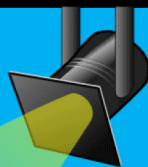




TENBURY HIGH

ORMISTON ACADEMY



In the

Spotlight

26th 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.

I hope you and your families are well. As we reach the end of another half term, there are a few messages I wish to share. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and restful half term. The forecast looks good so please stay safe in the sun and near rivers/water. Best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing our pupils back on **Monday 5th June**.

Year 11—Congratulations to a our Year 11 cohort for their conduct and attitude towards the first two weeks of public GCSE examinations. I have been impressed by your conduct in the exam hall and your mature approach to the process. Please do reach out to the wider pastoral team at the school for support and guidance if you need it. As we approach the half term break, do use the TEAMS revision pages and ensure you continue with your independent study and revision over the break.

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. . If you are struggling to equip your child adequately, please do not hesitate to contact their head of year.

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 – Thank you to those who have provided your views around uniform. The consultation generated a huge amount of information and debate. The SLT at the school will work through the details and communicate any changes early next half term. Please note, now the weather is warmer, pupils are not required to wear jumpers or have jumpers in school between now and the end of the academic year. They will be expected to wear ties with top buttons fastened and shirts tucked in. If the weather becomes very hot, I will be in touch about further short term uniform adaptations.

Issues with Edulink—It came to my attention this week that parents and carers are receiving notifications for behaviour points but not for all achievement points. This is an error and I want you to receive notifications of both. The settings have now been changed so that they will be sent out at 5.00 pm every day. Please log on to Edulink and see all of the achievement points your child has been awarded this year. From now on, you will be receiving notifications of both achievement and behaviour points.

Further Consultation – School start and finish times—Please find a link to a consultation around the school day start and finish times [start/finish time consultation](#) . I would be grateful if you would complete this before the deadline of **Friday 9th June 2023**.

Enrichment and Extra Curricular A group of KS3 pupils enjoyed a trip to the Cricket last week at New Road, Worcester; an important cultural experience that was enjoyed by all and only slightly dampened by a little bit of rain! Also, as part of the PSHE curriculum, pupils in 7-10 enjoyed a powerful and moving live performance from Alto Ego Creative Solutions around the themes of sexism, sexist behaviours and consent. This was funded by Malvern Hills District Council.

Cultural Capital. We work to the assumption that to be culturally literate is to possess the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world and we aim to create as many opportunities for pupils to fill their “cultural capital bags”. Parents and carers can help with this. Our subject curriculum provide a range of class and homework based enrichment opportunities. However, teachers are also keen to signpost further opportunities for additional cultural enrichment. You will find links to these opportunities on the website. This week’s spotlight is on English and French. Please access these pages here: [Tenbury High Ormiston Academy Enrichment - Tenbury High Ormiston Academy](#). Our full subject curriculum for all subjects and all years can be found on our website. This is useful information to enable you to support your child in their classroom learning. [Tenbury High Ormiston Academy Our Curriculum - Tenbury High Ormiston Academy](#)

Safeguarding There has been much talk in the media recently about an increase in the number of young people vaping and, more recently, studies highlighting the worrying content of illegal vapes. As parents/carers we need to be talking to our young people about the risks of vaping and supporting them to make the right informed choices. School staff will be delivering lessons and assemblies around the dangers of vaping and sharing the current research that will continue to be shared via news and media outlets. The link below will help you with these conversations. [Vaping: High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes - BBC News](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



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