

School Development Plan Update March 2024

A reminder that our school strategic priorities can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/school-strategic-priorities>

An overview of our current school development plan and updates on previous plans can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/sdp-update>

1 Students achieve their highest academic potential

Expectations for excellence in the classroom and outside the classroom

Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader

Each week we celebrate our highest performers in both Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader, two of our core homework platforms. We are proud of all of our students who complete their homework to a high standard but each week six students deserve a special mention. We also feature these students in the Head's Blog.




Excellent Work

Mrs Mintoft has shared these examples of Excellent Work from 7P in History.

She said, "Year 7 students are studying the problems medieval kings had when trying to govern Britain. In this topic students study the power struggles between the King and the Church. They were tasked with writing a newspaper article on the murder of Thomas Becket. Work was done first on identifying key features that would grab the attention of the reader."

These examples were produced by Billy, Isaac, Britto, Euan, Zac and Hadley who have all earned commendations.

HENRY'S HORRIBLE HIGH LIFE ENDS



Henry the second, well known King of England has caused the murder of Thomas Becket read on to find out about the cold blooded murder caused by Henry II

Henry II is King of England and is well known through the UK for being a good King. Or so we thought. Here is what Edward Grim a monk at the church had to say. "It was dark in the afternoon when three or four knights charged straight through my door and threw their swords and sliced and chopped and beheaded Thomas. Well there you have it folks the death of Thomas Becket. Read on to find out Henry's say on this."

Punishment

that our King was just simply using him to make the church court laws his choice. He should be greatly punished and given a huge fine. This is just utterly disgraceful.

Henry II was worried he was going to get excommunicated by the Pope, so he walked the streets of Canterbury barefoot and when his feet were cut and bleeding, he approached the Cathedral. He then prayed at Becket's tomb while monks ~~whipped~~ whipped his bare back.

"I will never forget the moment I lost my hand trying to protect our late Archbishop, Thomas Becket, that day," Edward Grim, a monk who witnessed the brutal murder.

King Henry II is completely responsible for the death of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, as he wanted Becket dead for excommunicating the bishops on that supported Henry. He only made Becket Archbishop because Church court laws punishments were too soft.

20/20 well done. all the elements in the criteria covered.

THE MEDIEVAL TIMES


ASSASSINATED ARCHBISHOP

WHAT HAPPENED? Four knights arrived outside of Canterbury Cathedral. Several months tried to rush Archbishop Becket of Canterbury to safety, while others try to keep them out. The knights orders from the current King Henry II. They are now on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

A CLOSER LOOK
On the dark after-noon of 29 December, four knights arrived outside of Canterbury Cathedral. Several months tried to rush Archbishop Becket of Canterbury to safety, while others try to keep them out. The knights orders from the current King Henry II. They are now on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

of them then yelled "Where is Thomas Becket, traitor to the king and country." Becket then stood in front of the attackers and said, "I am no traitor and I am ready to die." When he realised that it was his last moment, he started to pray. Three slashes brought him to his knees, and the last blow came down and cut off his head.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
It turns out that King Edward Grim, Bishop of Exeter, plotting a quarrel?




~Drawing by Edward Grim. During the Murder Henry II ordered the knights to kill the Archbishop. He is now on his way to Canterbury Cathedral, barefoot, for repentance. 15/20

BECKET IS DEAD

By The Majestic Eagle
29th December 1170

Who was Becket? Thomas Becket was the best friend of King Henry II and, Chancellor and even the Archbishop of Canterbury eight years ago on the 25th May 1162.

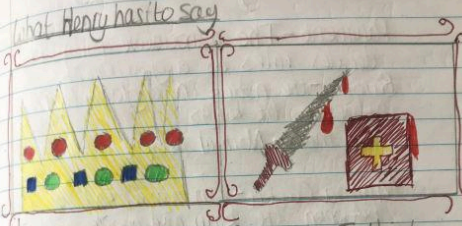
Murder
This afternoon, four of Henry's knights barged into our most important cathedral and hacked the man in charge of religion in England to death. The names of those sinful creatures are Reginald Fitzurse, William de Tracy, Richard Brito and Hugh de Morville. As they swung their swords at his neck one by one, Thomas knelt down in prayer, knowing his time on Earth was nearly over, and made peace with God.



Becket in prayer as he is killed.

Why Becket Was Killed
The four knights told us that they were the devious plottings of King Henry himself! This was outrageous. However, the more disheartening fact was

What Henry has to say



Henry the Second King of England accuses murdering Thomas Becket and claimed that his 4 knights Fitzurse Morville Brito and Tracy went on their own accord after he said will no-one rid me of this troublesome priest.


Personally I think that he told them. Soon Henry says he will take penance for his actions and walk across the lands and be whipped at the altar for his actions. That is all of the news of Henry II thank you for reading and be sure to stay ready for the next news.

20/20

CANTERBURY CHRONICLES

BECKET BUTCHERED IN THE BRAINS! 29th Dec 1170

By Billy Marsh

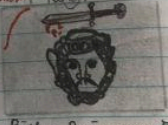


King Henry is currently in a court battle. He is being accused of sending the knights to kill the Arch Bishop if he loses the battle he will be sent to church court and be given a brutal punishment.

The knights have been sent on crusade as punishment. This will be the longest crusade so that it is harder for them! We interviewed a knight before though. "I thought it would be right to help our king."

Earlier today Henry Becket was brutally murdered! A group of knights stormed the cathedral in attempts to kill Becket. It is said as they yanked God to kill him the Arch Bishop continued to pray. He is honored as a true leader, dying for his religion.

Ugh! I should have known from an unhappy man.



Bishop Being executed - otherwise excellent 15/10



missing why there was a quarrel

MEDIAEVAL MORTALITY

Date of death and how




Thomas Becket got killed in Canterbury Cathedral on 29/12/1170 at 5:53 PM. He got hacked several times in the back of the head with a sword and his brain scooped out of his head by the tip of a knight's sword.

Supposed they were 4 knights that killed him but mysteriously their names were anonymous so the act sent on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and a white raven would not come back.

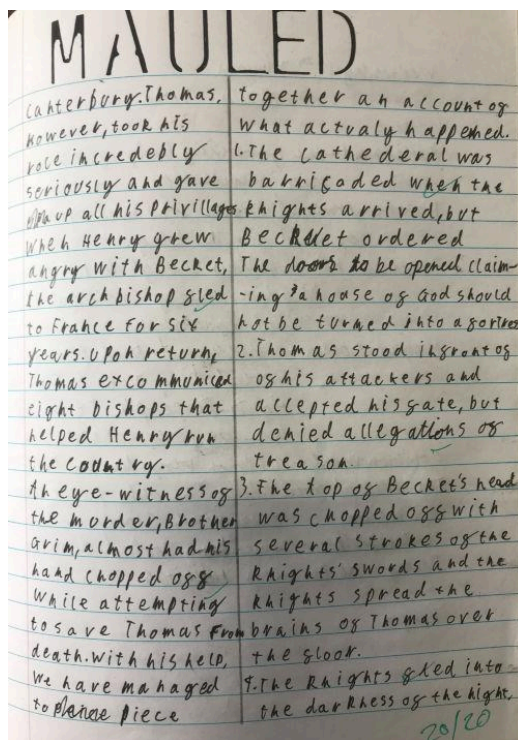



How?

Leading up to the death of Thomas Becket, King Henry II had some personal conflicts with his advisor, King Becket. King Henry II decided that the court was too slow and he decided to instead be granted Becket to be the leader of all church courts and then it will all be more harsh and respect for King Henry until he asked and Becket was a church man and so he refused. He was more respected, religious and responsible until he had to leave for 6 years but got he came back quite willing to come back and and to fight the war to kill him and so thought and Henry got some soldiers with no clothes for some years.

20/10



Revision

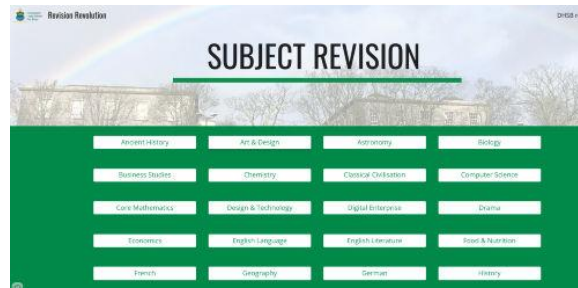
This term we focus on Resilience as one of our core DHSB values and we have taken the chance to explore what it means to have a Growth Mindset.

Fundamental to that belief is the idea that intelligence and abilities can be developed through dedication and effort, rather than being fixed traits. To that end Mr Winstone has been using the assemblies this week to launch our Revision@DHSB website resource area.

[Link to our new Revision@DHSB website](#)



Several months of hard work by subject leaders have resulted in what we believe will be a wonderful support for all of our students from Year 7 to Year 13. Whilst some may see revision only as a pre-GCSE or A level exam event, here at DHSB we want to support all year groups in establishing well rehearsed, effective strategies as early as possible to take away much of the stress and anxiety from the external exams seasons in those later year groups.



The resource - Revision@DHSB - can be accessed through our main DHSB website on the School Life menu and is designed to support both students and families. You will find subject specific revision guidance for all key stages, effective revision strategies with a focus on our Core 4 techniques, resources such as revision timetable planners to download and use, support to manage stress and anxiety with sources of support if needed and hints and tips from DHSB students who successfully navigated the exam seasons in recent years.

We hope that everyone finds this a useful tool alongside the ongoing support received from subject teachers throughout the school year.

[Link to our new Revision@DHSB website](#)

3 Embracing inclusion and diversity

Trustees attending the Education and Outcomes meeting in February heard presentations regarding this, particularly focusing on Attendance, Behaviour and Safeguarding.

Celebrating success

January saw our Founder's Day. DHSB was 128 years old on Tuesday 16 January.

Many thanks to Mrs Kinsella for this article which she published on the DHSB Alumni and Archives Facebook page.

Alonzo J Rider opened the doors of his newly bought school on 16 January 1896. He had wanted his own school for a very long time so I can imagine his excitement!

No doubt there was some trepidation too. He was clearly an exceptional person.

The write up on his funeral in the Western Morning News And Mercury on 14 February 1921 is testament to this. Representatives from all the public bodies he was associated with came to pay their respects.

[Read more at this link](#)



PSHE

The PSHE offer at DHSB is divided into six core themes, each of which offer a range of topics at age-appropriate levels for our students.

The themes are British Values, Relationships, Society and Me, My Future, Staying Healthy and Keeping Safe.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of education, our commitment to providing a robust PSHE curriculum remains unwavering. Through these lessons, we are not only imparting knowledge but also shaping individuals who are resilient, compassionate, and ready to face the challenges of the future.

Year 7 students are currently deep diving into the essentials of first aid. From understanding the basics of CPR to learning how to respond to common emergencies, our students are acquiring valuable lifesaving skills. Hands-on simulations and interactive scenarios are bringing theoretical knowledge to life, empowering our young minds to act confidently and decisively in times of need.

There is an emphasis on real world application and students are not just learning from textbooks; they are actively engaging in projects that connect classroom knowledge to everyday life. Whether it's creating first aid kits, designing wellness plans, or participating in health challenges, students are putting their learning into action and fostering a sense of responsibility for their own wellbeing.



Sixth Form tutorial update

In tutorial sessions, Year 12 students had the first of two sessions on sexual harassment. This session focused on public sexual harassment and followed Zara McDermott's TV documentary investigation into attitudes and experiences of this amongst young people.

Year 13 students had their third and final session on consent. This session focused on unwanted, inappropriate and illegal behaviours. The lesson helped students to identify signs of such behaviours and explored attitudes towards sexual abuse, including challenging victim blaming.

For our enrichment session today we were fortunate to have a visit from Tara from Age UK. She shared with us the different ways that Age UK supports individuals in Plymouth, how to get involved with the charity and what their plans are for the upcoming year.



Holocaust Memorial Day

A group of our Year 13 students took part in Plymouth City Council's Holocaust Memorial Day at the Council House on Tuesday.

Schaefer Mann, Will Jones, Dan Plunkett, Seb Paterson and Olivia Yates delivered a moving presentation as part of a programme that included the Lord Mayor, city councillors and prominent members of religious communities from in and around Plymouth.

They then moved onto the Peace Garden where Will and Schaefer contributed to the public ceremony too. You may have caught a clip of them speaking so eloquently on ITV news.

Arezo from the Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity, said, "Thank you seems so inadequate in light of DHSB's powerful, inspiring and thought-provoking contribution. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all for making this year's HMD commemorations even more memorable. There wasn't a single person who failed to be impressed and inspired by the whole team".





4 Leadership and communities

All students get diverse cultural experiences. Create a DHSB Arts Award to encourage engagement with extra capacity for creative performance and clubs

Les Mis

"Huge congratulations to everyone in the the Creative Arts Department"

"WOW! A standing ovation on the first night for the DHSB production of Les Mis"

"An outstanding show"

"Such energy and enthusiasm from the extremely talented cast"

"Backstage and lighting deserve a special mention. And of course the orchestra, playing throughout"

"It was an absolutely fantastic performance"

These are just a few of the comments and plaudits received following the opening nights of our musical theatre production of Les Misérables.

A huge well done to all staff and students involved in the cast, crew, stage band and technical team.



Torbay & Devon Performing Arts competition

Many congratulations to students who achieved fantastic results at the Torbay Festival of Dance, Drama and Music recently.

Year 11 GCSE ensemble GOLD and and have been asked to perform at the gala concert for most outstanding performances of the festival

DHSB Soul Band SILVER

Brass Band Class: GOLD

Senior School Choir: GOLD and and second highest mark of the whole four day festival

Embedding and enhancing the extensive leadership opportunities for students with a focus on raising the ambition of younger students to become active citizens and problem solvers

Student Ambassadors

One of the areas of student leadership we are most proud of here at DHSB is our wealth of enthusiastic and knowledgeable subject ambassadors who give their time and energy to support and enhance the learning of others.

We have ambassadors working within many departments, such as Chemistry, Maths, Computer Science, Business, Economics, Physics, RS, History, Geography, Biology, Media Studies, PE, Languages and Music.

Open Evenings

Largely these ambassadors are Year 12 students but some departments make exceptions and can invite younger or older students to represent their subject. There is a plethora of activities for which the ambassadors get involved with. The most visible for parents and visitors is their presence to support departments at open evenings and similar events. The insights they share with younger students who are considering either coming to DHSB or selecting their subject as an option is invaluable.

Revision Sessions

Revision sessions are also something our ambassadors routinely support younger students with, especially in the build up to the GCSEs.

We also have a number of societies being organised and delivered by our very capable subject ambassadors. The Physics Society, for example, runs seminars, launches competitions, arranges visiting speakers and when their tenure is approaching its end, they recruit and select their successors. Other societies being led on a regular basis are Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science, lunchtimes devoted to developing and sharing the love and curiosity for their subject.

The last two years we have even sent some of our ambassadors to a local primary school to help deliver a new coaching initiative in Maths. Working within our local community and sharing their love of Maths has been powerful for all involved.

All in all, the ambassadorial spirit is thriving at DHSB.



House Captains

In February the House Captains delivered their first House Assemblies, the theme of the term is resilience and their specific focus was overcoming adversity. The assemblies were virtual this time, which allowed for the teams to develop their planning and presenting skills ahead of the next face to face assemblies.

All teams made connections between the day to day adversity that a typical student may face, not just at DHSB, but any school and the challenges that lay ahead for all including exams and the stress they may cause.

Amongst the presentations were some great examples of how known figures have overcome adversity within their lives and also the steps an individual can take to minimise stress and maximise achievement.

There were a number of technical skills showcased within these assemblies and the House Captains should feel proud and confident ahead of their next assemblies in March.

How can we overcome adversity?



- We can overcome adversity through showing resilience
- Showing resilience through adversity can allow us to think through different solutions to problems, and then determine which solutions will work.
- Reminder - Resilience isn't toughing situations out on your own, you can always ask for help in difficult situations, and that may result in you solving the challenges you could encounter.

Recorded on screencapture.com
DEVONPORT HIGH SCHOOL, FSA 8811

What is Adversity?

-
A state or instance of serious or continued difficulty or misfortune.




Introducing our Duke of Edinburgh Young Leaders

Euan and Will have volunteered to become Young Leaders for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. They will be supporting our delivery of the award at school, including helping students to complete their volunteering, physical and skill sections.

They have undergone online training and have first hand experience of Bronze and Silver. Thank you to them for stepping forward, and together we hope to help many students with their awards.



Mrs Wills added, "Duke of Edinburgh training for Silver and Gold teams is going well including pitching tents, lighting stoves, refreshing first aid, kit talk and rucksack packing".



The Spelling Bee

The DHSB Spelling Bee returned after a four year hiatus and the staff and students were treated to a fantastic spectacle of incredible spelling and truly gutsy performances.

Last week saw each tutor group hold a preliminary test to narrow it down to two entrants per tutor group and these students were performing live in front of their entire year group today.

The atmosphere created by the audience was electric, both the loud and overwhelming applause when their peers spelt correctly and the quiet tension when a tricky word was being attempted. All of the words were difficult and the students did exceptionally well navigating their nerves and offering some really credible attempts, but there were some supreme spellers in this year's Bee.

The individual winners for the year groups were Isaac Manata 7P, Alfie Ford 8P, Zen Kanwar 9W and Max Phillips 10E.

Overall, when all the placings were also taken into consideration, the DHSB Spelling Bee Champions 2024 are Priestley!

A massive well done to all involved. I can't wait for the next one!



Increase and revitalise the extracurricular offer and trips/experiences.

PTFA

I just want to highlight the excellent work of our PTFA for providing fantastic opportunities for our students whilst supporting the school and raising funds for staff to bid for that directly have an impact on our students. Here is a recent update from our staff liaison Beverley Kinsella.

The PTFA had a great December. Firstly it was our fantastic Christmas disco - 760 students filled Pryzm and had a great time.



Thank you to everyone for your support and a big thank you to our volunteers - some of whom are shown here. We really couldn't do it without you!



A special mention also to Pryzm and their lovely staff - we are so sorry to hear you are closing. We have had three brilliant discos over the last 12 months and it has been a pleasure to collaborate with you. You will be missed and we wish you all the best for your future.

Next we had such a lovely evening providing refreshments at the DHSB Christmas Concert in Stoke Damerel Church. Our festive mulled wine was very popular! A big thank you to Joanna, Josanne and Audrey for helping at this event.



Chess Club

Our strongest side turned out to take on the Plymouth Club team in the Torbay League KO semi-final and it was a very tense evening. Caleb Caeshu had to work hard for his win, Muhammad Kausar produced a very classy display and the match result depended on Jack Chen's board, where the school held an advantage for a long period. However, the Plymouth player was eventually able to turn the tables for a 4 - 2 score.

James Allen won an individual prize at the Torquay Boys Championship in the U12 section and he then headed up a Year 7/8 team in a county schools four player competition. With Jaisal Jino, Finbar Steven and Vincenzo Cojoc in the side, they returned with bronze medals after an excellent afternoon's work.

There was also an open section where the first team was rested but we fielded Ayaan Chatterjee, Joel Jino, Rohan Wear and Aidan Walker who won one of their four matches.

Well done to everyone involved.
Mr Butland

Stop Press:

DHSB won their match against Torquay Boys Grammar School and will now progress in the English Schools Chess Championship, the regional winner then qualifies to play in the national finals in Nottingham in June.

We would like to thank Mr Butland for his hard work and commitment to supporting our students with this, he gives up a lot of his own time to help them, he can be seen pictured with the students below:



Mr Butland had this to say:

Having been eliminated from the National Schools' Chess Challenge by Torquay & Stover in the last two seasons, the school team recorded its best win this week to "rectify" those results. Facing - yet again - our friends from TBGS in a six-player shoot-out, Ayden Small, Ben Wotton, Muhammad Kausar, captain Jack Chen and Devrim Phaneuf (who remains eligible for the rest of the campaign) had already ensured our progress before Caleb Caleshu finished off the evening in the best fashion with a 4-2 score.

This places us in the regional final - unparalleled this century - where we will face one of the Exeter schools next month. Winners from the 24 regions compete in the National finals at Nottingham at the end of June.

Physics Society

DHSB Physics Society welcomed back former student (and former DHSB Physics Ambassador) Tom Dobby to present last week's Friday lunchtime seminar to an audience from Years 11 to 13.



The topic of the seminar was Group Automorphisms. This is a branch of mathematics that is interesting and beautiful, and is likely to be useful one day but we don't know yet what use it may have.

Tom's seminar was a tour-de-force whistle stop tour of Group Theory covering an immense breadth and depth of pure mathematics in the time available. Students gained a flavour of the kind of theoretical treatment of numbers and their relationships which may be explored within months of leaving school if they choose to read Mathematics at Cambridge University.

Tom also shared insights into his experience of the first term of his course and life at Clare College Cambridge.

6. Creative spirit and innovative thinking

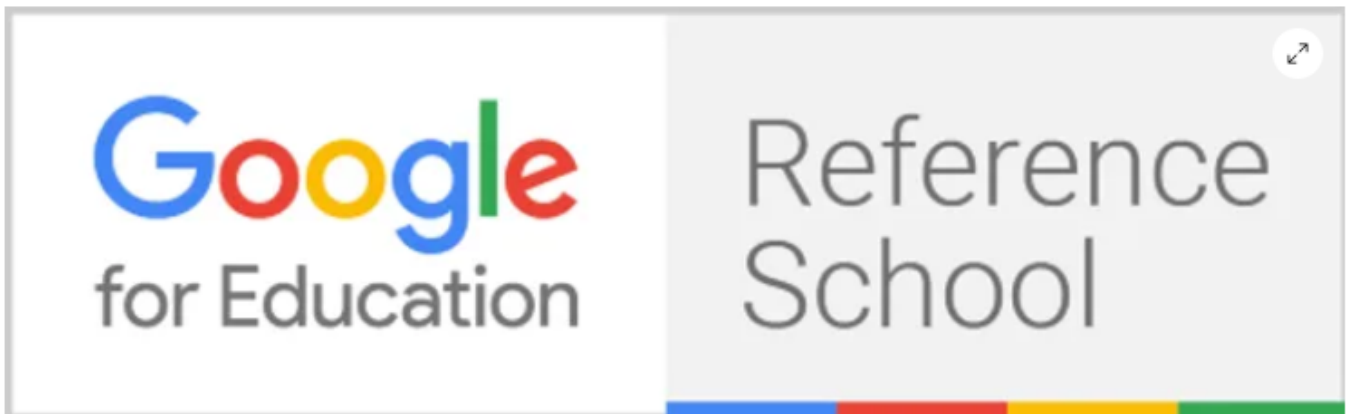
Raising Digital Engagement

Google Reference School

We have been a Google Reference School since 2015, meaning that we have received recognition from Google for our outstanding use of technology, and how we use it to drive positive learning outcomes.

We are very proud of the work we do with our whole community and would like to share our latest reference school case study outlining some of the work that we do.

[Link to case study](#)



Safer Internet Day - February

Safer Internet Day 2024 took place this week with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline

As part of the day students looked at the new technologies available to them, what life would be like without the internet and were reminded how to seek help.

As parents and carers, it can often feel that we don't understand what is happening with young people and the internet, so I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the e-safety hub we have for you - [click here](#) and here is a list of top tips from the [Uk Safer Internet Center](#) on how to keep your child safe online:

Inspire change by modelling how to be safe online

Just like in their offline lives, children need role models online too. Set clear and fair expectations about how the whole family should use the internet and technology, and demonstrate these yourself. A Family Agreement is a great way to start conversations and put your ideas down on paper, to refer back to later and adapt as your child and your family's internet use changes.

Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world

Having regular and open conversations with your child about their use of technology and the internet is the best way to stay up to date, not only with changes in the online world, but also with what they are doing and seeing online. Starting these conversations can sometimes feel daunting, but they can help you feel more informed and show your child that you are taking an interest in their online life. Not sure where to begin? Use the tips and conversation starters in our ["Let's Talk About Life Online" resource](#).

Manage influence by researching the content and games your child enjoys the most

Giving young people the opportunity to talk about their life online, and enjoying online content together, can be a great way to gain an insight into the content they are viewing. Our ['Parents and Carers Resource Sheet'](#) is a great tool that you can use to research any websites, apps and games and find out more about specific content. I also use [commonsensemedia](#).

Navigate change by knowing where to go for further support

If your child needs help, it's important you know where to go for further support. Using the report and block buttons, websites such as 'Report Harmful Content', and other safety tools is a great starting point. The students have these tools linked on their year group student portal.

Mrs Buckler