



DEER PARK

newsletter

MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE 7

HEADTEACHERS HELLO



Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable festive break. The Christmas Showcase last week was fantastic, filled with exceptional acting, singing and musical performances – a true testament to the incredible talent and dedication of our students. We will also be purchasing a light for Mr Smith – playing the piano in the dark is clearly not his forte!

On behalf of the team here at Deer Park, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support this term. I often talk to external visitors and our Governors about how fortunate we are to have such an engaged and candid parent community. As a team, we genuinely appreciate everything you do.

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year, and I am incredibly excited to see what the new year brings and what our wonderful students will achieve.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Mr Jones



MEET MRS RULE



Hello, I am Mrs Rule, Head of Dance at Deer Park. I was so excited to join the team in September and have been blown away by the enthusiasm and talent of our students so far this year.

I am passionate about Dance as it allows us to express ourselves and tell stories in unique and innovative ways, exploring topics that are relevant to our everyday lives through movement.

We have been extremely busy over in Dance this half term, getting ready for Dance Live, performing in our Christmas Showcase and celebration assemblies, as well as providing multiple other extra-curricular activities such as Bronze Arts Award and Deer Park Dance Company. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the Deer Park community and I feel so lucky to work in such a kind and vibrant school.

Outside of teaching, I am a keen adventurer and love to travel and explore, especially with my dog Lola. I love musicals and go to see them as much as I can, you'll often find me dancing and singing them around school!

Thank you so much to everyone who has made me feel so welcome, I can't wait to Dance with you all again in 2025!

YEAR 7

Time flies when you're having fun hey?! Please can I say a huge well done and thank you to all of the students (and their families) for making such an excellent start to life at Deer Park. The transition day, parent meeting and induction day in September genuinely feel like a lifetime away! I couldn't have asked for a better year group or supportive set of families.

The term has been action-packed, both inside and outside of lessons. Personal highlights for me have been the abundance of positive comments from staff regarding the students' kindness and aspirational attitude. I have also loved popping into lessons to see this for myself. Our weekly assemblies have also been very enjoyable, mainly due to the students' enthusiasm and contribution to the theme.

I would also like to say a well done to all of the students who have committed to extra-curricular all term; I have seen first-hand the challenging weather that has been thrown at the Year 7 footballers to date and I am pleased to say that attendance hasn't been affected - I know this is the case in other activities as well.

There is nothing more for me to say other than thank-you, Merry Christmas and that I look forward to carrying on the partnership with you and your children in 2025!

Mr Parnell

YEAR 8

I cannot believe that we've made it to the end of the term again, what a start to Year 8 we have had! From Cipher Day and Bletchley Park to being involved in the launch of the house system and smashing every sporting event going - Team 2028 have done the lot! In lessons, Year 8 also continue to impress the staff they come into contact with, I cannot tell you how proud I am of you all.

Next term will be a big one for Team 2028, especially with the launch of the Pathways process. We will ensure information is sent to you as soon as it becomes available, I can't wait to see where the next part of their journey leads them.

For now, please ensure that you spend time relaxing over the Christmas holidays and take some time to recharge your batteries! See you all in 2025!

Kind wishes,

Mrs Wilson



YEAR 9

Another term has flown by, and as we look ahead to 2025, there is a huge amount to look forward to. Year 9 have always been fantastic at taking the opportunities on offer, and with a host of exciting trips and events booked in for next year, I am sure they will continue to embrace the extracurricular activities available.

Year 9 have worked incredibly hard this year, and I hope all of them, and their families, have a well earned rest over the festive period, ready to come back refreshed for the new term.

Our recent round of report data will have given the students plenty to think about in terms of academic areas they should focus on in the new term, and I hope the holidays give them time to reflect on their Deer Park journey so far, and what they hope to achieve in 2025.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday,
Mr Gregory

YEAR 10

At risk of duplicating messages from previous years (I haven't looked back, I promise!) I can't believe that we find ourselves at the end of the Autumn term so soon. It's been a hugely positive year for Year 10, and one in which the Year group have continued to excel and impress in school and in the community.

We have recently started thinking ahead to the future, and if this term is anything to go by, we will find ourselves nearing the end of Year 11 in no time, and with this, decisions to be made about the future. Year 10 has had a number of speakers in assemblies talking about colleges and Work Experience recently, with a reminder that it's never too early to start thinking about the future. All this said, it's important that all of the cohort take some time for themselves over the festive period, forget about school and work, and to be present with their family and friends.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Mr Smith





SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: GEOGRAPHY



At Deer Park, we believe that Geography is more than just learning about places; it's about understanding the world and our place in it. Our geographers explore both the local and global, from the Uplands development in Botley to the tropical rainforests of Malaysia.

A local focus helps students appreciate the complexities of their own community and the impact of development on people and the environment. By studying these contrasting locations, students can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by people and their environments.

Our students develop essential skills like problem-solving, data analysis, and spatial awareness. For example, our Year 10 geographers recently analysed satellite imagery to assess the impact of climate change on Arctic sea ice.

We challenge our geographers to consider human activities, from climate change to hazard mitigation. By fostering a culture of inquiry and debate, we are encouraging our students to become responsible global citizens.

YR 7 CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 7 geographers are delving into the world of urban development! They're investigating the Uplands development, learning about the local landscape, and honing their map reading skills. As part of this project, they'll explore the different viewpoints of people affected by the development, from local residents to developers. To complete the unit, students will participate in a decision-making exercise, debating the merits of the Uplands project and ultimately forming their own opinions.

YR 8 CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 8 are investigating the complex world of global threats. They've been studying the devastating impact of plastic pollution and climate change on our oceans.

Additionally, they've explored the science behind earthquakes and volcanoes, learning about plate tectonics and the forces that shape our planet. To round out the unit, students will examine the human element of natural disasters, considering why people continue to live in hazardous areas and the strategies that can be employed to reduce risks.

YR 9 CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 9 are diving deep into the world of weather hazards. They've been investigating the formation and impact of tropical storms, learning about the three Ps (prediction, protection, and preparation) to reduce their destructive power. Additionally, they've explored the various weather hazards that affect the UK, from storms and floods to heatwaves. To connect these concepts, students are examining how climate change may be altering weather patterns and intensifying these hazards.

YR 10 CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 10 have been studying the fascinating world of global biomes. They've been investigating the intricate ecosystems of tropical rainforests and the harsh conditions of the Arctic. By studying the adaptations of plants and animals in these environments, students are gaining a deeper understanding of the delicate balance of nature. Additionally, they're exploring the economic and environmental challenges that both biomes present. They have also been looking into how to strike a balance between development and conservation.

CAREERS INFORMATION



Apprenticeship Insights - Hosted by BAE Systems is an online webinar where you can find out about the amazing apprenticeship opportunities on offer.

Look forward to talks about careers with BAE, interactive Q&A sessions, and the chance to meet current apprentices.

Come prepared with all of your best questions to make the most of the session. Webinar takes place on Monday 10th February 17.30-18.30. Sign up [here](#).

PETA Open Evening

24 March 2025

4pm - 7pm

1 Access Point, Northarbour Road, Portsmouth PO6 3TE

At PETA, we specialise in delivering high quality apprenticeships in:

- Business • ICT
- Finance • Engineering



Register your interest



PETA open evening,
Monday 24th March
16.00-19.00

Sign up [here](#)

Want to learn more about apprenticeships?
Pop along to our Open Evening and meet our staff and apprentices to hear more!



JOY TO THE WORLD

A SNOW GLOBE BURSTING WITH TREASURED TRADITIONS... GO ON, GIVE IT A SHAKE AND MARVEL AT THE DIVERSE WAYS OUR WORLD EMBRACES THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

GERMANY

Anticipation brews throughout Germany as they await the arrival of Christmas Eve. According to legend, rivers transform into wine, animals talk to each other and mountains reveal sacred gems concealed within their rubble. It is told you can hear the ominous ringing of church bells from the depths of the ocean and tree blossoms bear fruit, yet only those with a pure heart can witness this magic.

A FELIZ NAVIDAD FOR MEXICO

Before the 25th rears its head with a flurry of lights and an abundance of gifts, the 'Festival of Radishes' is held where farmers carve radishes to create nativity scenes. Such a creative and unique way to remember the renowned story.

BRAZIL FELIZ NATAL

Thousands of people visit Rio de Janeiro during Christmas due to spectacular sight of the World's tallest floating Christmas tree on water! The iconic tree is 85 meters tall and contains 3.1 Million bulbs!

MERI KRISAMASA TO INDIA

Mango and banana trees are decked out in flamboyant decorations each brilliantly vibrant to commemorate the festivities. Meanwhile in some parts of India, small clay oil-burning lamps are carefully placed on walls and roofs to celebrate.

DENMARK SAYS GOD JUL

Forks rise in merriment as those in Denmark tuck in to their famous rice pudding at the midnight feast on the 24th. Tension settles thickly in the air as everyone ploughs through their portion searching hopefully for the single almond that was hidden in the dessert. It is said whoever finds it will have good luck for a whole year.

12 MORE DAYS, LET IT SNOW!! -KEZ

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!

Staff and students took part in the annual Save The Childrens Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13th December raising money for the charity to help make the world better for children in the UK and around the world. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed



ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH DANCE TRIP

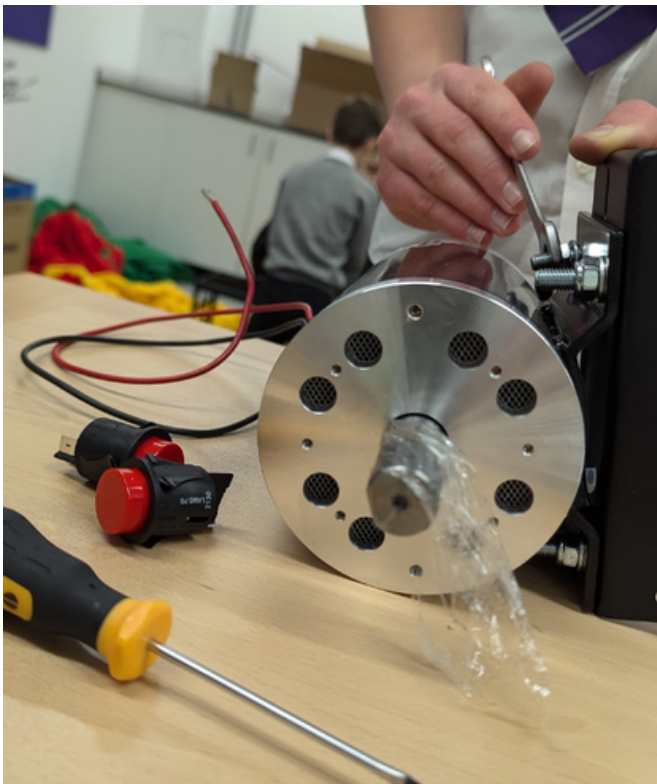
On Friday, GCSE Dance students from Year 9 and 10 went on a trip to Pavilion Dance South West to take part in a Dance workshop with freelance professional dance artist, Claire Benson and watch the Dance BA (Hons) Contemporary Dance show, 'Diva'. Whilst on the trip, students learnt contemporary contact work, such as lifts and counterbalances which will be extremely useful to use within their current choreography unit. I want to say a massive well done to all students involved, who showed a tremendous amount of trust and support in each other whilst learning some complex skills. You should all be incredibly proud of what you achieved!

Mrs Rule



FORMULA 24

We have begun our exciting journey into building an electric race car. Alex LC, Owen B, Sureena P, Ewan H, Charlie T, Ben B, Callum B, Charlie H, and Amelia U were all chosen for this amazing opportunity. They have organised themselves into a dedicated team. With only a couple of sessions under their belts there is still a long way to go to our February deadline! Watch this space!



SPANISH COOKING

The Deer Park Spanish club had an excellent afternoon on 5th December cooking some Mexican inspired treats! We recently learned about the Day of the Dead and how this is celebrated in Mexico. The pupils have enjoyed learning about the Hispanic speaking countries and their traditions. Miss Baron, teacher of MFL, and Mrs Marshall, teacher of Food Technology, assisted our linguists with the process; the teams worked really well together to produce the finished products! The pupils involved loved the results, tucking into chocolate caliente (hot chocolate with spices) and their arroz con leche (spiced rice pudding). A huge well done to everyone involved! The pupils were really organised and sorted their teams and ingredients themselves. It was a fantastic team effort. ¡bien hecho! (well done!)

Miss Baron & Mrs Marshall



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Last Thursday saw our 3rd Christmas Celebrations performance, showcasing a range of talent from our Music, Drama and Dance teams. The performances were all brilliant, and left students, staff and parents alike feeling festive and ready for the Christmas break! There was even a sing-a-long with the audience to check their breath control and pitching - but what is Christmas without a rendition of Ding Dong Merrily on High?!

Well done to everyone that was involved in this spectacular!





Last week your Head of House, House Captains and House Vice-Captains were announced! After many amazing applications, we have decided on our leaders for the Houses at Deer Park and we are incredibly proud of these students. They will be representing their house and ensure that there is a team spirit in all House Competitions which we will be doing here at Deer Park. Please see below a picture of our House Leaders for this year!

Well done!

Miss Brazao & Miss Andrews



HOUSE SPORTS WEEK - W/C 16TH DECEMBER (15.00-16.15)

We can't wait to see students for this weeks house sports competitions!

Monday KS3 Badminton
Wednesday KS4 Badminton
Thursday - All House Netball



BASICS FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Thank you to the whole Deer Park Community for the generous donations to our annual Basics Food Bank Appeal that supports Southampton City Mission. We donated an incredible 855 items that will make a huge difference to families within the local community this Christmas season.

Our heartfelt thanks, from the Rights, Respecting Community Student Focus Group.



PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME - DATA

Many thanks to those parents that attended the Data PSP this half term. The slides from the session can be found [here](#).

There will be more PSP's running after the Christmas break and as always they will be shared with you via Edulink.

STAFFING & TIMETABLE UPDATES

Staffing Update

In January, we bid farewell to Miss Philpott as she embarks on maternity leave. We warmly welcome back Mrs Walters from her maternity leave, who will be rejoining the English department.

Timetable Changes

Please note that there will be some timetable adjustments in January. While we have minimized the impact on student timetables, there will be changes to the following subjects: English, Geography, Science, Psychology, and EL. Before returning in January, students must carefully review their timetables as some lessons have been moved. This means that some subjects, such as PE, may occur on a different day than usual for Key Stage 3 students.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT

2025

Year 7 - PE staff are looking forward to delivering Gymnastics to our year 7s in the new year alongside team based games.

Year 8 - even more variety will come in the new year with table tennis.

Year 9 - core PE Year 9s will be looking at officiating team and net games in the new year.

FIXTURES

Year 7 & 8 Football Training Game - On Thursday 12th December the Year 7 & 8 football teams competed in a training game in preparation for the league starting after Christmas. For information look out on football google classroom for updates and team announcements. League information can be found here:

<https://southamptonsschoolsfa.leaguerepublic.com/index.html>

Netball - The year 9 netball team took part in round 2 of the league this week and have shown excellent commitment to training. We look forward to attending KS3 leagues in the new year.

MORNING MILE/OUTDOOR RUN

well done to all students completing the morning mile last week. This initiative promotes the importance of movement in our daily lives for physical and mental health. We hope all students find the time in the festive break to get outside and enjoy some healthy activities in their local community. KS3 students also completed their outdoor run earning Gold Erefs. PE staff promoted local community events such as Dowds Farm Junior Parkrun and encourage any students to inform us if taking part.



EXTRA CURRICULAR



Extra Curricular **TIME TABLE**

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| BREAK 1 | *Poetry (004) *Drama Club (KS3) | *Get Active (SH) Year 7 *Maths Drop-in (117 & 118) *French Support Drop in (103/104/105) *Gardening Club (Meet by Bike Sheds) | *Get Active (SH) Year 8 *Dominoes Club (TBC) *KS4 Intervention (Maths/Science) (117) | *Get Active (SH) Year 9 *English Drop In - 007 (EJL) Year 10 | *Get Active (SH) Year 10 *ICT Drop in (101 & 102) |
| BREAK 2 | *Global Affairs Club (108) | *IT and Coding Club (102) *French Support Drop in (103/104/105) *Chess club (114) *Bronze Arts Award' Year 8's (121) | *Debate Club (year 9/10) (003) *Fantasy Games Club (107) *Puzzle club (119) *Boys Dance Company (Dance Studio) *Ks4 History Support A week (110) | *ICT Drop in (101 & 102) *Guitar ensemble (008 - all guitarists welcome!) | |
| AFTER SCHOOL | *Badminton *Girls Football (Astro) *Rugby (Grass Pitches) *Flower Arranging - For Students and Staff *Art Club (203) *Self study club (LRC) | *Outlet Basketball Club External booking (paid sessions) *Percussion ensemble (008) *Staff Meetings *Self study club (LRC) | *Boys Football (Astro) *STEM Club (211) *Dance Live (Dance Studio) *Dance Live Crew (201) *Book Club (002) *History Film Club (109) WEEK A only *Self study club (LRC) | *Staff meetings *Netball (Courts) *Dance Company (Dance Studio) *Mathletes (118) *Spanish Club (104) *Deer Park Magazine (003) *Team Deer Park - Formula 24 Invite only (215) *Self study club (LRC) | *Self study club (LRC) |



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ ~~117.76~~
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

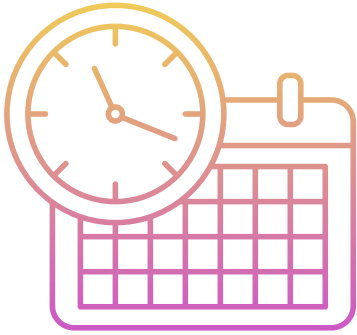
Yours sincerely

Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ ~~6760.32~~

Registered Charity No. 219279

UPCOMING DATES



| Date | Activity | Year Group |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Monday 6th January | Start of Spring Term 1 | All Years |
| Thursday 9th January | Year 10 Parents Evening (virtual) | Year 10 |
| Friday 17th January | Careers Fair | All Years |

TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)



Polite reminder: All meal deals are £3.20 and served at break 2. The daily limit to spend is £7.50 unless you have asked us to cap this. Hot food is also available at break 1. If you receive the FSM allowance of £3.20, this does not get reset from break 1 and is to be used across the day. If your child does fall into a negative balance a red slip will be issued at the office and a phone call home will be made to ask to top up the account. We can no longer allow purchases on overdrawn accounts. many thanks.

CAR PARK

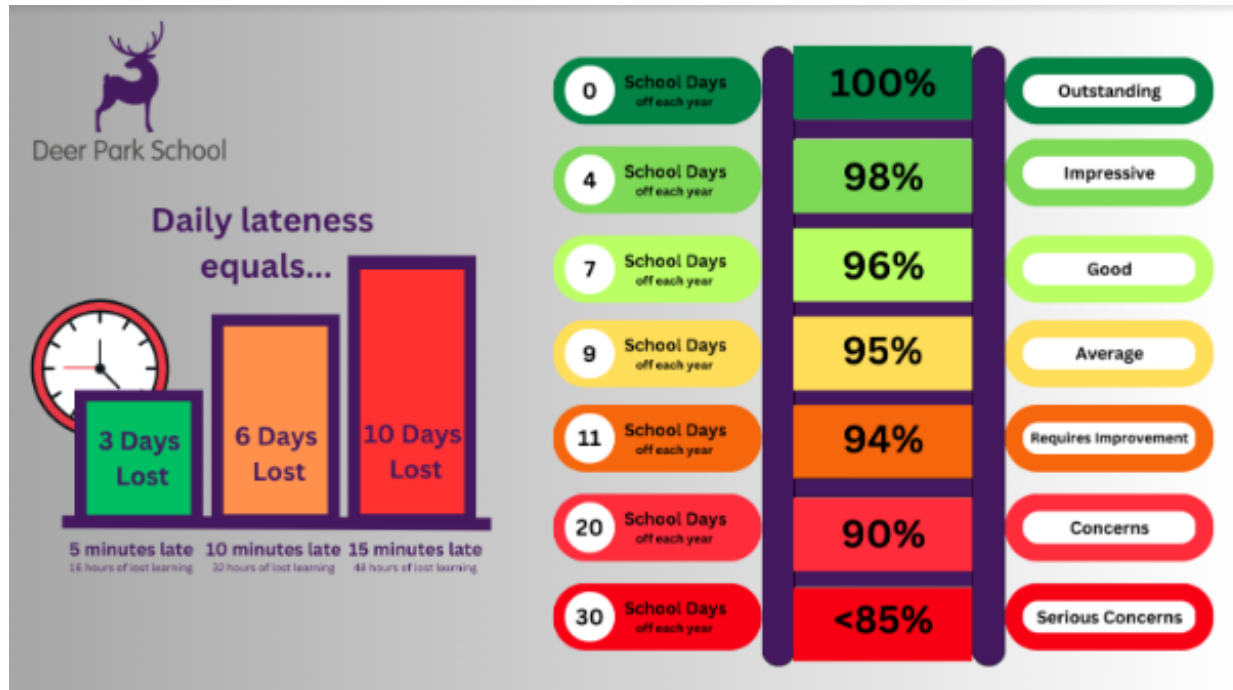
For the safety and security of all students and staff, please be reminded that the school car park is reserved exclusively for those who hold a valid car park pass or a Blue Badge . We kindly request that you do not use the car park for general drop-offs or collections (Unless you are collecting your child during the day for an appointment).

To ensure a smooth and safe drop-off and pick-up process, please utilize the designated drop-off points available on Sika Avenue.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in helping us maintain a secure environment for everyone.

ABSENCES

Please, where possible, could you contact us before 8.30am if your child is unable to attend school. Absences can be recorded via Edulink or by e-mailing absence@deeparksecondary.org. Alternatively please call the school on 01489 351100 and select option 1 to report your child absent.



HOLIDAY FORMS

If you need to request an authorised absence from school, for example for holidays, attending family funerals, etc Parents will now need to complete an online google form. This should make it easier for parents to complete. The link for the form is [here](#).

Lost Property

All lost property is kept in the Library (LRC). If your child(ren) has lost anything, please ask them to collect anything that belongs to them. Items will be kept for 3 weeks and then donated. Please help us to get items back to your child by clearly labeling items.

Thank you.



RAISE will be at this event to talk to anyone interested in becoming a Member/Trustee/Governor for the schools/Trust
Further Information can be found [here](#) and using this [link](#)

Eastleigh Volunteer Fair

Thursday 23 January 2025, 4-7pm

Wide Lane Sports Ground
Eastleigh, SO50 5PE



Discover the
perfect role to
donate your
time and skills

Come learn about the
hundreds of volunteering
opportunities across Eastleigh
including 25 amazing organisations
showcasing their causes on the day.

Find out more at www.cfirst.org/events



Online Safety & Gaming

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

- 17 Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline
- 17 Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/
- 17 Report Harmful Content: reportharmfulcontent.com



ACCESS TO INFORMATION