

# Pastoral Newsletter



**MORE  
HOUSE  
SCHOOL**  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## SAFEGUARDING

This half term our Safeguarding priority is Online Safety.

The internet is a powerful tool that can be used for learning, entertainment, and connecting with others. However, it is important to be aware of the risks associated with online activity, especially for children and young people.

Schools have a safeguarding responsibility to protect their students from online harm. This includes educating students about online safety risks, providing them with tools and resources to stay safe, and monitoring their online activity. This academic year we have implemented a system called Smoothwall. Smoothwall filters the School Wifi to block harmful content and alert the School of any concerns.

Secondary School students may face a number of online safety risks including:

- **Cyberbullying:** This is bullying that takes place online or through text messages. It can be just as harmful as traditional bullying, and can be even more difficult to escape.
- **Online sexual exploitation:** This is when someone uses the internet to groom, exploit, or abuse a child or young person for sexual purposes.

- **Online radicalisation:** This is when someone is exposed to extremist views online that lead them to become involved in radical activities.
- **Harmful content:** This includes content that is violent, abusive, or inappropriate for children and young people.

Parents play an important role in keeping their children safe online. Here are some tips:

- Talk to your child about online safety risks and how to stay safe.
- Set clear rules and boundaries for their online activity.
- Monitor their online activity and talk to them about what they are doing online.
- Use parental controls to restrict their access to certain websites and content.
- Encourage them to talk to you if they see or experience anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

If you are concerned about your child's online safety, please talk to a member of the Safeguarding team or your child's Head of Key Stage. The School will be able to provide you with advice and support.

Additional tips for students include:

- Be careful about what personal information you share online.
- Never give out your password to anyone else.
- Be wary of strangers who contact you online.
- Be careful about what photos and videos you post online.
- If you see or experience anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult.

To assist with online education this term we have invited our Safer Schools Liaison officer PC Kerry to speak to students about Social Media.

## ATTENDANCE

Regular School attendance is a prerequisite for a successful education and securing good attendance should be a priority for Schools, governors, local authorities, parents and students.

Schools have a legal duty to record attendance and absence of registered pupils in compliance with the Education Acts and their associated Regulations. Under the Pupils' Registration Regulations, all Schools are required to report to the Local Authority any pupil with continuous absence of two weeks or more, and any student who otherwise fails to attend regularly, except when the absences are authorised by reason of the student's illness. However, this is a minimum requirement and the child's LA should be informed regularly in cases of interrupted attendance patterns.

Unauthorised absences happen when parents do not make contact with the School to explain the reason for absence or the reason for absence is not acceptable.

Any absence should be reported via email [absent@morehousemail.org.uk](mailto:absent@morehousemail.org.uk) or 0207 235 2855.

Term time absence requests should be emailed directly to Ms Hagerty [fhagerty.head@morehousemail.org.uk](mailto:fhagerty.head@morehousemail.org.uk)

## PUPIL VOICE

We have been grateful to the School Council, led by the Head Girl, for its recent debate and feedback on a range of topics which have included School rules regarding makeup and jewellery. The views expressed have been informed and thought provoking and help us to shape both the School's policies and procedures.

## PSHE

This half term in PSHE we will be covering some of our Statutory RSE Topics. These topics will include the following:

### Y7

- Managing friendships and relationships
- Consent and boundaries
- Respect and relationships
- Being positive and raising self esteem
- Peer pressure and influence

### Y8

- Homophobia and LGBTQ+
- Challenging Homophobia
- Gender Dysphoria and Transphobia
- LGBTQ+ Support and Where to Seek Help

### Y9

- FGM and The Law
- Relationships and Partners
- Sexual Consent and The Law
- Delaying Sexual Pleasure

### Y10

- Sexualisation of the Media
- Online Pornography
- Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence
- Unhealthy Relationships
- Porn and Its Impact on Society

### Y11

- Revisiting Contraception
- Fertility: What Impacts It
- Respect, Love and Relationships

### Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science orders.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of the RSE policy and addressed to the Head.

The Head will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are

withdrawn from sex education.

Please note that, in accordance with the DFE guidance, More House will respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the School can make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

If you have any questions regarding PSHE or RSE please contact Mrs Garwood via [lagarwood@morehousemail.org.uk](mailto:lagarwood@morehousemail.org.uk)

## HEADS OF KEY STAGE

### Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

This half term is an exciting time for year 9 who will begin to choose their GCSE subjects. Pupils and parents are invited to attend the Options evening on **Tuesday 5th December** to meet with subject leaders to discuss GCSE choices. Please talk to your daughter ahead of this event and encourage them to ask their subject teachers for advice too.

We can all look forward to another City Curriculum Day on **Wednesday 15th November**. Year 7 will be exploring the Cutty Sark and Greenwich Maritime Museum. Year 8 is going to the Science Museum and Year 9 will be visiting the Mitheraum (a Roman temple) and Tate Britain. More details on these will be sent to you separately.

### Uniform Reminder

**All girls in Key stage 3 are expected to wear their blazer to school**

We would be grateful if parents could remind pupils of the following rules regarding jewellery and make up.

Only one small stud earring may be worn in the lobe of each ear.

A necklace may only be worn if it holds a *small* religious icon. It should be tucked into the shirt.

***Infringements of these rules will result in the confiscation of the jewellery for half a term.***

- No make-up
- No nail varnish
- No false nails or tips

### Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

In form time this half term, we will be continuing with our discussions of current global affairs, spirit and truth, wellbeing, and assemblies. We encourage all students to take full advantage of this time to engage with discussions that they believe are important to them and their peers. We will also be continuing our one-to-one wellbeing check-ins with every pupil, as the pastoral care of your child is always our priority.

This half term, our CCD day is on **Wednesday 15th November**. Year 10 will be going to the Bank of England, and Year 11 will have Study Workshops in school delivered by experts. More details on these will be sent to you separately.

Year 11 have their A-Level options evening on **Monday 13th November**. All pupils and parents are invited to attend to learn more about life in the sixth form and the subjects they will be taking next year. We would strongly encourage you to speak with your daughter about what subjects she would like to take as this decision will be made in January. Furthermore, there is ongoing intervention for Year 11 in all subjects to help them prepare for their exams. These take place during lunch times and after school. Please remind your daughter that attendance at these interventions is expected. If they have any questions about the interventions, they should contact their subject teachers directly.

### Dates for the Diary

- 8th November - Prevent training (All years)
- 13th - 17th November - Anti Bullying Week
- 20th November - Prevent parent information evening
- 4th December, 4pm - Cyber Group/ Digital Strategy