

Newsletter



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Students from Years 9 and 10 have taken part in a series of visits and workshops this week as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards (Silver and Bronze). This has included walks and expedition practices as well as a day working in teams learning how to put up tents, cook, navigate and plan for the real expeditions later this year. I have mentioned before I am a huge fan of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards with my own children completing Gold. The skills students develop through this programme not only prepare them for further education, training and employment, but for life. We are fortunate to be recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Awards for the high quality programmes we run and each year have received financial support for students. The Awards are open to children in Years 9 upwards and you don't have to have completed Bronze to be able to progress to Silver. If you would like to find out more, please do contact Ms Cresswell.

After half term, Year 11 begin the next and final mock examinations. It is really important that they use the half term break to revise and prepare. We are entering our highest number ever of students for Higher Tier Mathematics as we believe the students are capable of achieving the top grades only available to

Higher Tier. Similarly, in Year 10, over half the year group are being taught Higher Tier with a view to them achieving this next year when they are Year 11. In order to achieve good grades in all subjects, students need to spend an average of 2 hours a day revising after school. We run a series of revision and intervention sessions in all subjects for Year 11, to support their learning in lesson, but ultimately we need students to put in the hard work at home too. Please encourage your child to use time productively, in all year groups, to consolidate their learning.

Thank you to all of you who have already donated items of uniform that have been outgrown by your child which have now passed on to other families who are delighted to receive them. We continue to collect any unwanted or outgrown items which can be dropped to the main school office at any time the school is open.

As we embark on half term, I have reminded students in my assembly about the importance of keeping safe online as well as when being out and about during the holidays. School reopens to ALL year groups at the normal time of 8:40 on Monday 24th February 2025. I wish you all a lovely break.

Mrs Pettman, Headteacher


Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Issue: 14 February 2025

Meadow Park Uniform Swap Shop



MEADOW
PARK
SCHOOL

**Outgrown a blazer?
Ripped a shirt?
Need PE Kit?**

Come and choose
FREE pre-loved school
uniform at our Uniform
Swap Shop.

We have lots of outgrown, pre-loved branded school uniform, trousers, coats and much more...

Donations

Families can **donate** their old or unused uniform to the shop. **Washed, good-quality** uniform, that you no longer need, can be brought to the swap shop or handed in at Reception.

Free

Our swap shop provides **free** uniform to those who need it. If you do not have anything to swap, you can make a donation for the items you need.

Exchange

Families can **exchange** their old uniform for new **pre-loved** items that fit better. Please bring in any washed, good-quality uniform that you would like to swap.

Open

Our **Uniform Swap Shop** is open on the **last Friday every month during term-time** in the old Visitor Reception, next to the Sixth Form Centre, from **9am to 10am and 3pm to 4pm.**

SAVE money, REDUCE waste, HELP the environment. Ask in school for details.



Family Hub & CIRV Youth Takeover Event

Dive into Coventry's Youth Scene
with a FREE fun day of workshops and
activities at The Moat Family Hub

19.02.2025 11:00AM - 14:00PM

The Moat Family Hub, Coventry, CV2 1EQ

A FREE event for Coventry families
with activities including

Music | Multi-Sports | Virtual Reality |
Arts & Crafts | Food | Youth Partners |
And Much More

In partnership with



Create it.
Shape it.
Embrace it.

We have a series of day camps available for children and young people who are aged 9-13 years old. Coventry Outdoors Activity Camps gets children and young people into the wild, where they will learn and experience an unforgettable adventure, from survival techniques to all sorts of outdoor activities and challenges, whilst making new friends and having lots of fun!

We strongly believe that being outdoors fully-immersed in the natural environment helps children and young people explore different ways to boost self-awareness and confidence, cultivate greater happiness and find greater wellbeing.

Activities:

- Combat Archery
- Laser Tag
- Bushcraft
- Survival Skills

Dates: Monday 17th February, Tuesday 18th February, Wednesday 19th February

Time: 10am – 3pm

Price: £25 per day (10% discount applies to all Coventry residents with a [#GoCV](#) card. You can find the promo code [HERE](#))

Limited spaces available, to book on to our Half Term Activities visit [//www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Outdoor Education Team
Coventry City Council - Outdoor Education



X @CovOutdoors f @CovOutdoors @coventryoutdoors

www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors

February half term Activity Camp '25

17 - 19 February

Coombe Abbey Park, Coventry CV3 7

Have a go at:

- ✓ Combat Archery
- ✓ Laser Tag
- ✓ Bushcraft
- ✓ Survival Skills

**9-13
years**

**10am
-3pm**

**£25pp
per day**



Information and Discussion Session for Parents/Carers

In partnership with Coventry Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Learning Team (SEMHL)

Wednesday 26th February 2025 10am-12pm

Coventry Council House, Committee Room 3, Earl Street, CV1 5RR



Key areas we will explore in this session

- Give parents 'Top Tips' to help, support and empower children with dyslexia.
- Focus on strengths and challenges
- Discuss working with school, and the process of assessment.

Book now by contacting Coventry SENDIASS Team. QUOTE: 'DYSLEXIA'

TEL: 024 7669 4307 or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk

Head of House Awards

The Head of House Awards were
awarded to:



Kyrell
Sienna
Ami
Henry

News from the Library!

Wow - what a busy half term it's been! Mrs Dearden and Mr Spencer have had a lot of fun, not least at the MAT Poetry Festival this Wednesday, where our students represented the school beautifully.

After a busy week with the book fair, Library clubs will resume after the break:

Chillout Monday

Mrs Dearden's Reading Club (F17)

Monday after school

Dungeons & Dragons

Rowdy Tuesday

Noggin (fast-paced word game)

Tuesday after school

Library open for revision etc

Geeky Wednesday

Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit

Sporty Thursday

Dice Golf

Thursday after school

Library open for revision etc

Creative Friday

Quick Sketch

We hope you have a fabulous holiday - make sure to rest as well as revising! - and we look forward to seeing you in a week.

Happy reading!

**Mr Spencer and Mrs Dearden
Librarians**

Enrichment Clubs - Spring Term

	Break	Lunch	After School
Monday	Basketball Sports Hall	Chillout Monday Library Book Club F17	KS3 Basketball Sports Hall Girls Basketball Small Gym Student Dungeons and Dragons LRC Fashion and Textiles T04 (10 spaces!) MPTC Rehearsals G16
Tuesday	Basketball Sports Hall	Rowdy Tuesday Library Chess Club F05 Y11 Girls Netball Sports Hall Science Club S05	Netball Small Gym Rugby Club Field KS3 Badminton Sports Hall Drop in Free and Easy LRC MPTC Rehearsals G16 Homework / Coursework Club F23
Wednesday	Basketball Sports Hall	Geeky Wednesday Library	(STAFF TRAINING)
Thursday	Basketball Sports Hall	Sporty Thursday Library Year 8/9 Girls Basketball Sports Hall	Badminton Sports Hall Trampolining Small Gym Robotics Club F18 (10 spaces!) Music Practice G16 Craft Club F23 Drop in Free and Easy LRC Homework / Coursework Club F23
Friday	Basketball Sports Hall	Creative Friday Library Crochet Club Wk1 G04 wk2 G08	KS4 Basketball Sports Hall KS3 Trampolining Small Gym

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 or telephone 02476 302580.

Uniform



Green school blazer



Grey school sweater



Tie



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



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

Safeguarding Newsletter: **What Parents need to know about Online Dating and relationships**

With the rise in their popularity – an estimated 18% of the UK Population (11+ Million users!) it is no surprise that during the OFCOM Consultation in the lead up to the online Safety Act found that some children and young people use these apps – Regardless of the Age Restrictions! It's vital parents are aware of this and know the risks associated with these apps including online harassment, abuse and sharing/ receipt of explicit images and sexually mature conversation.

Please take the time to read through the attached guide and take the time to check your child's phone habits and talk to them about anything that concerns or worries you.

Who is REAL and Who is FAKE? – Childline has released a video covering Sextortion and Scams. It stars **The CHARVAS** who are teenage social media influencers. They chat to 3 girls and have to work out who is real and who is fake. Who is 'Leng' and who is a 'Liar'. It highlights just how easy it is to be 'fooled' and links in with the dangers of online profiles.

[Can The Charvas work out who is REAL and who is FAKE? | Childline - YouTube](#)




Want some advice around setting parental controls?


Parental control apps like [Google Family Link](#), [Screen Time](#) and [Microsoft Family](#) can let you set limits across devices, apps and platforms :

SAFE SETTINGS, CONTROLS & MONITORING

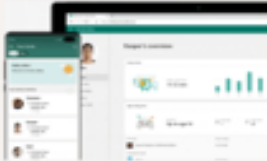
Apple, Android and Microsoft have tools to help you control what younger children can use and how long for. Click the images below for details. Once they are older and have your trust, the same tools can help avoid arguments and help them learn to self-regulate (how long have they really been on Insta today? have they put down the phone at all in the last week?).



Apple Screen Time
Great for both parental controls and teen self-regulation



Google Family Link
[Digital Wellbeing](#) is the next step for the older ones after Family Link



Microsoft Family Safety
There are no self-regulation features for older teens, but Family Safety is great for the younger ones

Visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> or parentsafe.lgfl.net/ for additional advice and tips on settings and controls for all devices

Stay Safe!

Paul Rule
Child Protection Officer &
Senior Pastoral Support Manager

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This creates the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating world populated by adults – who may not see the more of the young person's true age. This is increasing when we consider the 'look-alike' nature common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is online on a dating app, their social media profile can be shared. The app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DMs' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start harassing a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they need to pay for a visa) and requesting a bank to cover a 'trust deposit'.

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without proper verification, users of dating apps can often only show a certain number of profiles at a time. A typical trend has adults and young people to set their age limit to 18 years and over – putting them in a 'grey' and 'restricted' category in apps that are used by under-18s. Unfortunately this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a last-resort way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about other appearances. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged, from whom someone does start dating. There's a potential pressure that this picture is only one side of a coin that's a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Replicate the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices, if they feel uncomfortable talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know how to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

Meet Our Expert

Believe Jennings works at NANE (www.nationalcollege.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to establish a user's identity, including scanning with documents (such as a driver's license or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Reinforce young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.



The National College



MEADOW PARK SCHOOL

THRIVING TOGETHER