



PARENTAL NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 23 Monday 11th March 2024

HEADLINE NOTICES

KFS mobile Phone Consultation

Following recent updates to government advice regarding the access and use of student mobile phones in schools, we are consulting our stakeholders on this contentious issue. Parents and students are invited to share their views via a confidential on-line questionnaire which is available [here](#) (parents) and [here](#) (students) until Friday 15th March 2024. Parents who wish to view the latest government advice can do so [here](#). Please direct any queries to Mr Harding, Deputy Headteacher, via dhg@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



Curriculum Coffee Mornings



Our next scheduled parental Coffee Morning is due to take place for **Year 7 & 8 parents** on **Friday 15th March between 11am & 1pm**. These sessions are a great opportunity to meet staff and learn more about the curriculum for each year group.

Parents who are interested in attending, must register via the link sent separately by email. We hope to see you there. For any queries please contact Mrs Chaudhary, Deputy Headteacher via sca@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Positive Stakeholder Feedback

We are happy to consider and respond to constructive criticism from our parents and students. However, it is always nice for staff to balance this out with positive feedback when things have gone well. To help facilitate this, we have established a new and dedicated email service which can be used for this purpose. Should you wish to inform us about something that has gone well at the school with you or your child, or about a generally positive experience, please contact positivefeedback@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk All positive feedback gratefully received.

House Award for Excellence!

Congratulations this week to **Amirah Diaby, Year 10, Falcon**, who has been nominated for the prestigious House Award for Excellence by the RE Department. Her Religious Education teacher wrote: *'Amirah is a conscientious student who is committed to fulfilling her educational potential in Religious Studies. Through determination and hard work she has achieved top grades in her Mock exam.'* Well done Amirah!



THEME & WORD OF THE WEEK

International Women's Week

'If civilisation is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all people of all kinds to live together in the same world, at peace.'

Euphoria

A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness.

SCHOOL NEWS

Protect your valuables and use IMMOBILISE

Please follow the link below to register your child's valuables for free. Immobilise has been recommended to us by our Safer Schools Officer. <https://www.immobilise.com/>

www.immobilise.com

MAKE YOUR MARK

TO HELP PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Register your property **FREE** and improve your chances of getting it back if lost or stolen

IMMOBILISE
THE UK NATIONAL PROPERTY REGISTER
www.immobilise.com

SCAN ME!

Student Lost Property

Parents are reminded of the need to label of their child/ren's school items so we can return them if lost. Please direct queries to lostproperty@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

National Careers Week
4th March – 9th March 2024

CAREERS

Careers Photography Talk

Students from Years 9, 10 and 12 were treated to a fascinating talk on Wednesday 6th March 2024 by Photographer and BA Course Leader at Kingston University, Anthony Lam. Anthony talked us through his varied career, showing us pictures from his work in London and across the world.

He discussed the options open to someone wanting to be a Photographer, and emphasised the importance of networking, perseverance and hard work. We really enjoyed having the opportunity to hear from someone who has had such a lot of experience in a popular field, and students were left with lots to reflect on in terms of their own future plans.

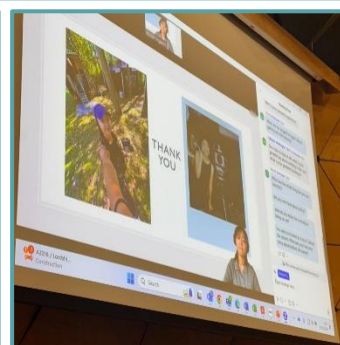


Director/Film Club Webinar Event

On Wednesday 6th March 2024, students that attend Mr Harper's Film Club, were invited to a special film event. Students got to meet director and film maker Kyoka Seguchi. Kyoka guided students through her filmmaking career and her early inspirations as well as sharing her filmmaking journey.

Kyoka gave career advice to the students and encouraged them to be expressive and creative with film and hone their storytelling voices. After trying different roles in the industry Kyoka, found her calling as a Camera Assistant.

She has worked on *Call The Midwife* and *Bad Education*, as well as a commercial for TUMI and a music video for *Bombay Bicycle Club*.



ENGLISH NEWS

Ky Stage 3 Creative Writing Trip

On Monday and Tuesday of last week, Mr Harper led a group of 70 students across 2 days with the English department to the Tate Modern. The trip was to reward students for their creative writing efforts this year and to encourage creative expression outside the classroom. Students got to see incredible exhibits in the Turbine Hall, as well as paintings by Matisse, Paula Rego and David Hockney. Students worked in teams and completed a range of creative projects including drama performances, poetry and short stories, giving new life to the artwork. The English department is very keen on putting creativity at the forefront of everything they do and it was a joy to see so many students engaged with experience.

Here are some examples of work they created on the trip.

Haikus:

A charging artwork,
A thought of despair and joy,
Love and hate in one.

Six colours, six words,
Each slab of wood is the past,
All for the future.

To show love and greed,
And hatred and difference,
As power and hate.

Purple and blue light,
Rushing up all the white walls,
Colour against none.



Poem

Darkness surrounds every corner of this wall,
There is no way to escape and break free.
I can cling on in hope but I will surely fall,
The darkness is entrancing and not letting me be.
This is the end of my story, never to be found,
Now I will shrivel up, into a dirt mound.

Brightness and joy is everything and all,
After all, what else could you ever want to see.
Cheerful happiness, life is a ball,
Bliss is all that's known to me.
This is the end of my story, to one day be found,
Now I will grow from just a dark, dirt mound.



Short story

Mindless chatter echoes around the room. One person in. Ten minutes pass. One person walks out the same but different. Here but not. A bright purple light glows when someone enters the room, then the door slams shut, sealed airtight. But when they come out, their eyes are glazed over. There's no life there anymore. In number 564. Two hours left.



Tes Schools Awards 2023

Shortlisted

Excellence in Creative Arts

Kingsdale Foundation School

23 June 2023

Jon Severs, Editor Tes

Sponsors



White Rose
EDUCATION

TRANQUILITI
Listen. Support. Flourish.

TES SCHOOL AWARDS 2024

We were delighted last year to be shortlisted for the prestigious **Tes Excellence in Creative Arts Award** after making a hasty submission and as such, we have decided to enter this category again this year to better reflect the incredible work that takes place in this area. As part of our application, we would like to submit testimonials from our parents and students.

If you would like to write a short testimonial, then we would really appreciate it. Any of the following subjects can be mentioned in the Creative Arts testimonials: Art (Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, Graphics), Music, Drama, Food Science, Design & Technology and Dance. Submit your testimonials to Mrs G Howell via artd&t@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

We also plan to enter the **TES Inclusive School of the Year Award** and the **TES Secondary School of the Year Award**. Testimonials for the TES Inclusive School Award can be emailed to **Ms G. Smith** via sendadmin@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Testimonials for the TES Secondary School of the Year Award can be emailed to Ms Dyer via asrpa@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

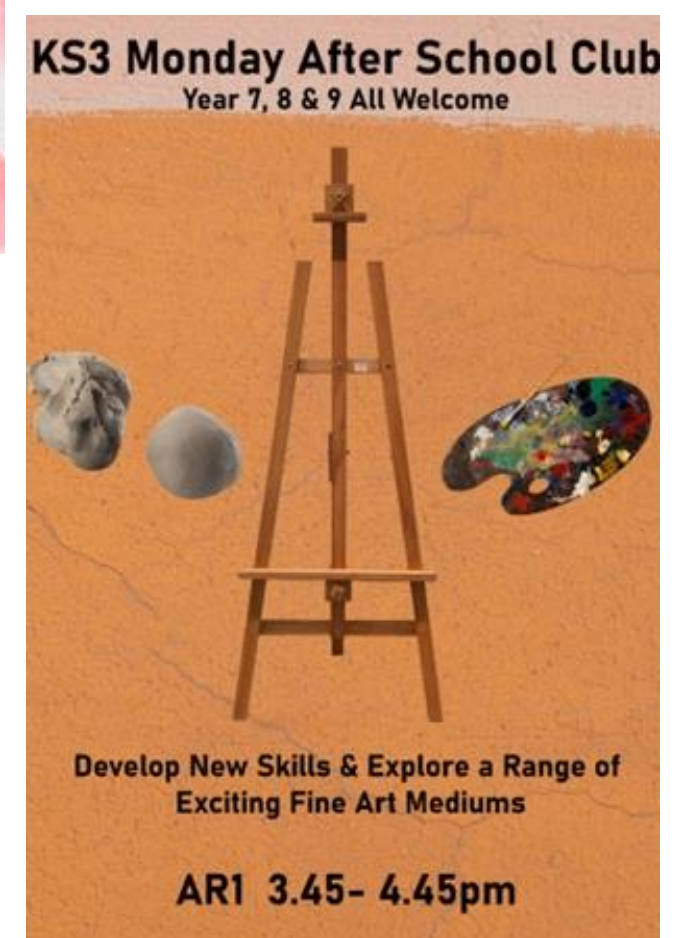
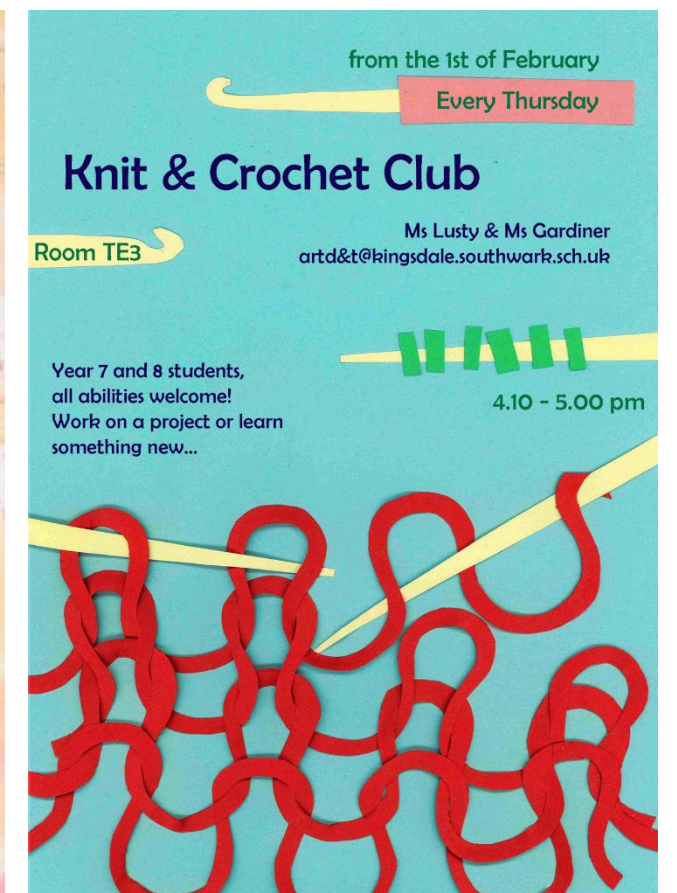
Please note that the deadline for submission of testimonials for all categories is **Monday 18th March 2024**.



‘It’s almost like having a superpower’...

There are so many reasons to study Art and pursue a career in the Creative Industry.

We always advocate how important Art and Design are in creating broad thinkers and problem solvers in any field.



schools.dot-art.com



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

This creative careers poster was commissioned by dot-art Schools and designed by Thom Isom 2018. We are grateful to everyone who shared their creative career journeys with us via an online survey and interviews to help inspire the next generation of creatives.

MUSIC NEWS



Recycling at Kingsdale

We now have blue recycling bins in every classroom and every office and very soon we will have recycling bins in the Atrium.

Students can now put all **paper and plastic** that they are throwing away, into a designated recycling bin, so we can help tackle climate change, and help to save planet Earth, for future generations.



Chamber Choir Performance with Southwark Music Service

Kingsdale Chamber Choir was invited to perform in Southwark Council last week, as part of the school's lunchtime concert series run by the Southwark Music Service. From Purcell to Stevie Wonder, the students sang for the public and office workers around the building. We also had some lovely solos from Ellie Jong, Zhen Zhu Dunster, Loic Spall, Luke Charalambous, Saskia Peacock, Kimani Marcano-Bruce, Poppy Holloway, Sara Johnson and Rachael Leary. It was a wonderful day out and the feedback from the music service has been exceptional. We hope to perform there again soon!

SCHOOL NEWS

Advice for Parents, Carers & Guardians: Talking Mental Health with Children at Secondary School

Please use the link below to access a leaflet developed by Anna Freud's child mental health experts and featuring an introduction from Anna Freud's Chief Executive, Professor Peter Fonagy, providing a simple advice and guidance to parents and carers about how to make conversations about their child's feelings part of everyday conversation. The teenage years are both exciting and challenging to parents and carers. It can be hard to know whether your child's feelings and behaviour are normal or becoming a problem.

You can access the link [here](#).

Should you require further information regarding how to access mental health & well-being support at Kingsdale Foundation School please contact Ms V. Turner at: health&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families

Talking mental health with young people at secondary school



ChildLine for 18s and under
0800 1111

Youth Wellbeing Directory
youthwellbeing.co.uk

Anna Freud National Centre for
Children and Families
www.annafreud.org

YoungMinds Parent Helpline
0808 802 5544

NSPCC 0800 800 5000

The Mix www.themix.org.uk

MindEd for Families
www.minded.org.uk/families

SPORTS NEWS

CYCLE CONFIDENT

On Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March, a group of Year 7 students took part in a **Cycle Confidence Course, Level 3 Training** run by Southwark Council instructors.

The students had fun on the playground before heading off on the roads, well done to all that took part. Wishing all students a safe cycle journey to and from school in the future.



Year 8 Swimming

Sign-ups for Swimming for students in Year 8 are now open. Please complete the following Microsoft Form via the link below. A member of the PE Department will be in touch to confirm the dates for your child's sessions.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MXLFNSSR3kSVFlxpQFISZkm_bFOvdwOZNb6S4iA9TDIURV_UyTOFMMk9DMEZKQzQ2TU5_GTFpSWlo2Wi4u





Big History Club!

For Key Stage 3 and 4 in HU6
Every other Tuesday from 4.15pm to 5.00pm

Do you want to dive into the past?
Is there something we don't cover at school that
you would like to learn about?

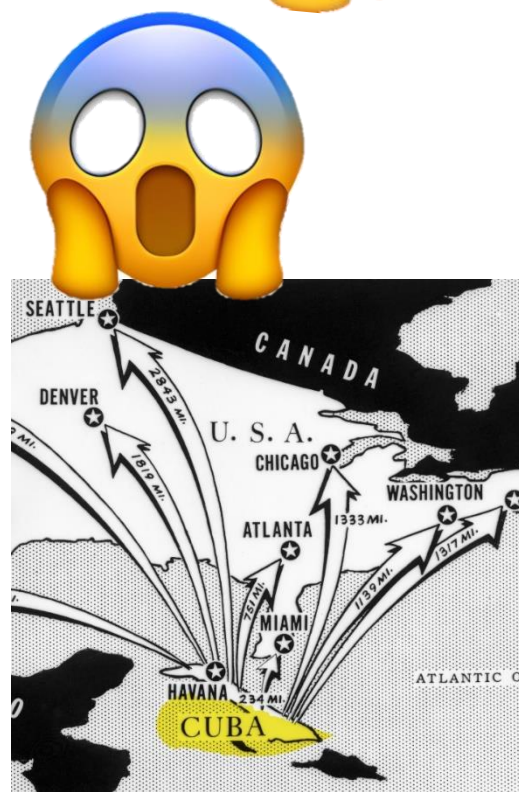
In Big History Club we use history and fiction books, films, art,
music and more to **enquire into diverse World Histories** from
ancient times to modern day.

In our next session on **Tuesday 12th March**
we will be discussing the

How would you have coped dealing with the Cuban Missile Crisis?

With Mr Attar

Bring along any knowledge you already have,
and ideas for future sessions.



UPPER SCHOOL LIBRARY (USL) & LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY (LSL) AFTER-SCHOOL SCHEDULE

MONDAY	LGBTQ+ Club With Mrs Bowles and Ms Dobson	USL TIME: 4.15-5pm
TUESDAY	Year 7-9 Homework Club With Mr Gunathilaka, Ms Dobson & a TA	USL TIME: 4.15-5pm
WEDNESDAY	Creative Writing Club With Ms Dobson Book Club with Mr Read	USL TIME: 4.15-5pm USL TIME: 4.15-5pm
THURSDAY	Year 10 and 11 Homework Club With Mr Gunathilaka, Ms Dobson & a TA	USL TIME: 4.15-5pm
FRIDAY	Board Games Club With Mr Gunathilaka and Ms Dobson	USL TIME: 4.15-5pm

(Book Club and Year 7-9 Homework Club will later be moved to the LSL)

SCHOOL NEWS



Student Meditation & Mindfulness Sessions

The Kingsdale Health & Well-Being team are pleased to announce the launch of our Meditation and Mindfulness sessions for students.

Students throughout the school are very welcome to attend sessions during the times allocated for their year groups shared to the right of this notice. Sessions will take place weekly during tutor periods and will be led by Mr M. Doiley, a member of our SEND team and a highly experienced and published author in this area.

To register your child's interest in attending these sessions or for further details please contact Ms V. Turner via email at health&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Kingsdale Foundation School Meditation & Mindfulness Sessions for Students

Year 7	Tuesday 8.40 – 9am Gym 2
Year 8 & 9	Tuesday 15.50 – 16.10pm MS1
Year 10	Wednesday 15.50 – 16.10pm Music School Performance area
Year 11	Wednesday 8.40 – 9am Gym 2
6 th Form	Friday 8.40 – 9am Gym 2

Bracelet Club

Come along on Wednesday
Year 7 lunch in FL8 for
bracelet making and other
craft with Ms Lovelock-
Lilley.

Bring along anything that you would like to make: origami, colouring, other craft activities. We will supply the bracelet making materials.

FINDING LANGUAGES DIFFICULT?

Languages Homework club

Need some help with your French/Spanish/German/ Latin homework?

Need a quiet space to do some revision?

Need some help with preparing for a test?

Come along to the Languages Homework Club! Learn and develop your language skills!

TUESDAY 15.45-16.45 IN LA4

SCHOOL NEWS

Friday Islamic Prayer Time (Jumu'ah)

Congregational prayer time on a Friday is a very special moment. So as to facilitate good order (and health and safety requirements) during this time, it will be necessary for participants to have a Prayer Pass. This will make it clear who is to be present and who is not. *Prayer passes will cover the time period 12.50 – 13.25 on a Friday throughout the year and will include Ramadan.* In Kingsdale there is no tradition of students being released from class at any other time of the day or week for devotions outside of the month of Ramadan.

Prayer passes will be named and must be produced when asked by any member of staff and shown to the class teacher on a request to leave class at the relevant time. To this end please request a letter from Mr Muhammad, Mr Dabo, Ms Yurdakul or Ms Benmeriam and complete the slip requesting a 'Prayer Pass'. Return the slip to Mr Lewis who will then pass on the information to all Heads of Learning where a record will be kept. The PE changing rooms in the LLC Building will be open for wudu/ablutions from 12.50 – 13.00. Prayer and Khutbah (sermon) will be from 13.00 – 13.25 led by a Kingsdale School Imam. Students must return to class by 13.30 at the latest.

CALENDAR 2023-24



Second Spring Half-Term

Monday 19th February – Thursday 28th March

Please note that Thursday 28th March will be a half-day for students

SUMMER TERM 2024

First Summer Half-Term

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

INSET DAY

School closed to students except Year 11

Monday 15th April

Mayday Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May

Half Term Holiday

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Second Summer Half Term

Monday 3rd June – Thursday 25th July

INSET DAY

School closed to students

except by invitation

Thursday 25th July

You can also find lots of other useful sources of information on the school website [here](#). This includes further details about the operation of the school, including Term Dates, Assessment and Uniform.

Should you have any suggestions for additions to our website, please contact Mr Karp, via email tkp@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

For further information on term & holiday dates, please contact the Attendance Team via attendance@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Confirmed dates for the 2024-25 academic year are available to view on our website [here](#).

YEAR 10 RE MOCK 2

& FINALS

May - June 2024

Is your ship together?



PIRATE RE, ALL WELCOME
Revision Every Wednesday
4.15 – 5.15pm in HU7
BE THERE, HA, HAAAA...



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update

BRONZE AWARD

1. Students who are in Years 9 - 13 and are not yet enrolled on the scheme are welcome to join the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award next academic year as the original deadline has expired (31st Oct 2023).
- 1a. All 275 newly enrolled participants for the Bronze Award should have now:
 - Been added to the Bronze DofE MS Teams site where all information about how to start/current events etc. is posted both in the 'chat section' and the 'files section'. Please look here for help and advice.
 - All parents have access to the above information (deadlines and requirements to be sent out separately re the expedition in 2024) on the school intranet site under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award section.
 - Please remember the KEY cut off dates of 30th April and 14th July 2024. See details on the above sites.
 - Please check ALL parental emails for your child's DofE Welcome Pack. All 275 Bronze awards were purchased on Thursday/Friday 9th/10th November 2023. A link was sent from the award to the email address of the person who received the link to pay for the award.

SILVER AWARD

2. Students who have completed their Bronze Award and who are considering joining the Silver Award programme will have received a direct email from Mr Dennington before 30th November 2023 offering them the chance to pay for the new award by 4th Jan 2024. This date was for potential new students to join and not for those who have already paid and joined the Silver Award.
- 2a. All Silver Award students should have now:
 - Been added to the Silver DofE Award Team, where, as usual, all information / deadlines etc. are written.
 - Had their Silver Awards purchased in the week of 8th January with welcome packs sent to the school's designated 1st contact email account. Therefore, please ensure that you check all parental emails for your child's DofE Welcome Pack in that week.
 - All parents have access to the above information (deadlines and requirements to be sent out separately re the expedition in 2024) on the school intranet site under Duke of Edinburgh Award section.
 - Please remember the key criteria in order to be invited out on expedition are that your child must have completed their Bronze Award fully and uploaded a good assessor report for at least one of their activities by 30th April 2024. All 3 activities that they intend to engage in should have been written up fully on their DofE platform.

PUPIL PREMIUM

3. Years 9 to 13 – any level of the award.
 - If you have already paid – then we will reimburse you.
 - If you haven't paid but still wish your child to start an award, the cut-off date to email Mr Dennington was the same as for everyone else, 31st Oct 2023 for Bronze and 4th Jan 2024 for Silver.
 - If you have missed those dates, you can always choose to join in the next academic year.

Should you have any queries about any aspect of the DofE programme at Kingsdale, please contact Mr Dennington via sdn@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Podcasting to build communication skills: Autism

Young people with autism can find communication challenging. One school's approach to this was to introduce a sports podcast.

The TWS Sports Podcast www.twssportspodcast.co.uk/ is hosted by learners at Tettenhall Wood school. The podcast was set up in May 2021 to help students develop key skills. The school wanted to think outside of the box and create a new way of learning and help to enrich young people with new experience and opportunities. Autism is often associated with difficulties with social communication and social interactions, so they wanted to focus on these skills.

Podcasting can help to support these skills in several ways. The majority of the podcasts are via Zoom, which helps learners to feel more comfortable and confident when conducting the interview. The podcast also helps to promote the amazing things that young people with autism can do and increase the awareness and acceptance of autism to the wider population.

Each week they speak to famous sportsmen and women from around the world about their careers, their highs and lows and so much more.

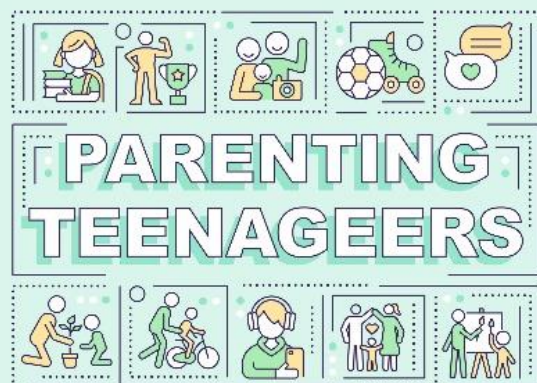


They have had the opportunity to interview some great sportsmen and women such as Harry Redknapp, Sam Allardyce, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Mick Foley, Sir Clive Woodward, Nasser Hussain, Michael Atherton, plus TV presenter Paddy McGuinness and more. The podcast has also given learners the chance to visit a range of stadiums such as Anfield, Molineux and Croud Meadow. In addition to this, learners have also been to film premiers, hosted live radio shows, been Commonwealth baton bearers, featured on the BBC News and more.

Listen to recordings [HERE](#)



Parent Club Parenting Teens: Survival Tips -Free workshop online



By The Children's Trust Parent Club

4pm Tuesday 19th March ONLINE: 1 hour

Please register here: <https://bit.ly/3UJES6X>

Presenter: Maria De Andrade

Who is it for?

Parents or caregivers interested in promoting healthy relationships, supporting appropriate independence and boundaries for their pre-teens and teenagers, ages 11-18.

What is covered?

In this workshop, parents are introduced to the five core tips for parenting teens with confidence and success. These are:

- Getting to know your teen
- Managing parent stress
- Building your relationship with your teen
- Setting clear expectations
- Giving consequences that fit

SEND FACULTY NEWS



Understanding Young Minds: Free Self-harm Training

This free course handles the subject of teenage self-harm and parental ways to support your children, in a sensitive and informational way.

About the Understanding Young Minds course

Virtual College and SelfharmUK have created a free online course designed to help parents talk about the issue of self-harm with their children.

Thousands of children and young people in the UK are thought to be impacted by self-harm each year. Spotting the signs can be difficult, and approaching the subject with your children can be an uncomfortable experience. This online course, 'Talking to your children about emotional resilience and self-harm', has been designed to provide you with a basic awareness of the subject to help you approach your children with confidence about the issue.

This course comes with a downloadable certificate.

Register here: [CLICK](#)



STAMMA

PARENT2PARENT STAMMERING SUPPORT GROUPS

Free online support groups for parents of children who stammer.

It can sometimes feel confusing when you're the parent of a child who stammers. There's how to navigate the ups and downs of stammering; your concerns for your child's future and how best to help your child. And how can you support yourself? It's not unusual to have lots of questions and to feel worried about stammering.

The 'Parent2Parent: Pull Up a Chair' support groups are online support groups for parents of children who stammer in the UK. You can meet other parents over Zoom to share your concerns, experiences, tips and advice. The sessions involve a mix of parents who are new to stammering, and those who have more experience. Come and chat with parents who know what it's like.

MEETING DATES

Click on the links below to register a place at upcoming meetings.

[Wednesday 13th March, 8pm](#)

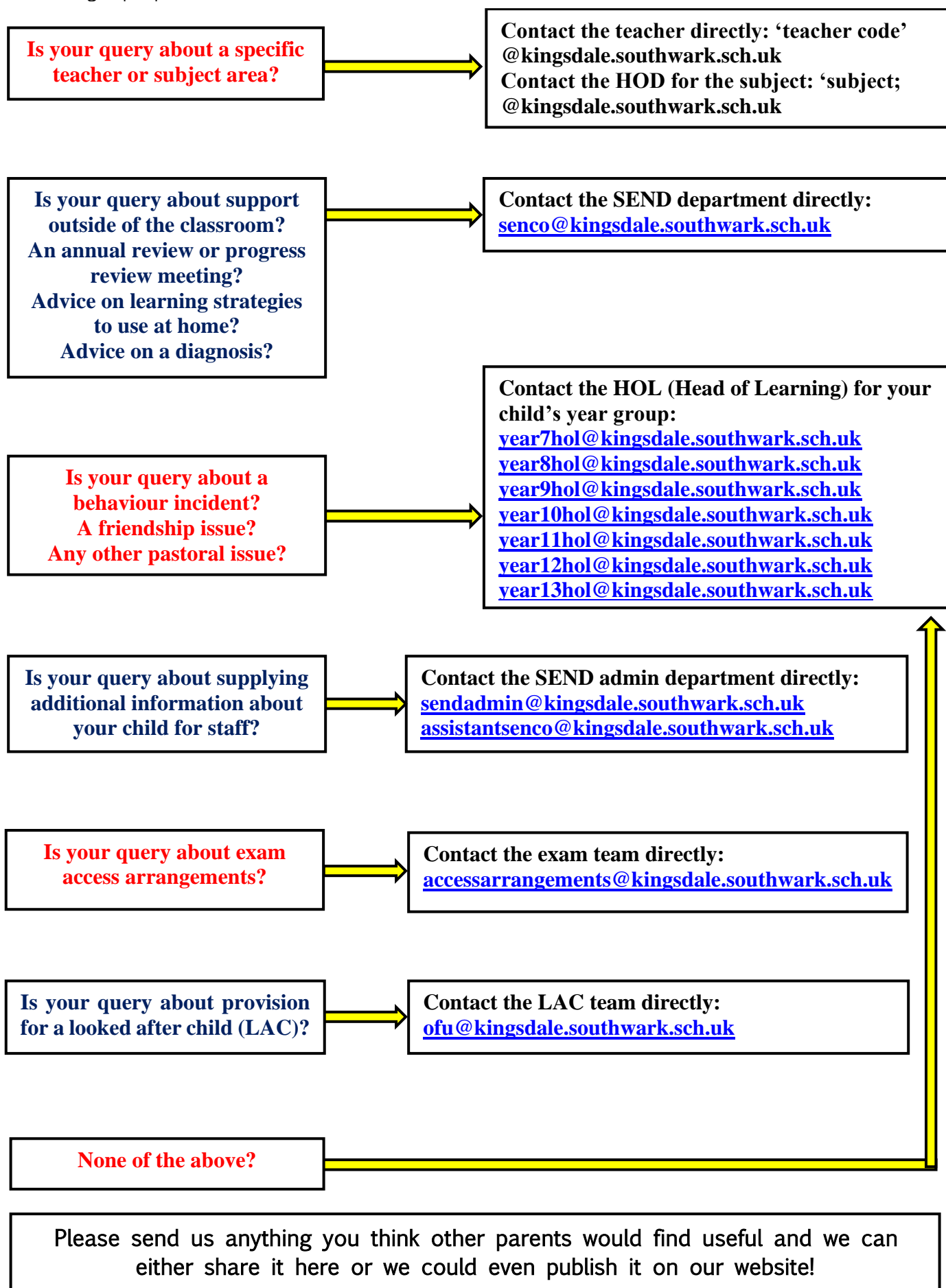
[Wednesday 1st May, 8pm](#)

Or email at familysupport@stamma.org to keep up to date with future meetings.

SEND FACULTY NEWS Communication Flowchart: SEND

At Kingsdale we would like our communication to be as effective as possible.

Please see the flowchart below to help us support your child effectively and get the information needed to the right people.



The School Shop

A reminder that our School Shop is now open during the school day to enable students to purchase a range of useful items that they might need. This includes stationary and uniform items; all of which can be purchased using their school fob. The School Shop is located in the main Atrium nearest to the green stairs.



Lost Property

We are still receiving a large number of items that have been mislaid or lost by students.

In many cases, these items are unlabelled, making it very hard for them to be quickly and successfully reunited with their owners!

Please can we ask parents to label all items of their children's property at school, including water bottles, blazers and coats. Lost property queries can be directed to lostproperty@kingsdale.southwark.school.uk

Calling all Budding Student Journalists!

Kingsdale students have started their own school newspaper and are inviting fellow students to get involved!

If you're passionate about current affairs and would like to write reviews and news reports for the Kingsdale Telegraph, please get in touch!



Click image to open the latest edition!

Students should post their illustrations, reviews and articles (maximum 80 words for reviews and 100 words for articles) in the school newspaper contributions box, situated in the main office. Please include your full name and tutor group. Alternatively, they can email the team via kingsdaletelegraph@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

SCHOOL NEWS



KFS Uniform Bank

Our uniform is a key part of our identity and as such we are able to help parents and carers in providing quality uniform items. Sadly, the cost of living is still rising and some families are finding it a challenge to cover all bases in bringing up a family. There is also the negative environmental impact in design and disposal within the clothing industry to consider. Kingsdale community families can acquire cleaned and sanitised pre-worn uniform blazers (Belmont Dry Cleaners in Croxted Road have been most generous with their time and costing in this matter) and other items, dependent on availability, at a much, reduced rate.

The Uniform Bank will also be open between 3.45pm and 4.45pm each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please, always check for availability of items prior to making a purchase. This is a rolling programme that continues throughout the entire academic year and as such we are always looking for donations. Please leave washed and folded clothes at the main Reception area. Items of uniform will be available at other times of the year depending on supply. If you would like to help in any way please make yourself known to the team.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact: Mr Lewis at jl@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk





A safe space for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour

Our new website for young people with concerns about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviour.



shospace.org.uk

Why Shore?

- It is one of the only resources of its kind in the world, designed specifically for young people with concerns about sexual behaviour
- It has reliable information to get anonymous help if they or a friend has acted harmfully online

SCHOOL NEWS

Safe Travel to School

At school, we have shared the key messages about keeping safe with the students. Some of the key messages are outlined below:

“LOOK UP LOOK OUT”

- **BE AWARE** of your surroundings.
- **BE AWARE** when using your mobile phone.
- Know your route home.
- Keep to busy roads.
- Try to be with other people.
- If someone tries to stop you keep walking.
- **SHOUT** for help and make **NOISE**.
- If anything happens speak to a trusted adult as soon as you can.
- **RUN HIDE TELL**.
- There is no right or wrong response as each situation is different but remember that **YOUR SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT**. Only **YOU** can assess the risk.
- Possessions are replaceable, but **you are not**.

Your child must contact the Police immediately on 999 if they are concerned about their safety or if they are the victim of a mugging/attempted mugging.

Students and Parents should also inform the school so that we can offer pastoral support and liaise with our Safer Schools Officer – PC Crampton.

Please contact Mr Harding via dhg@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk with any queries.



Kingsdale is a Safe Space

We would like to take this opportunity to once again remind students and their families of our two confidential emails which are operational both during and outside of school hours.

This provision is available for any member of our school community wishing to seek advice, discuss any matters relating to mental health & well-being or report an incident or concern confidentially via email.

We appreciate that students, parents, carers or guardians may wish to speak to someone outside of school hours or may wish to disclose an incident or concern confidentially or anonymously.

Our two confidential emails are:

health&wellbeing@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

tellsomeone@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Please contact **Ms V. Turner** for further information regarding this provision or any matters relating to mental health & well-being at Kingsdale School.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

COMIC RELIEF

Red Nose Day: The Little Red Nose That Makes a Really Big Difference

For 2024, Comic Relief proudly presents the funniest Red Noses yet, perfect if you've got lots of Noses waiting to Do Something Funny for Money! Fun-filled and full of laughter, there is a serious point to the little Red Noses. Red Nose Day was created by the charity Comic Relief to help people less fortunate or in poverty. It's an annual fundraising campaign, and their main aim is to raise money whilst making people laugh!



STUDENT TASK: Design a 'red nose'. The funniest nose will win valuable points for your house.



HOUSE ACTIVITY:

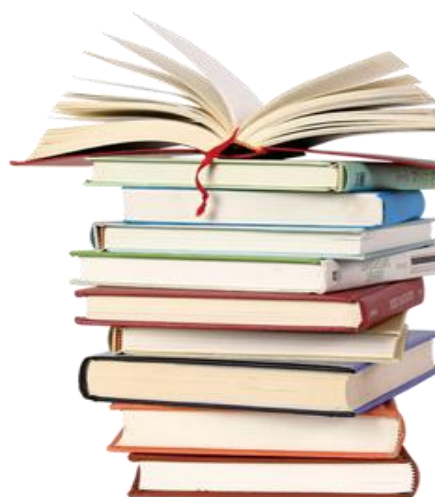
Submit your design to the House Team:
housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk
Ensure your entry is accompanied by your full name, tutor group and House.



World Poetry Day

Held every year on 21st March, World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. Practiced throughout history – in every culture and on every continent – poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for dialogue and peace.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/poetry>



STUDENT TASK: We're inviting you to write a poem about your favourite person. Who do you idolise? Is it your mum or dad? Your best friend? Your brother or sister? Perhaps there is a famous person, from a sports or film star to an author or musician, that you admire and aspire to be like. Why are they your favourite person and why do they inspire you? Grab your pen and get writing! From haikus and rhymes to acrostics and everything in-between, we welcome your poem in any style and format celebrating your poetry idol.

HOUSE ACTIVITY:

Submit your poem to the House Team:
housesystem@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk

Ensure your entry is accompanied by your full name, tutor group and House.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

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 undeniably 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 £5 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 Coombe is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site G@rcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SPORTS FIXTURES

HOUSE NEWS

Monday 11th March 2024

- Boys' Under-12s Hockey Finals at Southgate Hockey Club. Leave School at 7.30am. Start 10am. Return at 4pm approx.: **Mr Pizzey/Mr Price**
- Boys' Under-12s Rugby Team Away Match against Rutlish School. Leave School at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mr Lord**
- Girls' & Boys' Year 8 Cycle Confidence Course. Monday to Friday 9am until 3pm.: **Southwark Instructors/Mr Price**

Tuesday 12th March 2024

- Boys' Under-15s Football Team Away Match against Forest Hill Boys. Leave School at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5.15pm approx.: **Mr Price**
- Boys' Under-12s Rugby 7s Tournament at Richmond Park. Leave School at 12 noon. Start 1.45pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr Lord**
- Girls' & Boys' Under-12s/13s Selected Runners for London Boroughs Cross Country Championships at Haverly-Hill. Leave School at 11.30am. Start 1pm. Return at 4.30pm approx.: **Mrs Sinclair**
- Girls' Under-14s Football Team Home Match against Bishop Thomas Grant. Leave School at 1.50pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4.30pm approx.: **Mr Dash**

Wednesday 13th March 2024

- Girls' Under-16s Rugby 7s Tournament at Oundle School. Precise Times TBC.: **Ms McErlaine/Mr Price**
- Boys' Under-18s Rugby 7s Tournament at Eltham College. Leave School at 12 noon. Start 1pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr McWhirter/Mr Worsley**
- Girls' Under-12s Netball Team Away Match against Streatham & Clapham High School. Leave School at 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mrs Sinclair**

Thursday 14th March 2024

- Girls' Under-13s Football B Team Away Match against St Philomena's School. Leave School at 1pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Ms Findlay/Mr Price**
- Girls' Under-13s Football Away Match against Ashlyn's School. Leave School at 1pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 5.45pm approx.: **Mr Dash**
- Boys' Under-15s Handball Tournament (Qualifiers) at Carshalton Boys School. Leave School at 12 noon. Start 1pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr Roberts/Mr Foster**

Friday 15th March 2024

- Boys' Under-13s Football Match at Selhurst Arena against St Matthew Academy. Leave School 1.30pm. Start 2.30pm. Return at 4pm approx.: **Mr Foster**
- Boys' Under-14s Rugby 7s Tournament at Roehampton Gate. Leave School at 11.50am. Start 1.30pm. Return at 5.30pm approx.: **Mr McWhirter**
- Girls' & Boys' Mixed Volleyball Team Away Match against Bishop Thomas Grant School. Leave School at 2.30pm. Start 3pm. Return at 5pm approx.: **Mr Dash**

***Please note Fixtures/Events may be cancelled due to wet or frozen pitches.**



Online Safety Corner

For this week's Online Safety focus, we are looking at everything parents/carers need to know about 'Among Us'. This is a multiplayer social deduction gaming platform. Get a greater insight here.

PLEASE READ!! Remember to keep an open dialogue with your child about their activities online. See page above.

International Women's Day



House Assemblies

ALL THIS WEEK!

House Assemblies return this week with the theme being International Women's Day.

Swift House

Monday am & pm registration

Albatross House

Tuesday am & pm registration

Eagle House

Wednesday am & pm registration

Falcon House

Thursday am & pm registration

Dove House

Friday am & pm registration

Please encourage your child to participate and support their House this week.

The House Leader Board 2023-24

Week ending 8th March 2024

1st Place – Dove 39,309 Points

2nd Place – Swift 38,826 Points

3rd Place – Falcon 37,415 Points

4th Place – Albatross 35,211 Points

5th Place – Eagle 33,674 Points

The competition remains incredibly competitive as Dove return to the top of the leaderboard. The race is truly on!