



The second half of the Spring term has started very positively, despite a few torrential downpours! Students are reminded regularly to stay away from muddy areas and puddles and I ask that you do, please, remind your daughter and/or son about this as there have been a number of students going home with muddy and wet trousers; this may also help with having a little less washing to do at home too!

It was lovely to welcome the RAF into school on Tuesday to work with a number of our Year 10 Hospitality students; they had a fabulous morning and our students were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. There have also been very successful visits to both Dudley College for some of our Year 9-11 students to support next steps, and to the University of Bath for some of our post-16 students. Ensuring that students have lots of opportunities to make informed choices about their futures is a key part of our provision. Yesterday evening saw a very well attended Year 8 Parents' and Carers' Evening; as always, meeting with parents and carers brings about so many positive and productive discussions to support improving student progress. Whilst GCSEs may seem a little way away for our Key Stage 3 students, they soon come around and getting into really positive learning habits from an early age is so important; the learning undertaken every day underpins what is needed for GCSE success which is why we are working so hard with students to support them with understanding what a positive attitude to learning looks like and to ensure that homework becomes a key component of their routine. Year 10 students, and their parents and carers, have this week received information about their upcoming exams at the end of this term; I am very grateful for the support that our students receive at home to encourage revision.

You will be aware from our previous communication that we hosted our Parents' and Carers' Forum just before half-term. Some changes have been made to our eZine following the feedback, and you will notice that school letters appear earlier in the communication and that we have added brief updates from each of our Year Team Leaders. It is important to us that our communication systems continue to evolve and develop to reflect what is needed by our school community; please let us know via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if you have further feedback, and I will endeavour to keep you updated on changes as and when they happen.

Have a lovely weekend.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 4th March – Year 10 and Year 11 Macbeth Performance

Wednesday 5th March – RSA8 Trust Project – Launch Event, Waseley Hills High School

Friday 7th March – Culture Day

Friday 7th March - Year 11 Carding Mill Valley Trip

Thursday 13th March – Year 9 Guided Choices & Core Evening

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Term Ahead Expectations

w/c 03/03 – World Book Day & Importance Of Reading

w/c 10/03 – National Careers Week

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

Year Team Updates – w/e 28/2/2025

Year 7:

Welcome back year 7! We hope you had a wonderful break and a well deserved rest. The year team have spoken with year 7 during our morning meeting on Tuesday and set the challenge of ending this half term at 95% as a year group. Last half term, we averaged around 93% and hit highs of 96% so we know that we can do this. The more students are in school, the better their outcomes will be in year 11.

During half term, we wanted to say a huge congratulations to Thea M and Mason J who took part in a taekwondo competition in Liverpool, with Thea getting a bronze medal in sparring and Mason taking home the gold medal! This is an outstanding achievement for both these students who we are extremely proud of!



Key upcoming dates:

Morgan Stanley Project (selected students) - Start date – Friday 21st March – 9:00 – 12:30

Brilliant Club Project (selected students) - Start date – Tuesday 11th March – 13:00-15:00

Year 8:

Welcome back Year 8! The whole year 8 team was excited on Monday to welcome back our fantastic year 8 cohort. Mr Johnson set a challenge for the whole year group to increase the year-to-date attendance of the cohort to 94% by the end of Spring 2. The current year to date attendance is 93.6% so not far away! Students have returned refreshed and ready for the challenge ahead, and as always year 8 will rise to the challenge. The year team look forward to sharing the continuous success of year 8 moving forward!

Year 9:

A big welcome back and happy first week of Spring 2 for all of the Y9 Family! As Miss Ralph stated on Monday during the first line up of the week to students, this half term is extremely important for our Y9 family as we look ahead on our journey at Gospel Oak to our options and guided choices evening that will take place on **Thursday 13th March 4:30pm – 6:30pm**. The students have returned with the correct 10/10 mindset and attitude in order to succeed and achieve here at GOS and the Year Team look forward to them continuing to progress and develop in a positive way over the next 7 weeks!

Year 10:

And we are back, bigger and better than ever! After a very well-deserved break let's kick off Spring 2 with a bang. Our challenge this term is to work on increasing our attendance and punctuality to school so that we are in a solid routine ready for our GCSE's next year. It is extremely important if not done so already that all our students have secured a work placement ready for the following dates **Tuesday 1st July – Thursday 3rd July**. Year 10 have shown vast improvements with their punctuality to lessons and the Year Team is excited to see even further developments being made in our next 7 weeks.

Year 11:

Welcome back Year 11

This week to support with Y11 preparations for upcoming GCSEs all Year 11 students will be participating in workshops delivered by external speakers. The first of these workshops will be on Friday and is called '**Ace Your Exams**' These workshops will be important for pupil preparation and help them to succeed in the summer.

We know that many of you are working hard and that every extra thing makes a difference.

Sixth Form

Welcome back – I hope that everyone had a lovely week off.

Students have returned after their break and are already working hard. Year 13 are preparing for their A levels.

In both year 12 and 13 we are introducing Barclays Life skills which will give students the opportunity to learn about finances.

New York letters are now available for students to apply – please pick up a letter from 6th form if you are interested in this amazing opportunity.

A reminder to be logging on and completing your online learning.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Leshia

Year 13 student of the week – Varni

Year 12 attendance – 95.9%

Year 13 attendance – 94.4 %

Events –

27th February – Trip to Bath University

8th – 10th July - Year 12 Work Experience



Gospel Oak School

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To: Yr 10 Parents/Carers

Our Ref: HT.KH.3203

Your Ref:

28th February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Year 10 Spring Mock Exams and PSAs (Pearson Set Assignments)

As part of our preparations for your son or daughter for the examinations they will sit in the Summer of Year 11, we will be holding a mock examination period between **Monday 31st March and Friday 11th April 2025**. Our desire as a school is to ensure that students are fully prepared for their exams next summer so that it is positive experience for them. In order to do this, the mock exams are used to help students get used to all expectations with sitting a formal examination and the experience of sitting an examination under examination conditions. This is potentially an emotional and stressful time for your son/daughter and yourselves and we will endeavour to support as much as possible. I will be speaking to students in the coming weeks in assembly regarding the mock examination arrangements

In the assembly I will share the following exam etiquette with them:

- Check seating plans prior to going to the theatre to line up, these will be displayed on the wall in the restaurant, in the theatre corridor and outside the Y10 team office.
- Enter the theatre without talking and quickly place all bags and coats in the designated buckets at the front of the row
- Stand behind the correct letter for your seating row, in silence and complete the following:
 - All equipment to be in a clear plastic pencil case and in your hand
 - All pockets to be emptied.
 - Lanyards to be removed.
 - All watches removed.
 - Water bottles to have no labels.
 - All phones to be switched off and either handed in or left in bags prior to entry into exam. NO PHONES should be left in your pockets of your blazer or trousers as this will lead to sanctions being put in place
- Walk to the exam hall in silence.
- Enter the exam hall in silence and sit in the correct seat quickly ready to start.

Your son/daughter will be provided an individual timetables for the mock examinations and these will detail what day they have an examination and their seat number. Accompanying this letter is an information booklet that details each subject, the content of each examination and an overview of the examination timetable, please ensure you go through this with your son/daughter so they are fully prepared for the examination period.

PSAs (Pearson Set Assignment): not all qualifications that your son/daughter study may have a mock examination, this is due to them being Level 2 BTECs, in these subjects they are currently completing PSAs, which are internal assessments that will be sent for external moderation with exam boards at the start of May. It is really important that if your son/daughter is completing any PSAs, they are maximising their time in lessons and take opportunities of any additional time outside of lessons their class teacher offers, to ensure that they achieve the best possible mark in these assessments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Tanner
Senior Vice Principal



To: Yr 12 Parents/Carers

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W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

28th February 2025

Our Ref: HT.KH.3207

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Year 12 Spring Mock Exams

As part of our preparations for your son or daughter for the examinations they will sit in the Summer of Year 13, we will be holding a mock examination period between **Monday 31st March and Friday 11th April 2025**. Our desire as a school is to ensure that students are fully prepared for their exams next summer so that it is positive experience for them. In order to do this, the mock exams are used to help students get used to all expectations with sitting a formal examination and the experience of sitting an examination under examination conditions. This is potentially an emotional and stressful time for your son/daughter and yourselves and we will endeavour to support as much as possible. Mr Bala and I will be speaking to students in the coming weeks in assembly regarding the mock examination arrangements.

In the assembly we will share the following exam etiquette with them:

- Check seating plans prior to going to the theatre to line up, these will be displayed on the wall in the restaurant, in the theatre corridor and with the P16 team.
- Leave bags and coats in the Sixth form area
- Ensure
 - All equipment is in a clear plastic pencil case and in your hand
 - All pockets to be emptied.
 - Lanyards to be removed.
 - All watches removed.
 - Water bottles to have no labels.
 - All phones to be switched off and either handed in or left in bags prior to entry into exam. **NO PHONES** should be left in your pockets as this will lead to sanctions being put in place
- Wait outside the exam hall in silence.
- Enter the exam hall in silence and sit in the correct seat quickly ready to start.

Your son/daughter will be provided an individual timetables for the mock examinations and these will detail what day they have an examination and their seat number. Accompanying this letter is an information booklet that details each subject, the content of each examination and an overview of the examination timetable, please ensure you go through this with your son/daughter so they are fully prepared for the examination period.

Not all qualifications that your son/daughter study may have a mock examination, this is due to them being Level 3 BTECs, in these subjects they are currently completing coursework, which are internal assessments that will be sent for external moderation with exam boards at the start of May. It is really important that if your son/daughter is completing these assignments, they are maximising their time in lessons, use directed study and their own time, to ensure that they achieve the best possible mark in these assessments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Tanner
Senior Vice Principal



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To: All Parents / Carer

28th February 2025

Our Ref: SB.KH.3208

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Parental concerns

I hope that you and your son/daughter had an enjoyable and restful half-term break. We have been delighted with how the students have returned to school and look forward to a successful half term.

As you know, we are fully committed to working with our community to ensure we are creating a positive, safe and respectful environment for every student. To support this, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers that in the case of any questions or concerns regarding their son/daughter, to raise these directly with staff so that they can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is of the utmost importance and we take our duty of care towards all within our school community extremely seriously. When any issues of wellbeing are brought to our attention, we are able to take swift action and thoroughly investigate these concerns, in line with our robust safeguarding procedures and policies on negative behaviour.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support – it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



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Our Ref: SBO.KH.3212

Your Ref:

To: Year 11 Parents / Carers

28th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 Prom

We are delighted to inform you that the Year 11 Prom has been booked for Thursday 26th June 2025. This formal event will provide an opportunity for us to celebrate the past five years at Gospel Oak School and mark the end of an important chapter for our students.

The Prom will take place at the Black Country Museum from 6.00pm to 10.00pm. Upon arrival, the gates will be open for cars, and students will be welcomed with a red carpet entrance. There will also be a number of historical characters, vintage cars, and buses available for photographs, adding a special touch to the evening.

We have a number of exciting surprises planned for the event, and we will share further details with you in due course.

We would love for all of our Year 11 students to attend this memorable occasion. Information regarding ticket purchases will be provided in the near future.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions in the meantime. We look forward to celebrating this special event with you and your son/daughter.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



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F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

To: Year 9 Parents/Carers

Our Ref: HT.KH.3213

Your Ref:

28th February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Year 9 Guided Choices Evening

We are excited to invite you to the Year 9 Guided Choices Evening on Thursday 13th March, the event will take place in the new build nearest the Astro. This event is an excellent opportunity to discuss your son's/daughter's progress with their English, Maths and Science teachers. It will also provide you with information about the subjects available for your son/daughter as they move on to Key Stage 4.

You can book appointments, from 4.00pm to 6.30pm, with your son's/daughter's English, Maths and Science teachers through our online booking system in Arbor. On the evening you will also be able to listen to a short talk in the Bistro at 4.15pm, 5.00pm or 6.00pm to detail the process further, find out about the subjects on offer in our marketplace, talk to subject teachers of these subjects and speak to our careers advisor, Mrs Wilkins, should your son/daughter require any further advice and guidance.

Prior to the evening, you will receive a copy of your son's/daughter's progress report. During the event, you will be provided with a Guided Choices booklet detailing the process and subjects on offer. Following the evening your son/daughter will need to use the QR code that is in the booklet or scanned on the evening, to complete their choices. The deadline for making choices will be Friday 21st March. In the meantime, I encourage your son/daughter to speak to their form tutor, subject teachers, older siblings or older friends to start to think about the subjects they might consider doing at Key Stage 4. We will be speaking to the students during assembly next week with regards the guided choices process.

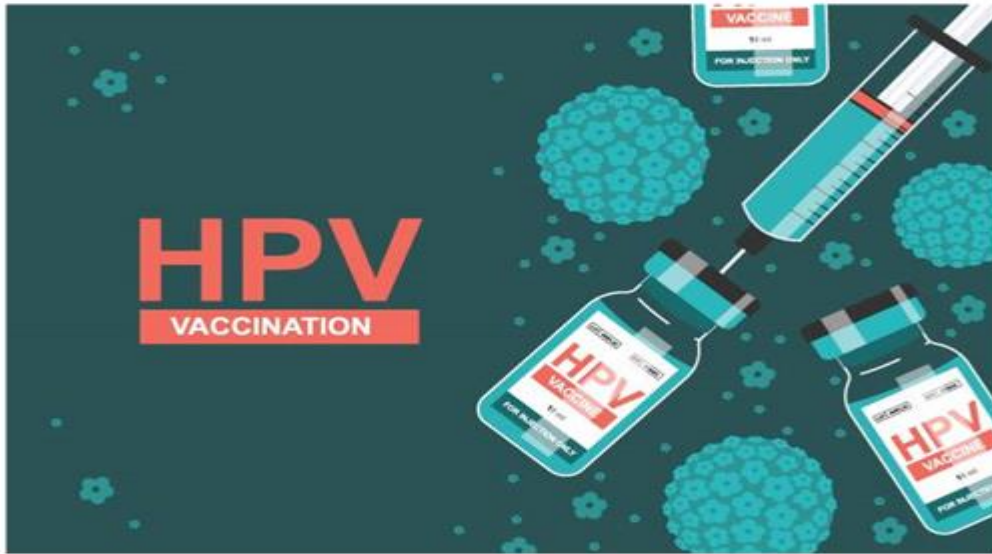
We look forward to welcoming you on the 13th March.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Tanner
Senior Vice Principal

Please complete the below link for your child to receive their vaccine:-

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/hpv/2024/sandwell>



Vaccination UK will be attending Gospel Oak School on Tuesday 25th March 2025 to administer the HPV (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine). Should you wish for your child to receive his / her vaccine then please complete the above link by midnight on Tuesday 18th March 2025. Please ensure that your son / daughter has no allergies to the vaccine and should you have any queries then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.

Spring Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Spring Term, we'll cover:

1. How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking
- 21st January @6:00pm
2. How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)
- 4th February @6:00pm
3. How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams
- 11th March @6:00pm
4. How You Can Support Your Child During Exams
- 25th March @6:00pm

elevate
education





I hope this email finds you well. My name is Safiyah, and I'm reaching out on behalf of [Bite Back](#), a movement led by **young people fighting for a fairer and healthier food system for everyone.**

We're excited to share that [we are currently recruiting young people aged 14-16 to join our Youth Board](#), and we would love your help in spreading the word to the young people you work with, and within your network.

[Bite Back](#) is all about empowering young people to use their voices to fight for the health of a generation. As a member of the Youth Board, their participation might involve:

- Speaking with or writing for local media — newspapers, radio or television.
- Meeting their local MP, mayor, councillors or business leaders.
- Organising a stunt, petition or campaign to raise awareness of the issues they care about.
- Making creative social media content to spread the word about their campaign.
- Doing research into the food system in their local community.
- Developing their skills including communication, team building, leadership and writing, amongst many others

✎ We welcome applications from young people eligible for free school meals or from minority ethnic backgrounds, as we are committed to ensuring a diverse and inclusive group of activists.

✎ **All expenses are covered** for those selected, and there are **plenty of opportunities for growth and personal development** throughout the year.

More details, including the application information pack, can be found here: <https://www.biteback2030.com/lets-bite-back/become-a-bite-back-activist/>

Applications are open now, and the deadline is 2nd March.

If any of your young people are interested, please [encourage them to apply](#) and be part of this movement for change.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to reach out to us at youth@biteback2030.com.

Best wishes,

Bite Back Youth Team

www.biteback2030.com

Benwell House, 15-21 Benwell Road, London, N7 7BL



At a glance

Monday 3rd March
Monday 17th March
Monday 24th March
Monday 31st March
Monday 7th April



March - April 2025

Please read all information carefully 

Family Club returns Monday 3rd March 2025

@ West Bromwich Leisure Centre, Moor Street, West Bromwich, B70 7AZ

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Parking at the rear of the leisure centre is pay and display but refundable at centre's reception.

The venue is wheelchair accessible but please note there are no changing facilities.

It's all about having FUN together!

Our sessions offer families the chance to take part in a variety of active/sporting and creative opportunities each week.

There will be a different creative theme each week and a mixture of sporting activities, so please take a look and book for those weeks that will appeal to you and your family.

How to book for Family Club



Please email your expressions of interest in the Club to spdcbooking@sp-dc.org

Your email should clearly state

*Your name

*Which date(s) you would like to attend

*How many (adults/children) will be taking part in the sessions



Please provide this information in full as without it we may not be able to process your booking properly.

Please make sure you get your requests to us as soon as possible as we are unable to accept booking after

9:00am Friday 21st February – This will be strictly adhered to.

Once the team have processed all of the bookings you will receive an email confirming the places you have been allocated at Family Club.

Confirmation emails will be sent out **Week commencing 24th February**

Please note that bookings will not be accepted via Facebook or Messenger.

Family Club has different themes each week, so please take a look at the following information about each session and only book the sessions that appeal to your family.

If you have requested or are allocated places on a particular session but can no longer attend it, we would ask you to let us know as soon as possible by calling Diane 07594 486930 or Gary 07763 593877 so that we can offer a family on our waiting lists the opportunity to join us.



Club Activities 5.00pm-6.30pm



Monday 3rd March Hello Spring



Lets welcome Spring with planting seeds, decorating pots, bird feeders and a lamb craft.
Also on offer will be various games, quizzes and sensory activities.



On the active side, football, badminton, table tennis, parachute & basketball will be on offer.

Lets dance/step our way into spring with a Zumba work out from Vince between
5:30pm -6:00pm



Monday 11th March

This evening is all about us- The human body



On offer will be Human body crafts
Fruit/Vegetable Kebabs

Sensory play on offer along with building blocks activities and games.
On offer in the sports hall will be a variety of physical games to to take part in.



On the active side we have a visit from Vince who will be joining us for a Zumba session
between 5:30pm-6:00pm followed by our ever popular sporting opportunities.



Monday 24th March Mother's Day Crafts



Paula will joining us to create a gift for that special someone
Along with spoon/fork flower art craft and much more. **GIFT**
Messy sensory play on offer along with building blocks activities and games.

Tonight we will be joined by the Healthy Project staff who will deliver a small boot camp to
get us all MOVING from 5:15pm -5:45pm.



For our younger visitors (under 8's and those with specific sensory needs) we have
exclusive use of the soft play area situated on the ground floor of the Centre from
5:45pm-6:30pm.



Club Activities 5.00pm-6.30pm



Monday 31st March Diamond Art/Hema Beads



Tonight join us for a relaxing evening of crafts. Everything in the creative side will be bright and colourful, sensory and games on offer too.

Test your skills with the staff, a chance to take part in a whole range of sporting opportunities.

On the active side we have a visit from Vince who will be joining us for a Zumba session between 5:30pm-6:00pm followed by our ever popular sporting opportunities.



Monday 1st April Easter Crafts



Lets have a cracking evening with lots of Easter activities to include Chocolate, Chocolate and more Chocolate.

On offer in the sports hall will be a variety of physical games to to take part in.

For our younger visitors (under 8's and those with specific sensory needs) we have exclusive use of the soft play area situated on the ground floor of the Centre from 5:30pm-6:30pm.



EASTER



Contact Us!

Sandwell Parent for Disabled Children

Galton Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur Street, Smethwick, B66 1DH

Tel 0121 565 2410

Email info@sp-dc.org

Website www.sp-dc.org

Charity Reg: 1125576



SCAN ME



localgiving.com

THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES FUND

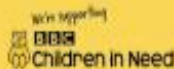
Funded by UK Government

Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund

West Midlands Combined Authority

heart of england

UNITED BY 2020 LEGACY DARTS



Choices

Making family memories!
For families in Sandwell with children aged 5 – 12.

Physical Activity


Emotional Health and Wellbeing


Food and Nutrition


Growing Your Own


Quality fun family time together whilst discovering new activities.
Bring your family together and book onto one of our activities using the website or QR code:

Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
www.bookwhen.com/choices
0121 569 5100



What is HENRY?

HENRY is a UK charity working to give children a healthy and happy childhood, ensuring they thrive both now and in the future.

We offer practical tips and resources for parents and carers on our website to support positive family changes.



How can I join a programme?

Available locally

The *Healthy Families: Growing Up* programme is available in your area.

Talk to your local Family Support Service Team or health practitioner to find out more and explore if this programme is right for you.

“

"This was so much more and so much better than I expected. I would encourage every parent to do it."

"This was the best thing I could possibly have done to help me be a better mum."

- Parents from the Healthy Families: Growing Up Programme

Contact information

For more details or to join the programme, contact us at:

Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk

REGISTER FOR OUR PROGRAMME TODAY



Choices



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HEALTHY FAMILIES: GROWING UP

FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Guiding families to grow happier and healthier, together

We all want what's best for our children, but it can sometimes feel overwhelming as they grow up.

The *Healthy Families: Growing Up* programme is here to offer practical support and guidance, helping you and your family adopt healthier habits.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 18 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

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

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

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

VERIFICATION STAMPS

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

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

REPORT AND BLOCK

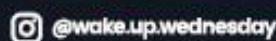
Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people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

Meet Our Expert

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



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>



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