



Dear North Star 180 Families,

It's been a wonderfully busy week across the school, with a particular spotlight on reading and writing. As part of Libraries Week, our primary pupils enjoyed their visits to the library—exploring new books, sharing stories, and deepening their love of reading. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and it's been a joy to see them so engaged.

Writing has also been a standout success across all year groups. From imaginative storytelling to thoughtful reflections, students have shown real creativity and progress in their written work. Staff have been impressed not only by the quality but by the pride pupils are taking in their learning.

We know that consistent attendance is key to unlocking these opportunities. Every day in school matters—whether it's a library visit, a writing session, or a moment of connection with peers and staff. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting your child's attendance; it makes a real difference.

Looking ahead to next week, we're excited to join a sports fixture with NS 240. These events are more than just competition—they're powerful opportunities for our students to develop resilience, teamwork, and leadership. We're proud to see them embracing challenge, showing respect for others, and growing through healthy competition. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another week of learning and celebration.

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Serra Orumlu
Headteacher



Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN OUR SCHOOL THIS WEEK?

- * In **Owls**, we have been developing our descriptive writing this week and Owls have produced some lovely work. Percy's piece stood out as he stepped away from our scaffolded frame and produced his own independent piece, enjoy!

'The old man stood in happiness and joy when he saw the tropical forest for the first time. His eyes twinkled at the sight of the forest. He saw white spot bunnies, titanium tiger cubs and beautiful tropical flowers. Voyaging through the spellbinding forest he heard grass swooshing, tropical birds flapping in the sky and chicks chirping. The scent of wet grass, fresh air and baby bunnies filled his nostrils.'

- * This week **Badgers** went to the bookshop to explore all our favourite books and pick some out that we'd love to see in class. There was everything from cook books to graphic novels to where's wally! We even had the chance to sit down for a good old read.



- * In **8B**, we've had a fantastic week working on our final "Wish" stories! Special shoutouts go to Demi for using descriptive writing techniques (especially 2A sentences) and to Harvey P for his continued effort in editing and redrafting his work. In addition, in outdoor learning, we took part in a survival challenge following a simulated plane crash. Thankfully, all groups made the right survival choices and successfully secured the emergency rations box.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN OUR SCHOOL THIS WEEK?

- * This term, our **Year 11** students have been exploring practical financial topics in Life Skills, including how money works, budgeting, and understanding taxes. These sessions aim to prepare students for real-world responsibilities by helping them make informed decisions about spending, saving, and future employment. It's been great to see their engagement with topics that will support their independence beyond school.



LET'S CELEBRATE

The top students with 100% points

- * Kasey G
- * Logan H
- * Dylan G
- * Riley HS
- * Lily S
- * Marley L
- * Rayen S
- * Leo P

The top tutor groups for points

9—98.4%

11X—96.4%

8A-96%

The student of the week

Jim S

The most improved student of the week

Cohen WR

The highest attendance for the week

Owls-99%

Foxes—95%

Year 9-95%

Well done!



SAFEGUARDING

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramstein is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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