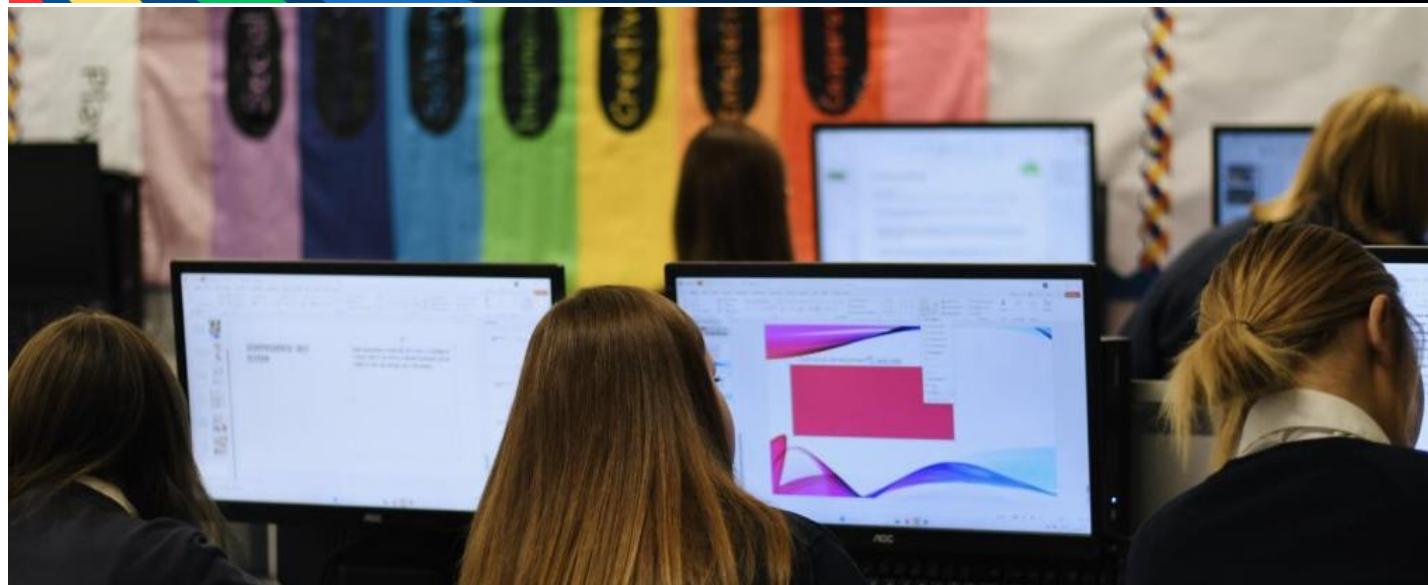


Newsletter



16th January 2026 Issue 15



Dear Parent/Carers,

As we finish another busy and productive week, I'd like to thank everyone for the positive spirit and cooperation across our school community. It's been wonderful to see students so engaged in their learning and activities. There have been some fantastic enrichment opportunities this week, more information is in the newsletter.

You can see from our attendance data that our year 7's are leading by example, helped along by our attendance challenge. This half term is a 28-day challenge to be in school 98% of the time or better. We know that this isn't always possible, which is why we have planned several challenges across the school year. Who is going to be successful this time?

Just a few important reminders for the week ahead:

- **Year 9 immunisations** will be taking place on **Monday**. Thank you to families for ensuring consent forms are completed and returned.
- Our **Parent & Carer Coffee & Cake session** will be held on **Wednesday**. This is a relaxed chance to chat, connect, and enjoy a treat together — click [here](#) to register.
- **Year 11 students** will be attending their **Harlow College interviews on Wednesday**. We wish them all the very best and encourage them to make the most of this valuable opportunity.

Have a lovely weekend, may the blue skies stay for a while!

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

2

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

3

PASTORAL UPDATE

7

SUBJECT INFORMATION/UPDATES

13

SPORT/PE UPDATES

14

CAREERS NEWS

16

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

18

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

USEFUL LINKS

[Parents/Carers Letters](#)

[Clubs and Activities](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[ParentPay](#)



Arbor



www.passmoresacademy.com

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Friday 9th to Thursday 15th January 2026

Rees, Talulah	Year 7	58
Dixon, Sam	Year 7	50
Garrett, Freddie	Year 7	49
Morrison, Evelyn	Year 7	49
Newberry, Gracie	Year 7	48
Olasunkanmi, Fareedah	Year 7	48
Tohill, Nyla	Year 7	48
Holcroft, Sofia	Year 7	47
Luca, Daria	Year 7	46
Mulligan, Riley	Year 7	46

Egemen, Zelal	Year 8	67
Mickevic, Nikas	Year 8	66
Flynn, Alfie	Year 8	61
Owen, Amelie	Year 8	59
Chui, Kingsley	Year 8	56
Denkewicz, Maria	Year 8	56
Stryczek, Calum	Year 8	56
Morgan, Tori	Year 8	55
Warner, Ruby	Year 8	55
Hartgrove, Connie	Year 8	53
Jocas, Tyler	Year 8	53

Gjoni, Leart	Year 9	84
Mati, Alvin	Year 9	84
Osagie-Ighodaro, Jennifer	Year 9	84
Aimes, Olly	Year 9	80
Ricketts, Rachel	Year 9	80
Crutchlow, Sam	Year 9	76
Lloyd, Samuel	Year 9	74
Wright, Megan	Year 9	72
Lai, Korey	Year 9	71
Goswami, Shubh	Year 9	71

Allen, Mia	Year 10	56
Benge, Maddie	Year 10	48
Nicholls, Melissa	Year 10	46
Potgieter, Demar	Year 10	42
Arber, Matthew	Year 10	40
Keen, Rein	Year 10	40
Redding, Jack	Year 10	39
Abbott, Sofia	Year 10	38
Norburn, Amber	Year 10	38
Butler, Patrick	Year 10	36
Owen, Esme	Year 10	36

Zalinski, Adrian	Year 11	40
Mustata, David	Year 11	38
Raykov, Pavel	Year 11	38
Dinnell, Louis	Year 11	37
Crutchlow, Jack	Year 11	36
Man, Charlotte	Year 11	36
Norden, Sawyer	Year 11	36
Reid, Maisie	Year 11	36
Ramadan, Rio	Year 11	33
Ozimek, Roksana	Year 11	32

Year Group Attendance w/c 12th January 2026

Year 7	93.54%
Year 8	88.9%
Year 9	87.53%
Year 10	85.8%
Year 11	87.47%
All Students	88.66%

PASTORAL UPDATE

Thought for the Week – Ambitions and Goals

This week, *Thought for the Week* continued our focus on “New year, new term, fresh start,” with a deeper look at ambitions and goals. Students explored what matters to them, what they would like to achieve, and how setting goals can help guide their choices and actions.

They learned that having clear ambitions:

- Builds motivation and engagement in school life
- Gives direction and purpose
- Encourages responsibility for their own progress
- Develops resilience when things do not go to plan
- Supports confidence through achievable milestones

By linking effort to outcomes, students were encouraged to adopt a growth mindset and to see setbacks as part of the journey towards long-term success. Most importantly, they were reminded that having goals provides hope, meaning, and a positive focus for the future.

In the News – *Where's the Good News?*

This week's *In the News* focused on how the media shapes the way we see the world. Students discussed how news outlets often focus on negative stories because they attract attention, even though many positive things are happening too.

They learned that:

- Constant exposure to negative news can lower wellbeing and increase anxiety
- It can make people feel unsafe or lose trust in others
- We need to be active and thoughtful consumers of news

Students were encouraged to seek out positive stories, focus on what is happening locally, and look for ways to be part of solutions—such as helping others or volunteering—so they feel empowered rather than overwhelmed.

Other News

It has been another purposeful week across the school, with students continuing to settle into the new term and build positive routines that support learning, wellbeing, and achievement.

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

Next week, *Thought for the Week* will move into Session 4 of the ‘Mind Matters’ and ‘Time to Talk’ programme, continuing to build students’ understanding of themselves and their emotional wellbeing.

In *The News*, we will be celebrating World Religion Day, helping students explore faith, belief, and diversity across the world.

Wednesday will also be an exciting milestone for our Year 11 students, as we welcome Harlow College for their post-16 interviews—an important step in their journey beyond Passmores.

Chit, Chat & Coffee

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to invite you to join us for a cup of tea or coffee, cake and a chat with Natalie Christie and other members of staff from the Leadership, Pastoral and SEND teams.

As well as giving you an opportunity to share your current news, we will be discussing uniform and next steps following the Trust survey.

Also, just a reminder for Parents & Carers of Year 11 that as part of the support package for Year 11, there will be a member of staff available to discuss all things Year 11. Come along to get advice, information or just bring ideas of what we could do better to support your young person. These last two terms will be over before we know it!

Please let us know by Friday 16th January if you are able to attend either 9.30am-10.30am, 1.30pm-2.30pm or 5pm-6pm.

So that we know how many people to cater for, please

[CLICK HERE](#)



Week Commencing - 12/01/26
Weekly Winners

Talulah Rees

Luke Horey

Mara De Freitas Sousa

Ruby Warner

Kai Wilkinson

Lacey Hymas

Peyton Poole

Jamie Donovan

Lilly Johnson

Student Spotlight...

Young Writers Poetry Competition

Back in September 2025, one of our year 10 students Lacey Douglass-Armstrong entered a poetry competition.

This week we were delighted to receive a letter to say that Lacey's poem is going to be published in the Young Writers Poetry Book 2026!

We are all so extremely proud of such an amazing achievement... well done Lacey!

I Have A Dream That One Day I'll Be Free

*I have a dream that one day I'll be free,
The girl in the mirror will believe in me.
I have a dream, I won't chase what's gone,
I'll write my own story, keep moving on.*

*I have a dream, the dark will fade away,
That tomorrow feels brighter than today.
I have a dream, my voice will be strong,
And I'll find the place where I belong.*

*I have a dream, Narnar's love's still here,
Her memory whispers, her spirit's near.
I have a dream, the bullies lose their fight,
And kindness wins when the world unites.*

*I have a dream, the hurt won't last for long,
That broken hearts will learn to carry on.
I have a dream, my scars will shine bright,
A map that shows I made it through the night.*

*I have a dream, my mum can rest her mind.
That life will be gentle, that peace she'll find.
I have a dream, the world learns to see,
That love and hope belong to you and me.*

*I have a dream, no one stands alone,
That every lost soul finds a place called home.
I have a dream, the future's full of light,
That peace will hold us through the night.*

*I have a dream... for the broken and the strong,
I have a dream... for a world where we all belong.*



Spanish and Art trip to Barcelona – 6th - 8th March 2026

¡Hola!



We hope you are all as excited as we are to be going to Barcelona!

If your young person is going on this trip, could you please forward a copy of their passport details to the following addresses:

a.farmacy@passmoresacademy.com

g.harris@passmoresacademy.com

Also, if you haven't done so already, please apply for free healthcare cover abroad (GHIC) on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Drama

Hello and a happy new year from the Drama department!

We are hitting the ground running in 2026, with lots of exciting events coming up; starting with our year 10 GCSE students performing *Gizmo* by Alan Ayckbourne on Thursday 22nd January. This is a set text for their final written exam which they have worked very hard on managing the direction and design of the performance. Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#)

On Thursday 29th January, our fantastic drama clubs, in years 7 to 11 will be presenting a showcase of short scripts. For many of our students this is their first time treading the boards and they are extremely excited to show off their hard work and talent. Tickets for this performance can be purchased by clicking [here](#)

And we're not stopping there! On Wednesday 4th February, our GCSE drama students will be visiting the Chelmsford Theatre to see *The Woman In Black*. This performance is in preparation for their written exam and promises to be a "chilling" afternoon!

We know how to get a year started!

Year 7 and 8 Scholars Innovation and Research Workshop – Wednesday 14th January

On Wednesday 14th January, Passmores Academy's Scholars cohort (Gifted and Talented) participated in our Research and Innovation Workshop. The students were tasked with working collaboratively and creatively to resolve one of five real world problems as an acting panel of university researchers!

The students were challenged with questions including 'can AI be trusted to make ethical decisions' and 'what does a zero-waste school like look;' in which they had to research and present a new solution to said questions. Our cohort immediately rose to the challenge and began to judiciously research pre-existing solutions and potential new solutions, all backed by evidence. The Scholars worked seamlessly in their teams, ensuring efficient research was being conducted and considered for their final solution. It was fantastic to see how well they worked together and delegated roles out within their group to ensure efficient progress was being made.

After gathering their evidence, the Scholars moved on to the next task of the day – crafting a presentation based on their research to deliver to a panel – including Passmores Academy's Principal, Ms Christie. The Scholars had to ensure their presentation reflected their research depth, and showcased their creativity, innovation and the impact of their solution. Each group delivered their thorough and elaborate presentations confidently, which made deciding the winner a challenge for the panel! It was clear how hard the cohort had worked all day and their extreme effort was embodied into their final presentations

After much deliberation, our winning group was Janelle, Scarlett, Tilly, Erin and Alice who presented pragmatic ideas about the ethical considerations required if we further embedded AI into society! Some notable mentions solving world hunger using bugs and their nutritional value and low cost, as well as using a German school as pioneers for how to implement zero-waste culture into schools!

I am so incredibly proud of every single one of my Scholars students, they worked extremely hard and their efforts were evident throughout the entire day. It was a pleasure to deliver this workshop to our Year 7 and 8 Scholars!

Miss Palmer



Extra-Curricular Clubs
January – March 2026

Dept.	Club	Day	Time	Room	Staff
Art	KS4 Art & Design GCSE Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:15	L104 / L105	GHA / VFX
Drama	Excellence Club Years 9, 10 & 11	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
Drama	Year 7 & 8 Drama Club	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	L107/Hall	JGR / KWN
English	Year 11 Homework Support	Tuesday (Week A)	1:45 – 2:15	English Corridor	LKG
English	Book Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	English Corridor	English Dept.
English	Creative Writing Club	Thursday	3:15 – 4:00	U107	EBG / EPE
English	KS4 Drop-In Support	Friday (Week B)	3:20 – 4:20	U103	LKG
French	French Homework Club	Wednesday	3:15 – 4:00	Y101	CFY
Geography	Geography Film Club	Thursday	3:20 – 4:15	U004	VNS
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 1	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	Steel Pans – Grp. 2	Monday	4:30 – 5:30	L19	DBK / JDE
Music	African Drumming	Wednesday	3:20 – 3:50	L10	DBR
Music	Glee Vocal Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	PTG
Music	Soul Band	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L19	DBR
Music	Piano Club & Music Technology	Thursday	3:20 – 4:00	L110	DBR
Science	Gardening Club	Wednesday	3:20 – 4:15	L006 / Science Garden	SWT
Study Club	Study Club	Tuesday - Friday	3:15 – 4:15	G102 / G105	Various
Youth Club	Youth Club	Tuesday	3:30 – 5:00	Heart Space	AOS

Extra-Curricular Clubs

January – March 2026

Dept.	Club	Day	Time	Room	Staff
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	MGD
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Monday Break 2	11:20 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	GCI
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Tuesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JWD
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	OWY
PE	Indoor Athletics	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	OWY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Wednesday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	KGD
PE	Badminton	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	JKG
PE	Dance	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:15	Dance Studio	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 1	10:55 – 11:20	Sports Hall	ARY
PE	Basketball / Netball Shooting	Thursday Break 2	11:20 – 11:45	Sports Hall	AMN
PE	Fitness (Gym)	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Gym	JWB
PE	Girls Basketball	Thursday	3:30 – 4:15	Sports Hall	GCI

Maths Homework Club

Join us for any help,
questions or a quiet
space to get your maths
homework done!

Tuesdays

3:15-4 pm

Y005

ENGLISH PERIOD 6

TUESDAY

**EBG, EPE, BPS, LKG,
MMR, DLM, NVH
SKS (Y11)**

WEDNESDAY

SKS (Y10)

FRIDAY
ALL, RKG



SPORT/PE UPDATES

On Wednesday 14th January, ten of our year 10 students took part in the Essex Boccia Tournament held at Passmores.

Splitting into two teams of five, our students showed great teamwork, dedication, and excellent enthusiasm throughout the tournament.

Along with our playing students, the tournament saw eight of our year 9 students assist with hosting the tournament by taking scores and refereeing the games. They showed great professionalism and leadership skills, refereeing the primary tournament in the morning and the secondary tournament in the afternoon.

Well done to all those who represented our school through officiating or playing.

Miss O Wiley
PE Teacher



Year 11s

Harlow College will be coming into Passmores on Wednesday 21st January to interview students who have applied to study at the college in September.

Students will have already been informed of their interview time via email. Some courses require students to attend the college for their meetings, so do not worry if they are not on the list for the 21st.

Students should attend in their school uniform. Parents are welcome to attend and will just need to sign in to reception on the day and ask their young person to collect them.

Stansted Airport College Open Evening – Thursday 22nd January, 5pm - 8pm

Witness the sights and sounds of a new campus located in the hustle and bustle of a busy Airport whilst meeting tutors and trainees.



Tickets for STAC event are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-erygok>

Hertford Regional College open event on Tuesday 3rd February 5.30pm - 8pm

Open Event - Hertford Regional College



Harlow College Open Evening - Tuesday 10th February, 5pm - 8pm

Showcasing their Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, SEND and Adult & Part-time courses.



Tickets for Harlow College event are available on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlow-college/e-dlodvx>

Are you interested in the Army?

Free online webinar to discover the exciting opportunities offered by **British Army apprenticeships**.



Tuesday, 3rd February 2026

16:00 – 17:00

Online Event

Why attend?

- Explore a wide range of roles: engineering, logistics, healthcare, IT, and more
- Learn how students can **earn while they learn**
- Hear first-hand from soldiers and apprentices about training, career journeys, and day-to-day Army life

[Register Here](#)

Online Construction Apprenticeship Insight Session

This interactive online event is designed for students and young people who are curious about starting a career in the construction industry. Whether you're already considering an apprenticeship or just beginning to explore your options, this session will give you a real look at what the journey involves.



You'll hear directly from employers and current apprentices as they share their experiences, talk through the application process, and explain what day-to-day life on site and in training is really like. Their stories will help you understand the wide range of roles available and what skills and qualities employers are looking for.

There will also be a dedicated Q&A segment, giving you the chance to ask questions, get honest answers, and build confidence about your next steps.

This session is perfect for anyone wanting to learn more about construction career pathways, apprenticeship opportunities, and how to stand out when applying.

Click [here](#) to register

Are You Interested in Law?

Applications are now open for the [King's College London Widening Participation Online Law Lecture Series \(LLS\) 2026](#). This is for students in Years 11, 12 & 13.

What is the Online Law Lecture Series?

The Law Lecture Series is a free, national programme of live online lectures for students interested in studying Law and related subjects at university. Delivered by King's College London academics, admissions staff, student ambassadors and legal professionals, the programme helps students build confidence, knowledge and ambition.

What will students gain?

Students will:

- Learn what studying Law at university is really like
- Explore a wide range of legal careers and pathways
- Receive guidance on applications, admissions and the LNAT
- Take part in weekly live Q&A sessions
- Join a national community of like-minded students interested in Law

Who can apply?

The programme is open to students who (as of September 2025):

- Are in Year 11, 12 or 13, or on a gap year, and
- Are attending (or most recently attended) a state (non-fee-paying) school

Students at non-selective state schools are automatically eligible.

When & where?

- Live online lectures via Zoom Webinar
- Held on Thursday evenings
- Running from March – June 2026
- Accessible on a computer, tablet or mobile device

[Click here to apply](#)

Application deadline: Monday 9th February



ANY OTHER INFORMATION

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

School Address

Passmores Academy, Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JH

Main Telephone

01279 770800

passmores@passmoresacademy.com

Student Absence

Report via the  Arbor app

Change of Contact Details

h.day@passmoresacademy.com

Student Services

pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com

First Aid

pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com

Extra-Curricular Clubs

h.day@passmoresacademy.com

Account / Trips

s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com

Homework

datateam@passmoresacademy.com

Free School Meals

pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com

For a full list of staff contact details, click [here](#)

TEACH Harlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?
Contact Gareth Walsh on g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com

Reporting An Absence

If you need to report your child absent from school, please ensure you are following the correct procedure on Arbor.



If notifying us via the app:

- Click on the 3 lines (at the bottom left of the dashboard).
- Log Absence (green bar at the top)
- Complete the information and click 'Log Absence'

If notifying us from a web browser:

- Click on the 'Quick Actions' button
- Click 'Attendance'



Thank you!



Passmores Academy

You are Amazing!

Thank you to all at Passmores Academy, for fundraising on behalf of PACT for Autism.

We are delighted to have received a donation for the sum of £525.00

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for supporting our charity.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 30th January	INSET Day (5)
Thursday 5th February	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening (online)
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	Half-Term
Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March	Spring Term 2
Friday 27th March	Early Finish for Students 12:30pm
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May	Summer Term 1
Thursday 16th April	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening (online)
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 14th May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorials (In-Person)
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	Half-Term
Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July	Summer Term 2
Friday 17th July	End of Term Early Finish for Students

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.



MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.



PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
College®



STRIKE ACADEMY



FREE AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB

FOOTBALL

&

MULTI-SPORT

STARTING
MONDAY 26TH JAN

PASSMORES
ACADEMY,
CM18 6JH

YEAR 7 -
YEAR 11

Free after school football and multi-sport club, e.g. dodgeball
Ages 15-16 can enroll on free FA Referee and Level 1 Coaching
courses



REGISTER
BEFORE
ATTENDING



WWW.SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK
HELLO@SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK
07877 321859

