

News from Abbey Park School

Term 5 - May 2026

'Potential into Performance'



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Principal

'Potential into Performance'

It's been another busy term at Abbey Park!

Our Year 11 pupils have now officially begun their GCSE exams, and we could not be prouder of the dedication and resilience they have shown in the lead up. On behalf of all the staff at Abbey Park, we wish each and every one of them the very best of luck.

Year 10 pupils have also been hard at work, tackling their mock exams with maturity and determination. These assessments are a valuable opportunity to prepare for the year ahead, and we've been equally impressed by the effort and focus shown across the board. Keep up the great work!

This term, as part of our careers focus, Year 9 pupils took part in a Careers Day in collaboration with Nationwide. The pupils worked with business representatives from Nationwide on a marketing project, culminating in the presentation of their ideas. Our pupils engaged well, demonstrated teamwork and represented the school brilliantly, with some great feedback from the Nationwide representatives. Well done Year 9!

As I write this, I have just been into the main hall this afternoon to listen to a couple of the acts rehearsing for tonight's "APS Got Talent!" show. It's sounding great so far and I am really looking forward to seeing the whole show later. A huge well done to all the performers and staff who have made this event possible. And on the theme of talent shows, it has been fantastic to see the school Street so vibrantly decorated in flags of all countries in the lead up to the annual Eurovision Song Contest, celebrating the rich diversity of languages and cultures that make up our school community. Even if the UK entry only ended up with 1 point in the final, the spirit across the school has been excellent!

As we approach our final term of the year, there is still a busy and exciting programme ahead before the academic year closes. A number of trips and events are planned, including theatre visits, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, trips to Bletchley Park and the Belgium Battlefields, the Conover Hall residential, and of course our Sports Day.

Lastly, this term we say goodbye to Mr Stevens in the maths department who is retiring through ill health. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Stevens for his many years of service and commitment to Abbey Park and we wish him all the best in the future.

Looking ahead, as our Year 11 near the end of their time with us, we are also preparing for key transition moments. Our Year 10 pupils will soon begin their college visits as they plan their next steps, while we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort during the Year 6 induction days, introducing them to life at Abbey Park and our core values.

Wishing all our pupils a great break and see you next term!

Regards,

Mr Ward
Principal

Reminder: There is an INSET day on Monday 1st June so pupils do not start back until Tuesday 2nd June (with the exception of the Year 11 pupils taking their GCSE PE exam on Monday morning).

Modern Foreign Languages

🎵❤️ Eurovision Comes to Life in MFL! ❤️🎵

This term, the **Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)** department brought the sparkle, colour, and community spirit of the **Eurovision Song Contest** right into the heart of our school!

Eurovision is all about celebrating different countries, cultures, languages, and people coming together through music — and we thought... why not bring that same celebration into our corridors and canteen?

A Taste of Europe in Our Canteen

Working closely with our fantastic catering team, the MFL department helped design a **special Eurovision-inspired lunch menu** featuring delicious dishes from countries taking part in Eurovision week.

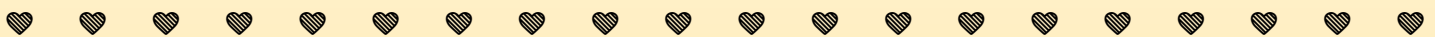
Our Eurovision Menu included:



❤️ Hearts, Flags, Unity and Inclusion

Pupils from all year groups came together as a community for a creative project with a powerful message.

They designed and coloured **European flags inside heart shapes**, which were then carefully strung across the school courtyard and reminded us that although we come from different backgrounds and speak different languages, we are one school community .



A huge thank you to all pupils, staff, and the catering team who helped make this celebration such a success. The MFL department is incredibly proud of the creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork shown by everyone involved.

Did you know? Some songs are **multilingual**, switching between 2, 3 or even 4 languages in one performance! One Eurovision song (Norway, 1973) was even performed in **12 different languages**—including English, French, Spanish, Hebrew and Finnish—all in the same performance!

Ms Legatelois
Modern Foreign Language teacher

Humanities



Celebrating Sir David Attenborough turning 100

During the week commencing the 4th of May, the Humanities department taught a lesson to KS3 pupils on the life and career of Sir David Attenborough to mark his 100th birthday on the 8th of May.

For over 70 years, David Attenborough has inspired curiosity, wonder, and respect for the natural world through his ground breaking wildlife programmes and lifelong dedication to conservation. During the lesson, pupils explored his achievements, the contributions that he has made to science and conservation, and the important message he shares about protecting Earth for future generations.

Pupils took an interest in how he got into making wildlife documentaries and enjoyed watching some old clips from his earlier series such as Zoo Quest and Life on Earth.

Earth Day Competition

Earth day theme: "Our power, our planet"

The purpose of Earth Day each year is to turn global concern into clear, shared, and achievable actions for the planet. It focuses on encouraging individuals to make a difference to their lives in order to protect the planet.

An optional competition was set where pupils were asked to create a collage of the earth using recycled materials. Some fantastic collages were received with recycled materials used and clear messages displayed explaining the importance of planet earth. Rewards will be given to pupils shortly.

Some examples of the collages are shown below:



Term 5 has continued to be a term of team and individual sporting success.

Judo Northern Ireland Open

Emily W in Year 9 has continued with her judo quest having recently competed in the Northern Ireland Open, Emily picked up a bronze medal. These competitions also give point towards black belt qualification and also national ranking points. Emily is currently ranked 8th in GB in her age group is also West England champion.



Swindon Schools Delta Gymnastics competition

Mrs Humphrey and Mr Maggs had the pleasure of taking 21 APS gymnasts to compete in the Swindon Schools Delta Gymnastics competition. It was a fantastic event, with all pupils taking part in both a vault and floor routine they choreographed. The standard of performance was incredibly high, and it was amazing to see our pupils competing at such a competitive level, demonstrating advanced skills and a high level of tariff difficulty.

We were particularly impressed with how the pupils conducted themselves throughout the day. They showed excellent sportsmanship, supporting their teammates as well as other competitors, and represented APS superbly. Their behaviour did not go unnoticed, with staff from other schools commenting on how fantastic they were.

A huge well done to all the gymnasts involved — they were a real credit to the school!

Competition Results:

Year 7

Group B: Overall Champion - Amelia S
 Group 1: 1st Vault - Sophie S
 1st Overall - Sophie S
 Group 2: 2nd Vault - Amelia S
 2nd Floor - Amelia S
 Group 2: 1st Overall - Amelia S

Year 8

Group B: Overall Champion - Olivia R
 Group 1: 1st Floor - Bella T
 2nd Floor - Olivia R
 Group 1: 1st Vault - Olivia R
 2nd Vault - Bella T
 1st Overall - Olivia R
 2nd Overall - Bella T
 Group 2: 1st Vault - Natalia S
 3rd Overall - Natalia S

Year 9

Group B: 1st Floor - Elise K
 2nd Floor - Freya N
 2nd Vault - Masie S
 1st Overall - Maisie S
 2nd Overall - Freya N

Year 8 Football

Our Year 8 football team have had a very successful season reaching two finals; Swindon Schools U14 & the U14 County Cup. Unfortunately, we lost the Swindon Schools final on penalties to Dorcan but this did not dampen spirits with the County Cup the following week against GWA. As defending champions, APS had a trophy to defend and didn't want to give that up. APS came away victorious with a 1-0 win.



Squad:

James B, Ruairidh D, Ellis W,
 Sebastian W, Charlie W, Rocco C,
 Lewis P, David A, Kieran J, Louis M,
 Edan J, Amelia D, Cameron L and
 Reece B

PE continued

Year 8 Girls Basketball

The Year 8 girls finished a very successful basketball campaign having won all of their games to reach 'Finals week'. They played Bradon & Dorcan. The team put in a strong performance across both games, starting with a well-earned 14–8 victory against Bradon. The players showed great teamwork and defensive discipline, which allowed them to control the game and create consistent scoring opportunities. In the second match against Dorcan, the team faced a tougher challenge and narrowly lost 12–8. Despite the result, it was a closely contested game, with the players continuing to show determination and resilience. We were just a little bit tired after the 1st game so on another night we could have definitely challenged for the win.



Squad:

Millie K, Favour P, Amielia W, Faith D, Drusilla B-A, Precious M, Utjiua G

As soon as the basketball and football season finished, we have now started our summer season of activities and sports.

In cricket our opening matches ended in narrow defeats to Lawn Manor (Y9/10) and RWBA (Y7/8).

Rounders season kicked off with a closely fought match against Kingsdown. The Year 7 team won 21-18 and the Year 8 team lost 10-11.

In term 6's newsletter look out for Rounders & Cricket updates including festivals. Highlights from the Athletics Championships and of course our own Sports Day in July.

Mrs Wall

PE teacher

Events in School

'Potential into Performance'

On Friday 24th April, our Year 11 pupils received their motivational letters, written by parents, guardians, family members, friends and staff. Many were genuinely surprised, and it was deeply touching to see their reactions as they opened and read the messages. What began as shock often turned into quiet emotion and then into heartfelt smiles. Moments like these remind us how powerful your support is.

These letters have a significant and lasting impact, and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed. We would also like to extend our warm thanks to Ms Asbury-Semmens for carefully collating each letter and ensuring every pupil received a personal message of encouragement.

Thank you for your continued support over the past few years. Your children are a pleasure to work with, and your partnership with the school has played an important role in their growth. As they move into the final stages of their exam preparation, please know that your words, belief and encouragement will stay with them. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and confident they will approach their exams with determination and pride.



Mrs Hatcliffe
Head of Year

Y11 – Session 6 GCSE support

TERM 6: Year 11 – Session 6 – GCSE support

Session 6 Revision for Year 11 will continue until the exam finishes

- Sessions will run from 3.15pm for a maximum of one hour
- Although Curriculum Leaders may advise attendance, sessions are open to all pupils
- **Attendance is on a voluntary, 'drop in', basis. Pupils do not need to sign up to a whole term**
- Registers will be taken
- The LRC is open for private study after school
- Pupils in detention in the Assembly Hall are not permitted to attend Session 6 in place of a detention. They are able to undertake private revision. Resources are available.

	Subject	Room	Staff
TUESDAY	Photography (Also open to Year 10)	BG71	CP
	Further Maths Qualification	RF20	LB
	Science	YG97	JSh
	DT	TBC	SO
	Drama practical	DS	DB
	Business Studies	RG30	MR
Tuesday 2nd & Tuesday 10th June (previously took place on Wednesday's)	*MATHS PAST PAPER CLUB	ALL	Maths classrooms
THURSDAY	History	GF48	CPI
	Geography	GF43	SB/CT
	French	GF34	VL
	Spanish	TBC	Staff on rotation
	Art (Also open to Year 10)	BF61	AS/JWh
	DT	BG80	BQ/AN
	Computer Science	RG30	CH
	**Music	MU	MH/AF
FRIDAY	Media Studies	BG71	NE/KVS
	Drama theory	DS	DB

*** Maths Past Paper Club** – moved from Wednesday's to Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 9th June in line with exams taking place on Wednesday 3rd and Wednesday 10th June.

****Music** – Moved from Friday to Thursday.

After-School Enrichment & Lunch Time Clubs

Signing-up to after-school enrichment clubs:

- **Free clubs** - sign-up for free after-school clubs has now been added to **ePraise**. Parents and pupils are both able to **sign-up via the ePraise app**.
- **Paid for clubs** will continue to be added or remain on Arbor.

Full details of the activities can be found listed below.

**sign-up to these clubs opens at 6pm on Friday 22nd May.*

Club	Day	Room	Year Group
KS3 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y7, 8 & 9
KS4 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y10 & 11
*KS3 Interhouse Rounders	Monday	Field	Y7, 8 & 9
*All Girls Rounders	Tuesday	Field	All
*All Volleyball	Tuesday	Gym	All
Musical Theatre Group	Tuesday	TV Studio	All
Y8 & 9 Swindon Town Football Club training	Tuesday	Football Pitch	Y8 & 9 (max 30)
*All Cricket	Wednesday	Astro/Field	All
*All Hockey	Wednesday	Astro	All
*All Pickleball	Wednesday	Gym	All
Rock School	Wednesday	Music	All
Crochet & Cross-Stitch Club	Wednesday	GF45	Come along with your own crochet hook and wool to practice or have an opportunity to continue your pieces of crochet
*All Girls Netball	Thursday	MUGA	All
Composition Club	Thursday	MU1	Y9, 10 & 11
Bronze/Silver Arts Award	Thursday	MU1	Information emailed separately
Anime & Manga club	Thursday	LRC	All
KS4 Dungeons & Dragons	Friday	GG45	Y10 & Y11 - sign-up through Miss Peele
Choir	Friday	Music	All

In addition to our after-school enrichment clubs, we also offer lunchtime clubs. No sign-up is required, please just turn up if you wish to take part. Below is a selection of the lunchtime clubs on offer:

Day	Club
Monday	KS3 Rounders – Field (meet at the outdoor store cupboard) All Table Tennis – Dance Studio Open Mic Night – MU1 All Dance – Dance Studio
Tuesday	Table Tennis – Outside Y10 Photography – BG71 Y10 Art – BF61
Wednesday	GIRLS Benchball – Gym Table Tennis – Outside KS4 Boys Basketball – Gym Year 8 Football – Field
Thursday	Table Tennis – Outside Y10 Photography – BG71 KS3 Art Club – BF63 with Miss White (Year 10s are welcome to use the space to finish off coursework too)
Friday	Y8 Boys Basketball – Gym

Useful Information

Buying books

In the library we try to keep a wide variety of books and authors, however it is impossible to stock everything. If your child enjoys reading it can be difficult to keep up with buying them books, especially in the current economic climate.

So here are a few tips to keep costs down:

- Join your local library, it is free to join and you can borrow up to 16 books at a time.
- While at the library, many have a withdrawn section where you can take as many books as you can carry for £1.
- Charity shops often have a book section, the bonus is you can return them when you have finished and support a good cause.
- Discount book shops such as The Works offer a wide range of books at discount prices.
- Online WoB (World of Books) is a secondhand book shop which offers books at a reasonable price and offers free delivery in the UK.

Local libraries

North Swindon Library

Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

01793 707120

northswindon.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 2.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday - closed
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday - closed
- Friday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Sunday - 11.00am - 3.00pm

Central Library

Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

01793 463238

central.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Thursday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Friday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Sunday – closed

Local Bookshops

Bert's Books

54 Godwin Court, Swindon, SN1 4BB

07949 190977

bert@bertsbooks.co.uk

Opening hours

- Monday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Saturday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday - 10.30am – 4.00pm

Waterstones

3 Canal Walk, Swindon SN1 1LD

01793 436465

www.waterstones.com

Opening Hours

- Monday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Thursday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

School uniform donations

We'd be grateful for any outgrown items pupils no longer need.

If they have any of the following in good condition, please consider donating them rather than letting them sit unused.

- Revision guides or set texts
- Maths equipment (e.g. protractors, geometry sets)
- School uniform (blazers, ties, PE kits)
- Bags



Please drop donations off at reception. These resources will directly support our younger pupils.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping our school community thrive.

Warm regards,

Mr Stubbs

Assistant Principal

Pupil Laptops

When pupils are given a school laptop to use at home, please ensure the software and antivirus are updated by turning the laptop on weekly.

Please return the laptop to the school reception or IT office if it is no longer in use at home so that it can be distributed to pupils who now need a device.

If you're experiencing any problems with the laptop at home, please let us know.



IT Support



Safeguarding information

At Abbey Park we are committed to ensuring a culture of safeguarding in our school and it is paramount in all we do. We hope that our termly safeguarding update will give you an overview of our approach, offer some useful guidance and information and inform you of what your child is learning in school about how to keep themselves safe. For more information about safeguarding, please look at our website:

What does Safeguarding look like at Abbey Park?

At Abbey Park School we follow the Government policy document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This is statutory guidance for all schools in England to follow and comply with. It has recently been updated and therefore our safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect this. You can find this on our safeguarding section on the school website. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in making sure that children grow up having the best life chances. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all adults should make sure their approach puts the child at the centre of the decision making and that the best interests of the child are always considered. We believe that it is in the best interest of our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school. Our safeguarding themes are woven into lessons across the curriculum, into assemblies and throughout daily life in school. Here are just a few examples of how we teach safeguarding at Abbey Park:

- Dedicated safeguarding team in school every day
- Pastoral support for each year group.
- Pastoral Support Assistants who have specialist training in supporting a child in their social and emotional needs
- Members of staff who have completed basic mental health training
- Mental health pupil ambassadors
- Mental health staff ambassadors
- A dedicated mental health lead – Mrs Stevens
- Wellbeing Wednesday each Wednesday Tutor time looking at how to look after mental health
- Assemblies and lessons taught throughout the year, including but not extensively, anti-bullying, equality, diversity, fire, sun, children's safety, exploitation, sexual harassment and violence and online safety.
- PHSE curriculum covering how to be healthy, having healthy relationships and developing emotional literacy
- Online safety curriculum
- RSE (Relationships and sex education) curriculum
- Weekly tutor time reminders about staying safe in school and our expectations

If you need any support with your child, please contact a member of the safeguarding Team.

Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Kara Stevens



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Lorraine Hatcliffe



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Ms Vanessa Redondo



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Miss Stacey Prince



Food bank and Boxes of Hope

We understand that times are incredibly challenging for many families right now, and making choices between essentials like food and electricity is a reality no one should have to face. Please know you're not alone, and there is support available. If you're finding things difficult, our Pastoral team is here to help—whether it's referring you to the local food bank or accessing a Box of Hope to ease the pressure. You only need to ask, and we'll do everything we can to support you with care and confidentiality.

Contact details and circumstances – please keep us up to date!

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for every parent/carer. If you change your phone number, e-mail or move house, please let the admin team know or update it on Arbor. We also need at least two emergency contacts for your child. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. We also ask that you keep us up to date with any changes in your personal circumstances that may impact your child. Please see below the contact details of the safeguarding team.

Mrs Stevens: stevensk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Mrs Hatcliffe: hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Redondo: redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Prince: princes@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Contact details:

Please can we ask that you ensure the school has at least two contact details in case of an emergency. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. This can be done on Arbor.



Useful contacts:

'Contact Swindon' has changed its name and is now known as Children and Families Contact Swindon. If you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker, family services worker without going through school please call - 01793 464646

If you have concerns that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999

School Nursing team – for support to help children with their physical, mental and emotional well-being and referring to other specialist agencies.

Tel – 01793 465050 or email snn@swindon.gov.uk



Online safety guidance for parents - <https://>

Assembly and PSHE this term

At Abbey Park School all pupils attend Assemblies and PSHE sessions each week.

During term 5 pupils have had the following assemblies: APS Proud to Learn, Earth Day, Careers, PSHE Allyship and Mental Health.

During PSHE this term pupils have been learning about the following topics:

Year 7	Drugs Education
Year 8	Health & Wellbeing: Identity & Relationships
Year 9	Healthy Relationships
Year 10	CEIAG & Staying safe

Social care or external agency involvement

A polite request to keep the Pastoral team updated if your child is receiving support from social services or any external agencies. This will enable us to ensure the right support is given at the right time.

Special guardianship orders or unofficial care givers

Just a reminder to keep the school updated if a child is under a Special guardianship order or unofficial care placement to ensure they receive any support needed.

Attendance matters:

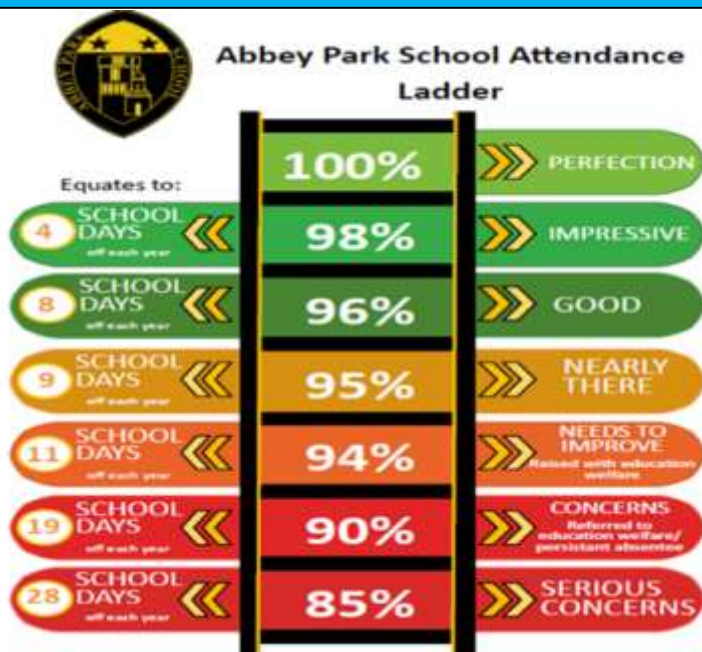
Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance to school and better outcomes for young adults.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance please contact your Child's Head of Key stage, PSA or Miss Anstee for support.

First aid

Just a reminder that we can only offer first aid in school. We are not able to treat pre-existing conditions as we are only first aiders.

Paracetamol – we will not issue any paracetamol to pupils during P5 to ensure pupils do not take another dose at home.



Safeguarding information

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, UKIE, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS



Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle. So, when friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Donal Upstampe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, social media and web3. He has also written the guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Warzone, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and iDroid, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://t1p1.app/about/privacy.html>



Safeguarding information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is highly popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing, some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content; usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history; so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Caitlynn Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP

Abbey Park Music Department
needs instruments!

We could make use of any
unused/unwanted instruments you may
have sat in the attic or cupboard.
Please send into school and help bring
the Music Department alive!



hutchingsc@abbeyparkschool.org.uk if
you require any more information



Swindon
Music
Co-operative

Music Lessons

Drums. Singing, Guitar. Ukulele. Piano

& Violin *At Abbey Park School*

Why choose our lessons?

- Convenient: Lessons happen during the school day, no extra travel required
- Flexible: Arranged directly with you after application
- Expert Tuition: Professional, experienced music teachers

Lesson Options & Prices

15 minute individual lesson or 30 minute paired lesson. £8.75

20 minute individual lesson. £11.70

30 minute individual lesson. £17.50

45 minute individual lesson (online only)

Prices are per lesson

Shared lesson options

(please note, not available for Piano or Drums)

-3 pupils in 30 minutes

-2 pupils in 20 minutes



Let the Music Begin - Apply now!



01793 781973



info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk

New College's Media Makeup End of Year Show

We're delighted to invite you to one of New College Swindon's most anticipated creative events of the year, the **Media Makeup End of Year Show**.

Taking place at the **STEAM Museum, Swindon**, this exciting evening showcases the exceptional work of our **Media Makeup pupils from Level 2 right through to Degree Level**. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the creativity, technical skill, and imagination that go into studying Media Makeup as both a course and a future career.

Event details

- **Date:** Wednesday 18th June
- **Time:** 7.00pm – 10.00pm
- **Venue:** STEAM Museum, Firefly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY
- **Tickets:** £15 per person

The show features a professionally staged catwalk display, bringing together makeup, wigs, prosthetics, body paint, and special effects created by our pupils. It also highlights the collaborative nature of creative industries, with pupils gaining real-world experience of working on live events.

This event offers a great insight into what studying Media Makeup involves and the exciting career pathways it can lead to and is especially useful to those with an interest in:

- Art and Design
- Creative or Performing Arts
- Media Makeup
- Hair, Beauty, Fashion, or Film/TV



To book tickets, please book online via the following link: [2026 Media Make Up show Ticket @ STEAM](#)

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We hope to welcome you and members of your school community to what promises to be an inspiring and memorable evening.

New College, Swindon

Community Events



Goodearl Dog Show

...and Grand Opening!

Don't miss our very first Dog Show at Goodearl Dog Park - an afternoon not to be missed for all those would be canine stars

Sunday 24th May '26

1pm- 3pm

Goodearl Dog Park

Location: SN25 3JE or What3words: unscathed.hound.eclipses



Welcoming Back Guest
Judge: Janet Garrett of
Janet's Puppy Skool

CLASSES (FEE £2 FOR FIRST CLASS, £1 EACH SUBSEQUENT CLASS)

- BEST GOLDEN OLDIE (10+ YEARS)
- BEST JUNIOR HANDLER (UNDER 15)
- WAGGIEST TAIL / HAPPIEST DOG
- PUP IDOL (BORN IN 2025)
- BEST RESCUE / REHOME



COME AND JOIN US
... BRING YOUR HUMANS!



Kindly supported by:



For more information contact us on: 01793 722446

Follow us on @HaydonWickParishCouncil and www.haydonwick.gov.uk

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPING YOUR COMMUNITY

External Clubs



WANT TO LEARN NEW SKILLS
THIS SUMMER

SWINDON RUGBY CLUB

WELCOMES BOYS AND GIRLS U10'S-U13'S
SUMMER TOUCH RUGBY TRAINING

SUITABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES
GIVE RUGBY A TRY

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY- WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY
6-7PM

AT SWINDON RUGBY CLUB,
GREENBRIDGE ROAD SN3 3LA



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EITHER
RICH - 07792 339323 SOPHIE-07901 626565

Term 5 Curriculum Map

'Potential into Performance'

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	World and Greek Myths	Poetry: Contemporary	Fiction: Empathy Writing	Literature and Context: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Revision for Mocks/ Retrieval and Consolidation
Maths	Ratio and proportion Representing Data	Volume and surface area of prisms Maths art and investigations	Standard form Constructions, congruence and loci Investigations	Higher: Sequences and Growth & decay Foundation: Constructions, loci and bearings, Sequences and Standard form
Science	Space	Climate & Magnets	C10 Using Resources	P7 Magnetism & Electromagnetism
MFL	Spanish: Te Toca a Ti French: À toi	Spanish: Te Toca a Ti French: À toi	Spanish: Punto de Partida French: À toi	Spanish: Mi barrio y yo French: Notre planète
Humanities	Geography: Swindon and our local area History: Swindon and our local area Philosophical Thinking: The History of Swindon	Geography: East Meets West History: The Middle East Philosophical Thinking: East meets West	Geography: Natural Resources History: The New Millennium Philosophical Thinking: Life after death	Geography: Physical Landscape of UK History: Life in Nazi Germany and Origins of the Cold war 1941- 58 Philosophical Thinking: Religion, relationships and families Sociology: Paper 1: The Sociology of Education
Business & Computing	Computing: Scratch Block Programming	Computing: Minecraft Education	Computing: Business Project	Business: Topic: 1.5 Understanding external influences on business (partly) & mock paper preparation Computer Science: Topic: 3.1 Fundamentals of Algorithms Topic: 3.2 Programming
Design & Technology (D&T)	Graphics, Food, Textiles or Resistant Materials on rotation	Graphics, Food, Textiles or Resistant Materials on rotation	Graphics, Food, Textiles or Resistant Materials on rotation	D&T: Commencement of NEA Food: 3.5 food choice 3.6 food provenance
Visual Arts	Portraits	Niki de Saint Phalle Nana Sculptures	Clay Monsters	Identity
Performing Arts	Drama: Silent Movie Music: Samba	Drama: Physical Theatre: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night- time Music: Band Skills	Drama: John Godber Scripted Performances using extracts from "Teechers 2021", "Bouncers", "Shakers" Music:	Drama: Component One Music: Film Music
PE	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	Rounders, Basketball, Football, Dodgeball, Badminton, Handball, Cricket
PSHE	Drugs Education	Health & Wellbeing: Identity and relationships - RSE	Healthy Relationships - RSE	CEIAG & Staying safe

Contact details and consents

Having up-to-date contact information enables us to communicate with you promptly in the unlikely event of an emergency school closure during the day. This ensures that we can communicate effectively and keep you informed of any urgent developments. Please also take a moment to review the contact details and consents we have recorded for you on the Arbor Parent Portal are correct.

If your circumstances have changed and your child can no longer go home by themselves in event of an emergency school closure, you can update the consent accordingly on Arbor.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Y11 exams

All Y11 pupils need to be available for exams on Inset Days

May Half-Term - Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2026

Monday 1st June	Inset day
Tuesday 2nd June	All years return to school
Friday 5th - Sunday 7th June	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment
Monday 8th June	TRIP: Bletchley Park - Y7 x 60
Wednesday 10th June	TRIP: Y7 theatre performance Matilda at Bristol Hippodrome - Y7 x 60
Friday 12th - Saturday 13th June	Bespoke Duke of Edinburgh & Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Wednesday 17th June	EVENT: Thank a Teacher Day TRIP: GCSE Geography to River Cole, Coleshill- Y10 x 114
Thursday 18th June	EVENING EVENT: Summer concert
Thursday 18th - Saturday 20th June	RESIDENTIAL TRIP: Battlefields - Y9 x 40
Monday 22nd June	Immunisations catch-up
Tuesday 23rd June	EVENT: PSHE Police visit - Y9 11.30am-12.30pm EVENT: Cirencester College theatre performance - Y10 Drama P4 + P5
Wednesday 24th June	TRIP: Swindon & Art Museum - Y7 x 80
Thursday 25th June	EVENT: KS3 Career Day P1-P3
Friday 26th June	TRIP: Wake The Tiger, Bristol - Y10 x 88
Monday 29th June	EVENING EVENT: Y6 Induction evening (starting 3:30pm)
Tuesday 30th June	EVENING EVENT: Y6 Induction evening (starting 3:30pm)
Tuesday 30th June - Wednesday 1st July	Y6 Induction Days
Wednesday 1st July	EVENING EVENT: Y9 Ready for GCSE 5.30pm
Thursday 2nd July	EVENT: Westminster tour Australia Music TRIP: New College, Queens Drive - Y10 x 100

Important Notices & School Calendar - Term 5

'Potential into Performance'

Friday 3rd July	TRIP: New College, North Star - Y10 x 100
Friday 3rd - Saturday 4th July	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment
Monday 6th - Friday 10th July	Wellbeing Week
Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th July	RESIDENTIAL TRIP: Villiers Park
Tuesday 7th July	EVENT: Duke of Edinburgh Tea Party TRIP: Cirencester College - Y10 x 125
Wednesday 8th July	EVENT: Sports Day
Thursday 9th July	TRIP: Big Business Day 2026 at the Hilton Swindon - Y10 x 10 EVENT: Blunt Truth Performances—Y9 x 240
Friday 10th July	TRIP: Y10 Step up to Sixth Form at Lydiard Park Academy
Friday 10th - Monday 13th July	RESIDENTIAL TRIP: JCA Condoover Hall— Y7 x 85
Tuesday 14th July	EVENT: Character Champion Pizza Party TRIP: GWA sixth form - Y10 x 50
Wednesday 15th July	EVENT: Young Carer end of year summer party 1.05-3.10 <i>Event: Sports Day - reserve date</i> EVENING EVENT: Rewards Evening 6-7pm
Friday 17th July	Last day of school - lunchtime finish (all years)
Monday 20th July	Inset Day

Summer Holidays - Tuesday 21st July - 31st August
Inset Days - Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September
All years return to school - Thursday 3rd September

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Y11 exams

All Y11 pupils need to be available for exams on Inset Days



Abbey Park School
Terms and Holidays 2025 - 2026



August 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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29	30					

October 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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November 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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December 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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February 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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March 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

INSET Days 1st and 2nd September, 20th and 21st November, 23rd February, 1st June, 20th July

Lunchtime Finish 19th December and 17th July

Bank Holidays 2025/26 UK

25 August '25	August Bank Holiday	1 January '26	New Year's Day	4 May '26	Early May Bank Holiday
25 December '25	Christmas Day	3 April '26	Good Friday	25 May '26	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '25	Boxing Day	6 April '26	Easter Monday		

Our full calendar and more information can be found at www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk