

FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY


Weekly Newsletter



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Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 



Dear parents/carers,

When parents decide to send their children to a Catholic college, they do so because they know that their child will be educated in a Catholic environment which focusses on excellence.

The quality of Catholic schools has been recognised by the Government, they have granted us 'voluntary aided' status. What this means is that although the schools are in the state system, we can retain our traditions and organise the school based on the teachings of the Church. But in return, we are required by law to raise 10% of the cost of developing and maintaining the school buildings. This has been the case for over 40 years.

As a voluntary aided school, if we need to improve the college, or undertake basic repairs or add additional facilities, we need to find a minimum of 10% of the cost ourselves.

If the money is not raised, the work cannot be undertaken. Because of this, our governors ask parents and carers for an annual donation of £30 towards the 'School Fund' at BTHCC, so that we can continue to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment for your children.

Ways to make your donation

One off Payment of £30 on Sco-Pay - www.scopay.com/login

Set up a standing order using the form attached and split the cost £2.50 per month

UK tax payers can take advantage of the funds charitable status and Gift Aid their contributions.

Please Gift Aid online contributions if eligible by ticking the Gift Aid box.

Families are being asked to donate £30 but are free to donate a larger amount if circumstances allow and anyone who is unable to make this level of donation is welcome to make a smaller contribution. The school realises, that this may prove a burden on some families, especially if they have a number of children in schools in the Diocese. In such cases, the school asks that a voluntary contribution according to your means be made.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and to those families who have already contributed to this fund.

Thank you in advance.



Mrs C S Hogg

What's going on - Week 15th-19th

Wednesday

Word

Room 54 at 8.30am

Thursday

Multisport Panathlon

Friday

**College Mass
- 8.15am G3**

Year of Prayer

Pope Francis has called us to prepare for this important Year of Jubilee with a Year of Prayer. He said, 'I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer.

Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.'

In a year dedicated to prayer, Pope Francis calls us to contemplate afresh on the Our Father, the words Jesus himself gave us when he was asked by his apostles how to pray.

CAFOD have a dedicated page for this year of prayer

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-prayer>

It would be lovely to hear how your family is celebrating the Year of Prayer so do please share your 'Good News' with us.



GOD WHO SPEAKS, BIBLE SOCIETY Fleur Dorrell, Catholic Scripture Engagement Manager for the Catholic Bishops' Conference & Bible Society offers posters for schools and for families. This new series of posters focuses on scripture and citizenship through the themes, Created, Related, Seekers and Keepers. Fleur also reminds us that this year we celebrate Sunday of the Word of God on 21st January. The Vatican's theme this year is from John 8:31 – 'Remain in my Word'.



Scripture and Citizenship

WE ARE CREATED

We are Created - in God's image, to share in His life. This is the source of our dignity.



Before the world was made God chose us... to live through love in his presence 1:4

This uniqueness of human beings is the starting point for our Catholic understanding of citizenship: we are created on earth but we share in the life of God and our destiny is the Kingdom of heaven. This is a golden theme from Genesis to Revelation.

We see three common rights of citizenship flowing from this:

- we are created with reason and free will, so we have a civil right to individual freedom
- we are protected by a God who promises to shelter us under his wings, so we have a social right to welfare and security
- we are called to serve the common good, so we have a political right to participation.

When we help our children to understand that they are created to be who they are, that they are loved as they are and that they are irreplaceable in God's plan, we nurture in them self-respect. We give them a reality against which to evaluate and navigate our world of conflicting influences and images.

- As Catholics how do we understand citizenship?
- How do we encourage our children to be good citizens?
- What can the Bible teach us about citizenship?



ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

Joseph provides for his family (Genesis 45)

Show one act of kindness this week to someone in your family, neighbourhood or to a passing stranger.

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.



Scripture and Citizenship

WE ARE RELATED

We are Related - one to another through our Heavenly Father. We find God in our love for each other.



Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

As we encourage our children to understand and respect their own uniqueness, we help them to value the uniqueness of others. The love of God goes beyond division of age, creed, culture and wealth.

We teach our children that to claim our individual rights as citizens means we must uphold these same rights for all. Individual rights are extended to what we have come to call Universal Human Rights. These express our basic right to life, and to the dignity and justice which enable us to flourish.

Alongside our rights come responsibilities to each other. When we show concern, courtesy, generosity of attitude as well as time and money, we model for our children the habits of behaviour which reflect a real respect for others. We help them to think beyond their own needs.

When we reflect and pray with our children, we help them to cultivate an active conscience with which to cherish life: the instinct which will prompt them to seek and pay attention to God in all people, places and cultures, particularly those we don't like.



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ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Listen to someone you don't agree with and reflect on what you have learned from them. How can this help you to respect other people who don't think like you?

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.



Scripture and Citizenship

WE ARE SEEKERS

We are Seekers - of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are spiritual beings with an instinct and aspiration for what is good.



*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me. **Matthew 25:40***

Christ sowed the seed of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth but we are charged with its nurturing: we are not only citizens but also co-creators of the Kingdom of justice and peace.

We must let this awareness shape our engagement with the world: we must seek justice and peace in all the decisions and actions of our lives, whether as private individuals or as part of our civil societies and political systems.

When we encourage our children to show kindness to someone who feels left out we teach them solidarity with the marginalised. As they learn not to drop litter they become more aware of their environment. As we consider the rules they must follow at home and at school, we explore with them the rule of law and the boundaries we respect so that we all have space and freedom to flourish.

When we pray with our children for the needs of the world, together we open our hearts as global citizens and as the whole family of God.



- As Catholics how do we understand citizenship?
- How do we encourage our children to be good citizens?
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ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Offer to do a task around the house that you don't normally do such as cleaning, washing, gardening or helping with cooking.

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.



Scripture and Citizenship

WE ARE KEEPERS

We are Keepers - of the gift of Creation. It is entrusted to us for our own use and care, and that of generations to come.



I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.
John 10:10

The right to life cannot be separated from our care for Creation: life can only flourish with fresh air, clean water and good food. Our care of Creation is an expression of our praise and thanksgiving to God and of our care and respect for each other, of our good citizenship.

When we heed the call to 'live simply' we encourage our children to think about:

- how we use our resources wisely and fairly
- the consequences of our choices for others
- the impact of climate change and biotechnology, pollution and over-fishing and deforestation.

When we pay attention to what and how much we consume, to fair trade, how and how far we travel, how much we re-use and recycle, we model both individual and collective responsibility.

- As Catholics how do we understand citizenship?
- How do we encourage our children to be good citizens?
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ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

The widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16)

Think about the amount of water and energy you use each week. See if you can reduce your use of both so that other people can share our common natural resources.

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.

100 CLUB



New Year New Me 🥰

If you remember at the end of last term, the students who were in 100 club were treated with a trip to the cinema.

Well as it is a new year and a new term all students are back in the 100 club. From Monday the 8th of January, students start again with their attendance and their behaviour points.

Those in the 100 club at the end of the Spring term will be rewarded again with a treat.

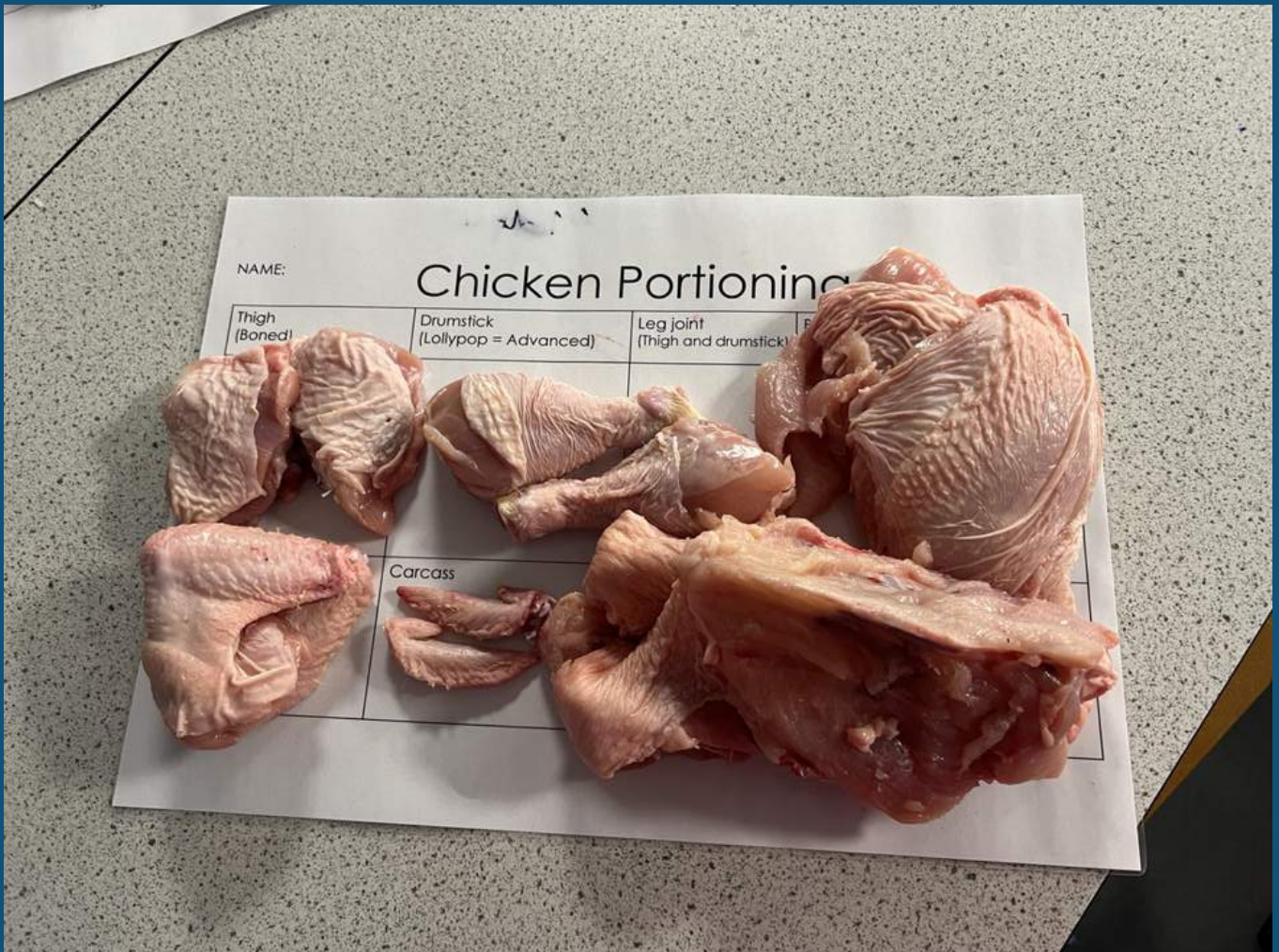
Young Writers Competition

Through Old Eyes

Another broken night's sleep,
I awake to my heart monitor's beep.
Once again, I'm awake before dawn,
I stretch my aching body and yawn.
I open the curtains and look outside,
My eyes are drawn to a bird that's died.
Showing me how fickle life can be,
I'm reminded of my own mortality.
With tired limbs and squinting eyes,
I pass a mirror that tells me lies.
This wrinkly face cannot be mine,
In my twenty-year-old head I look just fine!
I make a brew and put toast on my plate,
I turn on the TV – my companion and mate.
The doorbell rings – 'oh who can it be'.
Excitement bubbles but alas it's not my family.
Another day in this hell hole all alone.
I stare at the four walls that lock me in and I groan.
I long for a life where I have lots of friends,
Dear God! My life is so lonely, please let it end.

Poetry entry by year 8 Stanley

Food and Nutrition



Shout out for Georgia Boothroyd and Alex Gorgees in year 9.

They wanted to challenge themselves in Food and Nutrition club last week and joint a whole chicken (this is a GCSE skill). They air fried their seasoned chicken wings, thighs and drumsticks in our brand new air fryers last night and next week will be making a chicken stock and chicken burgers out of the chicken.

Year 9 Options



Year 9 Options Booklet

Below is an image which will link you to the options booklet to aid discussions with year 9 pupils. We will be welcoming parents of Year 9 students on Thursday the 22nd of February to our Options Evening.



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Sorry, you cannot access this page

Please visit our [Help Center](#) for more information. Error code:
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[Go back to the Canva homepage](#)

Personal Development



As part of our PD curriculum, we are looking to give our pupils experiences with organisations, charities and companies who have knowledge and expertise in the topics on the google form below.

If you would be willing to offer speakers, workshops or presentations relating to the below areas, please complete the form below and we will be in touch.

<https://shorturl.at/bpHX0>

We appreciate your support.

Family Bingo Night



On Thursday 8th of February 2024, we will be hosting a 'Family Bingo Night' in the main school hall.

This is an event for students, families and the wider community. Entrance tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children, which will include a FREE game. Tickets can be purchased on Scopay.

Doors will open at 6:30pm with 'Eyes Down' at 6:45pm.

The cards for each game will be on sale on the night at a cost of £2 per game. There will be 6 games during the evening with lots of prizes up for grabs. Food/Refreshments will be on sale during the evening and all funds raised will go towards St Luke's Hospice. A raffle will also be held – if you are able to donate a prize for this it would be greatly appreciated.

I do hope you will be able to support us at this event.

*All students must be accompanied by an adult



**KEEP
CALM
AND COME TO
HOMEWORK
CLUB**

Homework club everyday
until 4pm in the library




Textiles club

Newspaper Dresses

Every Wednesday 3pm Room 23

*Limited space : sign-up sheet will be
posted in room 23*

Miss Ali

A collection of various stationery items is scattered across a black background. In the top half, there are several colored pencils (green, orange, pink, blue), a large orange brush, a yellow highlighter, and some yellow and orange sticky notes. In the bottom half, there are more colored pencils (yellow, red, orange), a wooden ruler, a yellow pencil sharpener, a silver pen, a compass, and a blue spiral notebook. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**Stationary shop in
the main school
hall every morning
before school.**

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship vacancy at Cargill PLC in Trafford Park - this is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working practically.

The employer is looking to recruit a Mechanical Maintenance & Reliability Apprentice and the successful candidate will complete the Level 3 Maintenance & Operation Engineering Technician Apprenticeship Standard. The overview and Assessment Plan can be viewed here:
[read more](#)

We also have an existing Apprentice at the employer who has written a case study for us about his experience. This could give a potential applicant an insight into life as an Apprentice at Cargill:
[read more](#)

If you feel your child may be interested, please can you share the link below with them? This contains all of the information (including job description, salary and working hours etc.) plus they can submit their application through it. *Please note that the closing date is 1st March.
[Application form](#)

You're invited to...

Greater Manchester SkillCentre

Open Event



**Thursday 25th January
2024 4.00pm-6.00pm**



**Unit 32 Wheelforge Way
Trafford Prk
Manchester, M17 1EH**

We are delighted to be able to invite young people to our face-to-face Open Event where they will be able to have a look around our facilities and speak to our industry-trained tutors.

The Greater Manchester SkillCentre is a purpose-built, state-of-the-art training facility, specifically built for training the next generation of apprentices and trainees.

Whilst we offer a wide range of apprenticeships and adult courses, this Open Event is aimed at young people aged 16-18 who are interested in starting one of our Pre-apprenticeship Study Programmes in the following subject areas:

- Construction Multi-trade
- Plastering
- Paint & Decorating
- Engineering
- Electrical Installation
- Automotive Light Vehicle Mechanics
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Plumbing



What is a Pre-apprenticeship Study Programme?

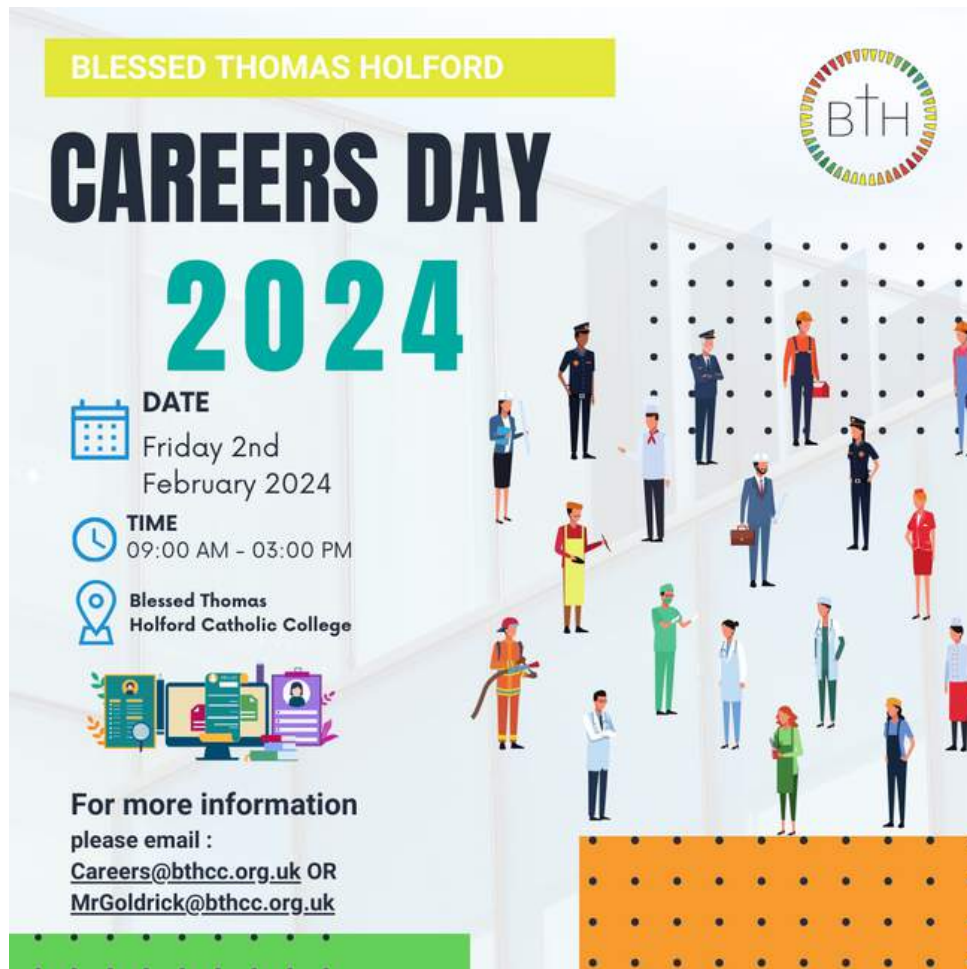
These courses are for young people aged 16-18 who wish to progress onto an apprenticeship but don't feel quite ready. You will gain hands-on experience that employers are looking for and a nationally recognised qualification. On successful completion, you will be offered support for progression onto one of our apprenticeships.

No need to book just turn up!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Your Future is Here

Careers Fair



Careers Fair Friday - 2nd of February 9am-3pm

We are seeking a range of organisations to promote careers within their sectors and possible pathways to employment or further education. If any parents/carers would like to be involved or know any businesses or organisations that could attend our Careers fair then please do get in touch. We want to offer a wide range of careers and pathways to the students so they can see what opportunities are on offer to them after leaving school.

This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to seek out young talent and is a great chance to develop your company's reputation through public interaction and brand awareness.

If you are interested please get in touch with

laurahussain@bthcc.org

Trafford Thrive



Manchester University
NHS Foundation Trust

Trafford Thrive in Education **COFFEE MORNING**

Parents, carers, and family members welcome

- To introduce you to the NHS Mental Health Support Team known as *Trafford Thrive in Education*.
- Get to know us and learn about how we support BTH and your young people.
- Get some ideas and some resources to help you support your young people.
- Have an informal chat and ask questions over coffee and biscuits!
- Taking place at BTH on Friday 2nd February 09.30-10:30, meet at reception in the sixth form building.



Let us know you are attending

Important Notices

ATTENTION FOR YEAR 11 PARENTS

Monday 24th June - Year 11 Leaver's mass celebration. 6pm at school.

Saturday 29th June - Year 11 Prom at the JB Bell Stadium.

We have a schools Cross Country race on Saturday at Longford Park in Stretford, starting at 10am. This is for all year groups to participate in and represent BTH if they would like to. Medals for first 3 individual runners, and first 3 teams.



JOB VACANCIES AT OUR COLLEGE.



- *Teacher of Maths
- *Teacher of RE
- *School Caretaker
- *Attendance Officer
- *Admin Officer
- *Pastoral/Reconciliation Co-ordinator Hub
- *Sixth Form Student Support Officer

Join
Our
Team



APPLY NOW

<https://www.bthcc.org.uk/vacancies>

We have some job vacancies within our college so take a look at our vacancies page on the website

<https://www.bthcc.org.uk/vacancies>

es

Student Shout Out



Student Shout Out 🗣️

to Rachael in Yr 10 who has been selected after a ballet audition to appear in 'Cinderella in Hollywood' at the Opera House in Manchester. We're so proud of Rachael who was competing against a lot of others who auditioned, some of whom had yrs of experience 🙌

Student Shout Out



Student Shout Out 🗣️
Well done to Sinead
for winning her
competition for
Lancashire rugby last
weekend!



SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday