



# TENBURY HIGH

## ORMISTON ACADEMY



In the

# Spotlight

12th May 2023



## Principal News:

**In the SpotLight** is a regular newsletter to brief parents, carers and the wider community on key school news and messages.

**General News** I hope you and your families are well and have enjoyed the two recent bank holidays. This is a busy time in school as we continue to support Year 11s preparing for their first formal public exam of the 2023 series which is Biology on Tuesday. I know pupils are working hard and are being supported in school to be the best they can be. I wish all our Year 11s the very best for their forthcoming exam period. In a few weeks time, Year 10 will be sitting their end of year mock examinations as well. Thank you to all parents of Year 10 who attended the parents' evening this week. This was the first face to face parents evening for this year group and it was important to engage with parents and carers in person; it builds better relationships and allows for better collaboration. Attendance was about 75%. I hope we can increase this with future planned Year 11 events next year. Attendance at parents' evening with your son/daughter is an important part of the home school agreement and allows staff and families to work together for the best of the student. If you were unable to attend, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Taylor (Head of Year 10) for any information you may require. There will be another Year 10 data capture next half term.

**Rewards** – Next half term looks to be an exciting one with many foreign and domestic residential trips planned as well as numerous rewards opportunities including a Year 9 and 10 best and most improved attendance trip as well as a return of the cash-in initiative. Keep an eye on Edulink for further details about this.

**Equipment**—I referred to this a fortnight ago; however, too many pupils are still not bringing the correct equipment to school. Here is a list of the equipment all pupils need to have with them each day. Year 10s are running a daily pop up stationery shop for pupils to purchase essential forgotten items. Items are being sold at cost. Please make sure pupils bring to school a small amount of money if they need to purchase items. Thanks to the Year 10s who are giving up their time to facilitate this service.

Pens (blue or black and red)	Pencils H and HB	Reading Book
Pencil sharpener	300mm ruler	Eraser
Calculator (scientific for GCSE)	Coloured pencils	Fine felt tip pens
Protractor	Pair of compasses	Highlighter pens

**Uniform** – standards of uniform are still not where I would like them to be. The link is here should you need to check what is and what is not allowed [Uniform Policy](#) . Hopefully you will have already received the link for our uniform survey which closes on Friday 19th May. Here is the link again just in case [Uniform Survey](#). Thank you to those who have already provided your views. I want to use next half term to provide clarity around uniform and consequences for not wearing uniform so everyone is clear come September.

**Year 11 Examinations and attendance after May half term** As you will already be aware, the last day that Year 11 must attend fully will be Friday 26th May 2023. After May half term they are only required to attend for their examinations. However, due to family circumstances and work commitments we are offering pupils the opportunity to be in school after May half term, if they need to be. Pupils will be able to attend their normal lessons with their normal staff to revise privately or receive any subject-specific revision that may need prior their exam. In order for this to work efficiently, we will need to know the dates that you will require your child to be in school with us after May half term. This will allow us to fully prepare for their attendance. A link to a form has already been sent out but here it is again as a reminder—[Year 11 Attendance after Half Term](#). Please complete the form to confirm your child's attendance by Friday 26th May 2023.

**Safeguarding** Please find below a link to a video of an innovative cyber safety approach from the New Zealand government. It brings to life some of the dangers that our young people face in a realistic and humorous way—[Cyber Safety Video—New Zealand](#) . CEOP is the UK equivalent for cyber safety, run by the National Crime Agency, so please also take a look at this site too: [CEOP Safety Centre](#)





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION

Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually is who they say they are.

17+

### POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING

If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by people they weren't intended for.

### UNMODERATED CONTENT

Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

CENSORED

### PREMIUM COSTS

Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Play details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

### UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

### SECRET CHATS

Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'; we'd recommend either the second or third options, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

### DISCUSS SECURITY

It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

### REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT

If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action it unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

### USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION

Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

### PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS

Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRacon 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.



PREMIUM ACCESS



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.telegram.org/> | <https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explained-2022-163035068.html>



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