



26th September 2025
Curated by J Day

MHS Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It's been a fantastic week at Moorside, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights. It was wonderful to see so many of our students taking part in the cross-country competition—such enthusiasm and team spirit! Across school, lessons have shown real commitment to learning, with some particularly impressive Year 7 isometric drawings in DT, delicious Thai Green Curry being prepared in Hospitality, creative website design in IT, and excellent use of laptops in German to practise verb structures. Staff and pupils are also working together to develop homework that has a meaningful impact on progress, and we're excited about the improvements this will bring. We have also begun Assertive Mentoring with Year 11 and look forward to supporting each student individually to help them achieve future success.

We have also been working with the wider community having the pleasure of attending Werrington Primary's Year 6 SAT's evening—thank you for the warm welcome. A big thank you as well to the parents who joined us for the Year 7 Devices Evening where Mrs Bell discussed how we could support the use of laptops at home. Thank you also to the parents who came to the Ingrestre Hall Residential trip meeting last night to help finalise arrangements for what promises to be an enjoyable and creative week.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

We are also pleased to confirm that the cancelled rewards trip from last year and will take place on the 13th October.

COMING UP:

This Week:

European Day of Languages - House Competition - Spelling Bee

Next Week:

Black History Month

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please can parents and guardians who drop off and pick up students in a vehicle be mindful of local residents, pedestrians and road safety laws as not doing so is creating hazardous conditions. Cars should not:

- Block driveways on Southlowe Avenue
- Park on double yellow lines
- Park on the pavement
- Park or stop on zigzags
- Stop in the bus stop layby
- Use the school entrance as a turning circle

COFFEE MORNING

As mentioned in last week's bulletin 11A Citizenship are running a cake and coffee morning as part of their campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer research. Any donations of cakes will be welcome to be brought into school from Monday 6th October. The event will be taking place at break time on Friday 10th October where students will be able to buy a cake for a small donation to Macmillan cancer research

STOKE ON TRENT COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

As Year 11 students begin their final school year, families are encouraged to start exploring post-GCSE options. Stoke-on-Trent College is hosting an Open Evening on Wednesday 15 October 2025, from 5pm to 8pm, across both the Burslem and Caudon campuses. This is a great opportunity to learn about the wide range of courses available — including apprenticeships, T Levels, and vocational pathways — and to meet staff and current students. Guided tours, enrichment information, and details on financial support (up to £1,500, subject to eligibility) will also be available.

You're welcome to drop in at any time and visit either or both campuses. To help plan your visit and register attendance, please visit the Stoke-on-Trent College Open Events page. If you're unable to attend in October, a second Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

Find out more, here: [Open Events 2025/26 - Stoke-on-Trent College](#) :Stoke-on-Trent College

RUSSELL GROUP WEBINARS

UK University Search is hosting webinars from Tues 30th Sept until Thurs 2nd October. Looking at the Russell Group universities [What is a Russell Group university? Find out here](#), the talks include 'Why choose to study at a Russell Group university?', 'Student Life at University' and a focus on Clinical and Health Professions. All talks are free. Those during the school day will be emailed to students once they have registered so they do not need to miss school. Other talks are in the evening. To find out more/register, go to [UK University Search Fair Russell Group Webinars](#) | [UK University Search](#).

SPARX MATHS

Sparx Maths

Independent Learning League Tables

Year 8

Mia L	60
Niamh B	60
Grace T / Jude S	20

Year 10

Lewis M	80
Annabel H	60
Dylan J	20

Year 9

Sophie P	780
Millie R	600
Dominik S	440

Year 11

Isla T	100
Lucy B	80
Daniella O	60

Year 7 are currently learning how to use Sparx and their first piece of homework has been set on 24/9/25

Special congratulations to the year 9 pupils who have earned significantly more points than the other Year groups

CROSS COUNTRY

Its that time of year again when its cold, damp and windy. However, this didn't deter our top cross country runners from competing in our annual hosting of the District League Cross Country Championships. Well done to everyone who ran and a big thank you to all the students who volunteered to marshal the race.



CANTEEN ACCOUNTS

From this week, parents will receive a weekly top-up reminder email every Friday for school lunch accounts.

Please remember to check your child's lunch account balance regularly to ensure funds are available. For families entitled to Free School Meals, the daily allowance is £2.57 per child per day.

SNAPCHAT SAFETY

Have a look at the information and guidance for parents to monitor Snapchat, at the end of the bulletin. Talk openly about online safety, discuss what's appropriate to share, red flags like strangers asking for photos, and the importance of telling you if something feels wrong.

LOST PROPERTY

Please can parents and guardians label all student property. If a student has lost their property, they should check with the caretakers to check if it has been handed in.

HOUSE

HOUSE POINT LEADER BOARD

RANK	HOUSE	HOUSE POINTS
1	Churchill	18274
2	Doulton	17494
3	Bridgewater	17042
4	Moorcroft	16725
5	Wedgwood	16045

Check out details for our pumpkin carving competition at the end of the bulletin



OFFICE OPENING HOURS

With effect from the 6th October 2025, the school reception opening hours will be as follows:
Monday – Friday – 8.00am – 4.00pm

SNAPCHAT SAFETY

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

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>



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SNAPCHAT SAFETY



The poster is for a 'HOUSE SYSTEM PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION' at Moorside High School. It features a dark background with orange and yellow text and illustrations of pumpkins and leaves. The competition details are listed in a yellow box, and the entry email address is provided. At the bottom, there are five house crests and a call to action.

M
Moorside
High School

HOUSE SYSTEM

**PUMPKIN CARVING
COMPETITION**

DEADLINE: 31 OCTOBER 2025

PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE

**SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO
LROBERTS@MHS.POTTERIES.AC.UK**

THINK YOU CAN CARVE THE CREEPIEST, FUNNIEST, OR SPOOKIEST PUMPKIN?
GET CREATIVE THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM AND ENTER OUR PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION!
HOUSE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR ALL ENTRIES