



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Happiest of Fridays Stanley Families

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in school. I hope you take time to read about all the events and activities that have taken place in our newsletter. Yet again your children have gone above and beyond when representing the school and taking leadership opportunities. Our extra-curricular clubs are in full swing, and students can check daily on the notice screens in the foyer for any additional clubs that pop up. It is lovely to see these full clubs at lunch times and after school.

It was a pleasure to invite Year 11 families into school last night for them to hear about their children's progress. Consultation evenings are an excellent way to support your child with their learning, and understanding where and how gaps in their knowledge and skill can be supported. Luckily for Year 11 it is not quite the last consultation evening as we get to see them twice in this very important final year of school. Please ensure you have consultation evenings in your diaries as we do close the school one hour early on these dates.

I have a few important reminders this week.

Firstly, as the nights get darker, please support your child with the understanding of road safety and being out in the dark, especially if they do not have bright or reflective elements to their clothing. It is very important to ensure you know the whereabouts of your children when they are not in your care. Unfortunately, we have a lot of time in school spent unpicking the fall outs that have taken place in out of school hours, where children are together and unsupervised. These fall outs then spill into school and detract from learning time.

Can I please remind you to ensure you are checking your children's social media usage and ensure that children under 13 are not ever left to their own devices or be present in group chats that you have not overseen the participants of. Unfortunately, we are seeing again and again that students are not emotionally mature enough to get this right and ask that you are vigilant. Beyond this, please remove their devices and remove them from platforms where and when they are accessing communication or content that is harmful to their well-being. Ensure that you report any inappropriate content and then block it. Contact school if you need support with this.

Finally, I want to thank you for continued support of the school and the staff who work tirelessly to deliver our curriculum to your children. Beyond this we have experienced and skilled teams working to support all learners to access education.

On a personal note, I am incredibly excited for my daughter who gets to go to brownie camp all weekend leaving me with just one child to feed, entertain and nag (in that order).

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs J Shawe**  
**Headteacher**



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## War Memorial Re-dedication – Mrs Pugh (nee Van-Eker)

Southport war memorial turns 100 years old on 18<sup>th</sup> November this year, having been commissioned by Lord Earl of Derby in 1923. To commemorate this momentous occasion a re-dedication ceremony took place in Southport on last Friday.



HRH The Princess Royal attended the event in her capacity as President of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion. This was the first formal Royal visit to Southport since 1955.

The event was organised by Major Nick McEntee TD VR REME, Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Southport.

The event included a parade of veterans, servicemen and women, army cadets and schoolchildren, accompanied by a marching band. The parade commenced from Victoria Park before heading onto Duke Street, along Lord Street to end at the war memorial in London Street Square. A drumhead service was attended by VIPs and was conducted at the war memorial, with a commemorative plaque being unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal.



It was an absolute pleasure to accompany the students to what turned out to be a very beautiful day as the weather was on our side too.

Please see below the link to the professional photographs taken on the day which you may wish to order, there are also some commemorative programmes available.

<https://www.davebrownphotography.co.uk/p219501132>

**Major Nick McEntee TD VR MCGI REME**  
**Chairman, Southport Branch**



Mobile: 07860 841562 Branch: 01704 651947 Contact Centre: 0808 802 8080  
[southport.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:southport.chairman@rbl.community)

The Royal British Legion Southport [Southport Branch Website](#)

## Macmillan Coffee Morning – Mr Wright

We are delighted to inform you that the fantastic total raised last week for Macmillan is **£816.18**.

I am pleased to report that the winners of the Student Bake Off were Alice Bentley and Jessica Murphy West. And the staff winners were Mrs Ward and Mrs Urquhart.



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Congratulations to all and thank you once again for your support in raising this much needed money for charity.

### Inter-Trust Masterchef competition – Mr Sconce

What an afternoon we had at Greenbank last Friday for the first ever Trust Masterchef competition.



Chloe and Felix competed against students from Greenbank, Birkdale and Maghull High School. They were given 2 hours to produce one standout dish and came up against some tough competition. One student from Maghull produced the best Chicken and Mushroom Risotto I have ever tasted.

It is pleasing to report that Felix was awarded 2nd place for his Strawberry and Cream Pavlova. To attempt such as a technical dish in 2 hours and to produce an outcome of that standard is fantastic. I am so proud of his performance.

Chloe was also phenomenal with her Chicken and Vegetable Pie served with Mash and Gravy. The chefs judging the competition complemented us on how hard our students worked and on the quality of Chloes pastry.





6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Mental Health Awareness Day

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October is awareness day for Mental Health.

We will be supporting this in school by wearing something yellow.

If you can support this, please send your child in with their donation on the day.

We look forward to a sea of sunshine yellow clothing and items.



## Well-being Calendar for October – Miss Peacock

**Optimistic October 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	7 Look for the good in people around you today
8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation
15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you
22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?
29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month				

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** **Happier · Kinder · Together**

## Art – Mrs Ward

Year 11 have been on fire this week with their mock exam. The theme was to produce a landscape in a box or container. Students really knocked it out of the park with their highly detailed paintings and how they presented the work. Students have been working hard with preparation work prior to their final pieces. All the hard work has paid off. Well done year 11.





6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



### Art Christmas card image competition

We are inviting students to create an A5 painting or drawing based on the theme 'Wintry Wonderland'. The winning image will be used as the Stanley High School Christmas card.

All entries to be taken to Room 43 for the attention of Mrs Ward before Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Good luck.



Last year's winning image

### Drama – Ms Gregson-Burt

#### The Flint Street Nativity Poster Competition!

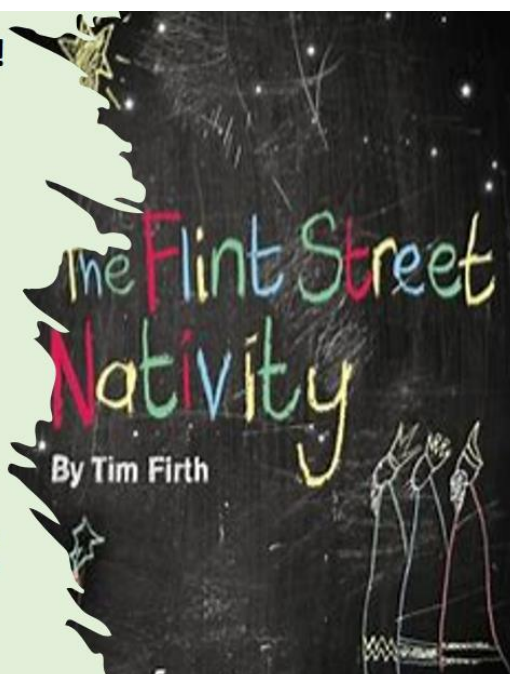
Are you a budding artist or designer? Then this is the competition for you! Our Year 11's are performing 'The Flint Street' Nativity and we want students to design a poster for this event. Your poster will need to contain the following details:

- Performance Name: The Flint Street Nativity by Tim Firth
- Performance Date: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm
- Where: Stanley High School Main Hall
- Ticket Price: £2 per person

The competition is open to ALL year groups and the winning design will feature on the posters and programme for this event. Prizes will also be available for winners and runners up.

Entries can be produced on computer or by hand (i.e. painting or colouring) and must be sent to Ms Gregson-Burt. Winners will be judged by the Art Department.

**All entries must be submitted by 3pm on: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**





6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Languages

**Year 9 Latin Excellence Programme – Miss Chadderton, Mr Brown, Miss Rojas**

Salvete omnes!

Another fantastic week in the world of Latin. This week, we increased our Latin vocabulary and started learning about the Roman vivarium with the help of our animal characters. All the students managed to translate a whole paragraph from Latin to English by the end of the session which we were so proud of. Well done all and see you next week!

### Maths – Mrs Knox

**Sparx Superstars w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Year 7 - Charlotte Buck

Year 8 - Joshua Dunne

Year 9 - Josh Ball

Year 10 - Max Walton

Year 11 - Mia Chadwick

Highest XP points last week - Jasmine De'ath

Highest performing form last week - 7JT

Highest completion rate - Y7L Maths class

### Mathematics Problem of the week

Each week there will be a problem of the week, and the following week we will give the answer.


Please see the problem that students were given this week.

**Mrs Knox's problem of the week:**

There are 80 red and blue counters in total.

There are 12 more red counters than blue ones.

How many red counters are there?



**Visual representations** – can you draw a picture to help you with this problem?

**Show all of your working out (turn over if necessary):**

**Answer:**

Week beginning: 2nd October

### Parent/Carer Consultation Evening dates

Please make a note of the following dates for your children's year. School will close at 2pm on these dates to allow parents/carers to attend from 3pm to 6.30pm.

Year 8 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Year 7 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Year 9 Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Year 11 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Year 10 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Upcoming Dates and Events

Please make a note of the following dates, for your information.

### October

16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Christ the King Assembly
19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 GCSE Preparation Evening 6-7pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
31 <sup>st</sup>	Year 7 and 11 Photographs (including sibling photographs)

## Attendance

We have a target of 95% attendance and work hard every day to beat this. The whole school attendance for week ending 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was 92.4%.

Did you know that if your attendance is 90%, this is equivalent to 1 full day off school every two weeks and if your attendance is 95% this is equivalent to half a day off school every two weeks?

Congratulations to 7RP, 7EWA and 78VW for achieving the highest attendance last week.

Since September, the Department for Education has issued guidance for all schools in "Working Together to Improve Attendance". This guidance forms the basis of our updated Attendance Policy - which you can find on our website at the following link.

<https://stanleyhigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Attendance-Policy-September-2022.pdf>

## Parking on School premises

Can we please request that parents do not enter the car park to collect students unless it is for a specific medical need or with authorised permission. This causes congestion for those car users who have a specified need, and this also creates a hazard for our students leaving the school.

Please also do not park in the disabled bays unless you have a disabled badge clearly displayed.

## Parking in the school vicinity

Can I please remind parents/carers regarding parking on private car parks or over driveways in the vicinity of the school. We do appreciate that during drop off and pick up times it is very congested, however we do need to be mindful that the local community need access to their private property at all times and your consideration of this is appreciated.

## Time out of school

Should you need to take your child out of school during the day for an appointment, can you please ensure they have a note in their planner explaining the reason why and at what time they need to sign out or alternatively a note with the above information on. Alternatively, you can email [enquiries@stanleyhigh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stanleyhigh.co.uk) with the details, so that this can be kept on record for the absence.

If your child is off sick, please be reminded you should contact school daily, to inform the attendance officer. This can be done by leaving a voicemail on the school telephone number choosing extension 1 or emailing [enquiries@stanleyhigh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stanleyhigh.co.uk). Please be clear and concise with your message to ensure the correct information is picked up.



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Uniform

Please ensure that all students uniform is clearly named. If an item is lost or misplaced this helps with returning it to the correct student.

### Coats and Uniform and equipment

Student’s uniform has been brilliant so far and we would like all students to continue meeting these high uniform expectations. Full uniform is expected each day.

- All students should be in black leather or leather look shoes
- Blazers must be worn at all times unless given permission by a teacher in the classroom
- Skirts must be at a respectable length
- Ties must be tied long enough to show the school crest
- Coats can be worn and are advised as the weather gets colder; the wearing of a coat, over a blazer, is at the teacher’s discretion in their classroom

We are incredibly proud of how our students look and want this to continue to be the case. Thank you.

Should a child not have a piece of uniform please put a note in their planners. Please let us know if you are having difficulty with uniform.

### Homework Club

Our school homework club is open to all years and is held in the library every day after school from 3pm - 4pm. Students will have access to laptops should they wish to use them and there will be support from learning support staff during this time. We welcome all students to attend whether it be to complete homework, to revise for assessments, or take the opportunity to access our library for the simple pleasure of reading.

We understand homework can be tricky for some students to navigate so please know that we are here to support where needed.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

#### Maths

**PUZZLE CLUB**  
Open to all  
**FRIDAY LUNCH**  
12.20pm – 1pm  
**Room 2**

Club

#### Chess

**Chess Club**  
Monday Lunchtimes  
Room 31

*Fancy improving your logic?*

- It can make your IQ. Chess has always had an image problem, being seen as a game for loners and people with already high IQs.
- It helps general education.
- It exercises both sides of the brain.
- It increases your creativity.
- It improves your memory.





6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Drama



Are you in Year 7 - 9 and have a flair for the dramatic?  
Do you want to build your confidence and make new friends?  
Do you have an eye for direction and want to devise your own performances?

If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then 'Rising Stars' is the Drama club for you!  
Sign up today! (Places are limited)

**WEDNESDAY FROM 12.30 - 1PM IN RM 14**

## Technology

**GCSE Food and Nutrition Aim Higher Session with Mrs Lyon**

**Tuesday Week B 3pm**

**Mr Sconce's KS3 Cooking Club**

**Tuesday Week A Sept- Oct half term**

**22 places**

**Christmas Cake Club**

**Year 9 and 10**

**AFTER OCTOBER HALF TERM**

**22 PLACES AVAILABLE**

**9.15-4.30PM**

**SEE MR SCONGE**

**Tech Tuesday**

**3-4pm**

**TUESDAY WEEK A**

**STARTING W/C 4TH OCT**

Miss Green R46

Mrs Lyon R44

Coursework Catch-up

**Tech Tuesday**

**3-4pm**

**TUESDAY WEEK B**

**STARTING 27TH SEPT**

**MISS GREEN R46**

**SIGN UP FROM 14TH SEPTEMBER**

**22 PLACES**

**War Hammer Club**

**Thursday Lunch**

**KS3 Welcome**

**R45**

**Mrs Lyon**

Warhammer Club – Mrs Lyon



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



This week our club grew in popularity! We started to build our figures which proved to be quite fiddly.

Talk of our game planning technique kept us all going until the end of lunch.

Hopefully, we will finish building next week and get onto painting!



### Online Safety – Mrs Fraser-Orr

Please visit the National Safety Online Facebook page at the link below to see their latest important information. You will also see any historical information that we have shared with you.

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety>

Please see the latest online safety information below.

### Literacy ePlatform – Mrs Kelly

Our students have started to enjoy the benefits of our new library platform ePlatform.



Students can log in using their normal school login: [Stanley High School - Stanley High School \(eplatform.co\)](https://www.stanleyhigh.co.uk/eplatform)

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

### Online Information and Apps

If you have changed your email address or any other contact details, please let the office know by emailing. You can also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stanleyhighsouthport/> to keep up to date with events and activities in school.

### School Term Dates

Please follow the link to see all available term dates. <https://stanleyhigh.co.uk/term-dates/>

### The Sefton Directory

You will find useful information regarding Adults, Families and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities on The Sefton Directory pages. Please use the links below:

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/home.page>

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=3>

### Advice, help and support available



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

You may wish to get in touch with Sefton's Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service, SENDIASS (Tel. 0151 934 3334) or by email [seftonsendiass@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:seftonsendiass@sefton.gov.uk)

SENDIASS is a free, confidential, and impartial service for parents and carers, children, and young people (up to 25 years), who help parents and carers make informed decisions about their children's special educational needs and to support children and young people to have their voices heard and to talk over their options for next steps and future transitions. They can advise and support parents and young people up to and including mediation and tribunal.

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/advice.page?id=x8sKvkxyZyo>

### **Sefton Emotional Health Partnership**

Please follow the link below to see some important links and contact details for emotional and mental health support providers.

<https://mailchi.mp/a1413fe6bcb9/december-2022-newsletter-sefton-emotional-health-partnership>



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal, development. In one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.thenationalcollege.co.uk](http://www.thenationalcollege.co.uk) for further information and resources.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

### WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

### LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction; that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

### POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain "heavy" metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

### WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

### UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

### UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

### ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

### SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS




In the UK alone, around 1.3 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

### VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term "natural and artificial flavourings". Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

### Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-66816024>

[www.thenationalcollege.co.uk](http://www.thenationalcollege.co.uk) @thenatcollege /thenationalcollege

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.09.2023



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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 of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **AMONG US**

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION

**7**

PEGI

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**SENSITIVE PREMISE**

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

**VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

**CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS**

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

**GOING OFF PLATFORM**

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord – a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undoubtedly make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES**

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £3 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

**CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES**

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

**CHAT ABOUT CHATTING**

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

**DISCUSS DISCORD**

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

**AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS**

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

**STOP SURPRISE SPENDING**

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

**Meet Our Expert**

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and reports the GBGoon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to put out new apps, he's also a parent who understands the risks of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have been published on influential sites including iGEM and Techradar.

**NOS** National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national\\_online\\_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Online help and advice

If you have any worries or concerns regarding a child while school is closed please take a look at how you can report something that doesn't fit right with you [Worried about a child \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/worried-about-a-child).

**Kooth** is an online mental well-being website. 0203 984 9337 [www.kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

**Childline** is a free, private, and confidential service that you can access online and on the phone. They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday. 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)

**Samaritans** is where you can access confidential emotional support at any time by calling 116 123 or emailing [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) [www.samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)

**Shout** is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258. [www.crisistextline.uk](https://www.crisistextline.uk)

**Police** If you or somebody else is in danger, or it feels like a situation might get dangerous and you need support right away, click here to find out how to contact the police. [www.police.uk](https://www.police.uk)

**NHS Choices** Mental health services are free on the NHS.

To get urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online. For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance. [www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

**Report abuse** CEOP help children stay safe online. If anybody acts inappropriately towards you or another child or young person online (such as sexual chat or being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable); you can report it here. [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

**Bullybusters** is an anti-bullying initiative for children and young people. 0800 169 6928 [www.bullybusters.org.uk](https://www.bullybusters.org.uk)

**Parenting 2000** provides therapy, clinical help, and rehabilitation services. 01704 380047 [www.parenting2000.org.uk](https://www.parenting2000.org.uk)

### The Universal Services Guide

Sefton have created a guide detailing information for children aged 0-25 and their families who want to find out about support services available to them. This includes information about health professionals for all ages, leisure services, inclusive activities, and lots more.

[https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/advice.page?id=GK\\_tnRp\\_Tc](https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/advice.page?id=GK_tnRp_Tc)

If you are worried about a child, please contact the Police in an emergency or to make a referral to Children's Social Care please follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/yywyg3or>

For non-emergencies, call [111](tel:111) or the MASH Team on [0151 934 4013](tel:01519344013).

### SEND Support

Please follow the link below to see what support is on offer to families in the community of children who may have additional needs or struggles. There are sessions on sleep management, sensory workshops, eating etc. so help is available in so many ways.

<https://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk/news/newsletters>



6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Online help and advice

### Childhood Bereavement Network

A website of resources to support children and young people who have suffered bereavement.

[www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk](http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk)  
[www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/training.aspx](http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/training.aspx)

### Young Minds

Young Minds is a general mental health website, with a section on supporting children through grief and loss.

[www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-grief-and-loss/](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-grief-and-loss/)

### Winstons Wish

A website offering support for a child or young person around bereavement.

[www.winstonswish.org](http://www.winstonswish.org)

### Hope Again

Resources for Children and Young People who suffered bereavement.

[www.hopeagain.org.uk](http://www.hopeagain.org.uk)

Losing a child is the most traumatic experience anyone will face. There are specialist support services available for families that can be accessed directly by the family. Here is a list of resources available to help families in this difficult time.

### Sands

A charity that supports families who have suffered a still born or miscarriage of a child.

[www.sands.org.uk/](http://www.sands.org.uk/)

### The Good Grief Trust

A website that offers general advice about bereavement including the loss of a child.

[www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/](http://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/)

### The Compassionate Friends

A website that offers support for families who have lost a child.

[www.tcf.org.uk/](http://www.tcf.org.uk/)

### NHS Chathealth

If you are a parent of an 11–19-year-old, the NHS have launched a Chat Health text message service on 07312 263291. This service is confidential and anonymous.

### E-safety

<https://www.familyeducation.com/mobile-apps/a-complete-guide-to-potentially-dangerous-apps-all-parents-should-be-aware-of>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-guidance-for-parents/>