergy. MCAS allows us to securely share your child's/children's achievement points, attendance, school reports, letters and school diary whenever you wish. The portal also provides general useful information about the school such as flash announcements. This will be our **primary means of communication** with you, from now on. Please make sure you enable notifications for MCAS as this is the way we will send you emails and letters.

To login to the MCAS Parent Portal, we have enabled you to 'self-sign on'. All you will need for this is your email address that the school has on record for you. Enter the school postcode CV34BD (without a space) or use our identifier 15028. Search for Meadow Park School.

### School Communication

All communication from school is now via Bromcom and if you sign up to the parent portal MCAS then you will receive notifications from the school via the app. You can view all letters and emails, past and present, in MCAS. If you don't have the app then you will receive a normal email. Please add '15028@bromcomcloud.com' to your address book in order to prevent messages being blocked by your spam/junk filters.

### How to Self-Sign Up for Parents

Parents and carers can access the MCAS Parent Login screen in two ways:

1. From within your web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com**
2. Download the free **MyChildAtSchool** parent app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

**When you use the parent portal for the first time you will need to Sign-Up. Full instructions have been emailed home or they can be found on our website.**

**If you require any assistance logging in for the first time, please contact the School Office by emailing [admin@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:admin@meadowparkschool.com) or telephone 02476 302580.**



# DOES YOUR CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS?

Get in touch with us if you would like to join our next SENDIASS Coffee Morning. Meet other parents in a similar situation. Share with others in a friendly, non-judgemental environment, together with a member of staff from SENDIASS.

## COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024  
(9.30AM-11.30AM)

**The Wave,**

**Coffee Tots Community Room**

New Union St, Coventry CV1 2PS

**FREE TEA AND COFFEE**

Special Educational Needs and Disability  
Information, Advice and Support Service

Make  
FRIENDS

A  
LISTENING  
EAR

LEARN  
FROM  
EACH  
OTHER

LAUGH  
TOGETHER

To book your place contact:

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Tel: 024 7669 4307 or email: [iass@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:iass@coventry.gov.uk)

## Year 11 Information Evening

Last night we held our Y11 Information Evening which was a wonderful opportunity to see so many students and their parents at this exciting time in their lives.

“It was a well-attended event and students and parents engaged well with the information” from Warwick University exhibitors.



# Uniform



MEADOWDALE SCHOOL



MEADOWDALE SCHOOL



MEADOWDALE SCHOOL



## School shoes guidance

Plain black with no logos  
No high heels, 'sliders', boots, sling back or open-toed shoes  
Black leather or leather effect


**TRAINERS AND CANVAS SHOES (VANS/CONVERSE) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE**



# Attendance Matters

MOMENTS  
MATTER.  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.

Get to know your child's attendance data:

	<b>90% and below: 19 days + absence a year</b> The Government classes Young People in this group as "Persistent Absentees"
	<b>95%: 10 days absence a year</b> These pupils are likely to achieve good grades.
	<b>Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year</b>
	<b>Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades.</b>

## Unauthorised absence during term time.

From 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 a **new National Framework** was introduced regarding penalty notices for **unauthorised absence** during term time.

**Unauthorised** absence includes:

- Leave of absence during term time.
- Absence where no valid reason has been provided.
- Arriving at school after the register has closed, resulting in a **U code**.
- A Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued if a student receives 10 **unauthorised absences** within a 10 week period.

## Punctuality

Pupils must arrive in school by 8:40am on each school day. The register for the first session will be taken in Tutor time at 8.45am and will be kept open until 9:15am.

Please discuss travel arrangements with your child to ensure they arrive on time.

**Parents will be notified if students are arriving late to school.**

## Reporting your child's absence

It is a legal requirement that you report your child's absence daily by calling the school on **02476 302580** and selecting **option 1**. Please leave your child's **name, year group** and **specific reason** for absence.

Alternatively, you can email the student absence line:

[studentabsence@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:studentabsence@meadowparkschool.com)

**ABSENCE MUST BE REPORTED DAILY**

## How do days off affect attendance?

	Percentage of attendance
<b>4 days absent =98%</b>	<b>96 - 100%</b>
<b>8 days absent = 96%</b>	<b>95 - 96% STAGE 1</b>
<b>10 days absent = 95%</b>	<b>90 - 95% STAGE 2</b>
<b>19 days absent =90%</b>	<b>85 - 90% STAGE 3</b>
<b>29 days absent = 85%</b>	<b>Below 85% STAGE 4</b>

## Autumn Term 2024

Teacher Inset Days	Monday 2nd September & Tuesday 3rd September
Term Starts (Students Return)	Wednesday 4th September – Years 7 and 12 Thursday 5th September – Years 11 and 13 Friday 6th September – All other year groups
Half Term	Saturday 26th October – Sunday 3rd November
Teacher Inset Day	Friday 29th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20th December
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 21st December – Sunday 5th January

## Spring Term 2025

Teacher Inset Days	Monday 6th January & Tuesday 7th January
Term Starts	Wednesday 8th January
Half Term	Saturday 15th February – Sunday 23rd February
Last Day of Term	Friday 11th April
Easter Holiday	Saturday 12th April – Sunday 27th April

## Summer Term 2025

Term Starts	Monday 28th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Saturday 24th May – June 1st June
Last Day of Term	Friday 18th July
Summer Holiday Starts	Saturday 19th July

## Enrichment Clubs - Autumn Term

	Break	Lunch	After School
Monday	Basketball <b>Sports hall</b>	Chillout Monday <b>Library</b> Book Club <b>Library</b> Independent Study <b>G03</b>	Year 7 Football <b>Field</b> Girls Football (all years) <b>Field</b> KS3 Basketball <b>Sports Hall</b> Dungeons and Dragons <b>S06</b> STEM Club <b>S04</b> Fashion and Textiles <b>T04 (10 spaces!)</b> MPTC Rehearsals <b>G18</b>
Tuesday	Basketball <b>Sports hall</b>	Rowdy Tuesday <b>Library</b> Chess Club <b>F05</b>	Year 10+11 Football <b>Field</b> Netball <b>Sports Hall</b> KS3 Rugby <b>Field</b> MPTC Rehearsals <b>G16</b>
Wednesday	Basketball <b>Sports hall</b>	Geeky Wednesday <b>Library</b>	(STAFF TRAINING)
Thursday	Basketball <b>Sports hall</b>	Sporty Thursday <b>Library</b>	Year 8+9 Football <b>Field</b> Badminton + Table Tennis <b>Sports Hall</b> Robotics Club <b>F18 (10 spaces!)</b> Cooking Club <b>F22 (15 spaces!)</b> Music Practice <b>G16</b> Craft Club <b>F23</b>
Friday	Basketball <b>Sports hall</b>	Creative Friday <b>Library</b> Crochet Club <b>Wk1 G04 wk2 G08</b>	KS4 Basketball <b>Sports Hall</b>

**Miss Johnson**  
**Enrichment Co-ordinator**

# Safeguarding

Snapchat – Advice and guidance for Parents and Carers

This week we wanted to remind our parents and carers about SNAPCHAT and encourage you to check your children's accounts to ensure they are using this popular app safely!

Being so easily connected to our friends and family is great, but does not come without its risks.

Concerns for adults to be aware of – the widespread adding into large group chats which risk exposing children to unknown risky adults, explicit content as well being a source for the selling of stolen or counterfeit, drugs and vapes. Having SnapMaps/ Location turned on within the app also allows everyone connected to see their exact location, a HUGE concern if they are connected with risky unknown adults or even peers who may have made threats towards them (i.e. fight).

These are all real risks posed to our children and the safe use of Snapchat requires the adults around them to be checking and talking to them about how to stay safe, to speak up to the adults if they see something they are worried about or face online abuse.

Please take the time to read through the attached guide for additional information and remember that Snapchat's minimum user age is 13yrs for a reason.

Thank you for helping to keep our students to stay safe!

**Paul Rule**  
**Child Protection Officer &**  
**Senior Pastoral Support Manager**

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCAMS AND BLACKMAIL

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages feature by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them (regardless of whether it is true or not) and will share them online unless they send them money. Teens then (understandably) panic and worry about the long-term consequences. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – either on this app or others.

#### EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight'. It claims the content shown here is relevant to each user, but it could also be seen as an easy way to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore,

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

#### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

#### VISIBLE LOCATION

A feature called 'SnapMaps' highlights your device's exact position on a virtual map, which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, selected friends or just you. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to help friends keep track of each other – but it could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET CONTROLS VIA FAMILY CENTRE

Snapchat has parental controls called 'Family Centre'. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. This allows you to view their friends list, see who they have chatted with in the last 7 days (but not to view the specific messages) and report any concerns.

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind children that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some 'challenges' which become popular on the platform may have harmful consequences.

### TALK ABOUT REAL LIFE SCAMS

If a young person is mature enough to have Snapchat, then they are mature enough to have a conversation about scams, nudes and blackmail. Have this discussion before you let them join. Share some real-life examples. Discuss the importance of never adding strangers and discourage them from sharing nudes. If they are lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately, then block and delete the predator and screenshot any evidence.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone a user adds unless they change their settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled. It's safest for a child to avoid adding people they don't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows people to see where users regularly visit.

### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage children to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that option – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College





**MEADOW PARK  
SCHOOL**

THRIVING TOGETHER