

Newsletter

Friday 27th June 2025 Issue 35



Passmores Academy Summer Fete



Saturday 28th June 2025
11am – 3pm

Dear Parent/Carers,

The keenly awaited house competition of the year has been decided. Blessed by the beautiful weather, our students (and staff) have shed blood, sweat and tears in our annual Sports Day. Only 47 points separated first and second in another closely fought contest. To see who was triumphant, head to the PE updates.

We have had a wonderful day; in fact, it has been a wonderful week. Year 7s were immense at Mersea; some very tired bodies stepped off the coaches on Wednesday, after a fun packed few days. Our year 10s have been awesome during their mocks, even in the heat they have remained focused. We have been impressed by our new intake for September and then of course, last night, we celebrated into the night at the Prom with our year 11s.

If that wasn't enough, tomorrow is our annual Summer Fete. After the disappointment of having to cancel last year, our Friends of Passmores have been beavering away to organise an afternoon of fun-filled entertainment for all the family. Please come along and support, all monies raised support school projects.

And finally, with the continued good weather and another mini-heat wave due for the beginning of next week, students can continue to wear (correct) PE kit.

Natalie Christie
Principal of Passmores Academy

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TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

20th to 26th June 2025

Last, Charlotte	Year 7	34
Hartgrove, Charis	Year 7	30
Bolwerk, Jack	Year 7	28
Maylen, James	Year 7	26
Hartgrove, Connie	Year 7	25
Owen, Amelie	Year 7	25
Mimms, Joshua	Year 7	22
Dinnell, Jacob	Year 7	21
Perkins, Poppy	Year 7	20
Sooka, Rayane	Year 7	20

Brown, Charlie	Year 9	31
Cudmore, Samuel	Year 9	29
Gunter, Noah	Year 9	28
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	28
Wator, Laura	Year 9	26
Watters, Katie	Year 9	26
Collins, Lily	Year 9	25
Potgieter, Demar	Year 9	21
White, Lilly	Year 9	21
Zajdel, Roxana	Year 9	21

Addison, Anyia-Joan	Year 8	41
Gallagher, Daniel	Year 8	40
Brandle, Aiden	Year 8	39
Hills, Ella	Year 8	39
Evans, Tillie	Year 8	38
Hodson, Fin	Year 8	37
Surtees, Amelia	Year 8	35
De Lima, Sophia	Year 8	34
Green, Lewis	Year 8	34
Rainford, Cherish	Year 8	34

Ball-Parrish, Maizie	Year 10	23
Dack, Benjamin	Year 10	18
Goody, Rebecca	Year 10	15
Laska, Wiktorja	Year 10	15
Foster-Gaish, Lily-May	Year 10	13
Dinnell, Louis	Year 10	12
Gray, Samantha	Year 10	12
Breeds, Riley	Year 10	11
Cope, Lola	Year 10	11
Hodgson, Charlie	Year 10	11

Year Group Attendance (16th to 20th June 2025)

Year 7	91.61%
Year 8	89.08%
Year 9	85.46%
Year 10	92.11%
All Students	89.57%

Thought for the Week



This week, students explored the theme of 'Pathways to Success' as part of our ongoing personal development programme. The session encouraged students to think deeply about what success means to them and how to take positive steps toward their future goals. Key learning points included:

- Success looks different for everyone — and that's okay.
- Self-respect and valuing the support of others are crucial on your journey.
- Recognising your strengths can help guide your decisions.
- It's normal for goals to change over time — talking with trusted people can help keep you on track.
- Challenges are inevitable, but small steps forward make all the difference.

Students were reminded that success isn't a single destination but an ongoing journey of self-growth, resilience, and reflection.

In the News

This week's *In the News* session saw students tune in to BBC Newsround to catch up on current affairs. They discussed a wide range of national and global stories, with tutors encouraging open discussion around any topics that sparked interest. These sessions help students become more informed, engaged, and reflective about the world around them.

Other News

What a week it's been! There's been no shortage of energy, activity and achievement across the school:

- Year 7 students returned from their Mersea trip on Wednesday, full of stories and unforgettable memories. It was fantastic to hear about their adventures and the friendships strengthened during their time away.
- On Thursday, we welcomed our future Passmores students as Year 6 joined us for a successful Transition Day. The excitement and positive energy throughout the day were a real highlight.
- Thursday also saw the end of Year 10 mock exams, and we couldn't be prouder of the maturity and focus shown throughout the exam period.
- The Year 11 Prom on Thursday evening was a brilliant celebration of the Class of 2025. With everyone dressed to impress, it was a wonderful way to say farewell and reflect on their time at Passmores.
- And finally, Sports Day on Friday brought the whole school together in true Passmores spirit. There were some incredible individual and team performances, and the atmosphere was full of encouragement, pride and community spirit. A huge well done to everyone who took part!

Continues on the next page...

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

We're heading into another exciting and busy week:

Thought for the Week will focus on Positive Relationships, as part of our *Mind Matters* and *Time to Talk* programme.

In the News will spark important discussions around whether the climate crisis is an individual or systemic issue — a chance for students to build their critical thinking and ethical reasoning.

On Thursday evening, Year 6 students will return for their Induction Evening as part of their ongoing transition journey.

We'll also welcome some Year 5 students for a taster of what life is like at Passmores.

For Year 10, it's a particularly full calendar — with a trip to the Houses of Parliament, a visit to the Freud Museum, work shadowing day, and two important assemblies.

Let's carry the momentum forward and finish the term with pride and purpose!

Drama

Once again, a very happy Friday to you all. This week's article has a slightly different theme from our usual subject update – however it's still absolutely relevant to our subject and the wider cultural life of Harlow Town.

This week I have been lucky enough to go and watch a wonderful performance from the Livewire Collective. Many of you may already be familiar with their work and their founder Sam Ashford, who has been a figure in the arts lives of Harlow's young people for a good many years now.

On Sunday evening I went to see *Play Dead*, Livewire's latest creation, in Harlow Playhouse's main auditorium. The play is largely devised with the young people involved in the show and accompanied by original songs and soundtrack from the music branch of the organisation. It also includes choreography from their dance cohort too. A full-on performing arts feast you might say! The piece focusses on toxic masculinity and its impact on individuals across the decades, as we see scenes from the 80s, 90s and 2020's unfold, all set in the same university accommodation. Topics covered include toxic relationships and domestic violence, victim-blaming, sexual abuse and stalking. Pretty heavy-going stuff but interlaced so well and with enough care and love for all characters involved to be presented as well-rounded and believable. The cast of young actors (teens to 20s) did a smashing job of delivering a thought-provoking and sensitive piece that ends with a hopeful message, despite some very relevant and important dark moments within it. Accompanied by a multi-skilled and tight sounding band, with scenes interspersed and enhanced by some beautifully choreographed dance routines to help communicate the story imaginatively and with feeling.

But why am I banging on about this in the principal's letter I hear you wonder (yes, my ears are that good I can even hear your thoughts, I've been teaching too long for them not to be!)? Well, this drama teacher from Passmores Academy felt an overwhelming sense of pride throughout the show (my second time seeing it btw!) because so many Passmores pupils, past and present, made up the cast and band. Nearly a third of the performers I saw on stage have come through our doors and some will have turned up to school as usual this week. We know we work hard to maintain the arts in our curriculum and to see our learners continue to explore and invest in that outside of our organisation is delightful. The fact that our alumni are still involved in the arts (probably alongside a full-time job – we all know getting it to pay is the tough bit!) is a wonderful testimony to the creative experiences they were able to access within their curriculum at Passmores and hopefully the positive experiences they had within our walls. Harlow has always had a wonderful arts culture since its birth as a new town in the 50s, and to see current and previous students continue to contribute to this in our local community, as well as further afield, makes it all worthwhile as we approach the end of another challenging teaching year, where we continue to see funding cuts and arts disappearing from the curriculum nationally. Huge thanks and love go to all my arts peers that work tirelessly to keep things creative and exciting for young people and the audiences of Harlow Town, providing inspiring opportunities and access to the arts locally.

Shout outs to the following Passmores performers (past & present):

Rebecca Fox (2018)

Joe Bartram (2019)

Hannah Burke (2019)

Mia Rowan (2022)

Molly Croome (Y11)

Korban Doyle (Y11)

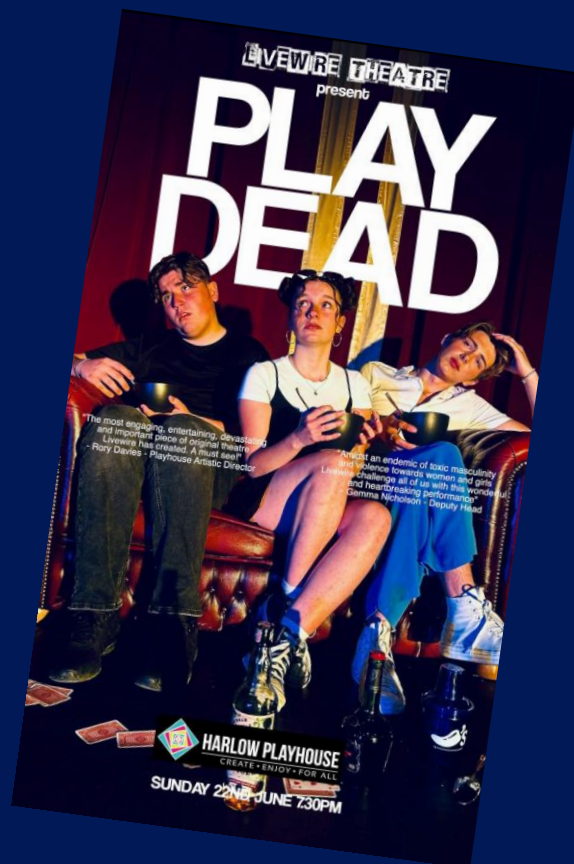
Jay Little (Y11)

Pink Hatton (Y10)

Daisy Simms (Y10)

You guys did an amazing job, and it remains an absolute privilege seeing you all stretch your artistic legs beyond our doors! Hats off to Livewire, who remain relevant, welcoming and inspiring.

Continued on the next page...



*Promotional photos for Livewires "Play Dead"
featuring Korban Doyle (Year 11), Jay Little (Year 11) & Rebecca Fox (Former Passmores student)*

And, of course, a final reminder that you can get your tickets for our school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/passmoresacademy>

Let's keep the big arts wheel turning!

And the winner is...



It has been a truly wonderful Sports Day with all students embracing their houses and competitive spirit, but when the final scores were counted it was the Dragons who reigned supreme; breathing fire on their opposition.

The day saw some amazing competitive races, and medals awarded to all houses, but a full round-up of events from both Sports Day and District Sports will follow next week, so watch this space!

Long Road Sixth Form College Open Evenings



Year 10 students and their families are invited to attend their Open Evenings on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July 2025.

The event is also open to Year 11 students who would like another opportunity to visit the college before making their final post-16 decisions in August.

Booking is now live, and all attendees must book a ticket in advance to ensure the event remains safe and enjoyable. Tickets are limited to a maximum of four per booking.

[Long Road Sixth Form College - Open Evenings](#)



Reminder of the Work Shadowing Day, Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Thank you to everyone who has completed their work shadowing day form, it is lovely to see the range of employers our students will be spending the day with on the 2nd July. This is a great opportunity for our year 10 students to observe a job role which may be of interest to them, but also a positive activity to experience what it is like to go to work and something they can add to their CV's. We are still accepting forms, so please can you get these in as soon as possible. The link to the parent consent form is: [Parental Consent Form](#)

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Mrs Kay, at j.kay@passmoresacademy.com. **If your young person is having difficulty finding a placement, please ask them to speak to Mrs Kay or Mrs Bassett in school.**



The army foundation college invites you to a virtual Harrogate open event on Wednesday 9th July at 6.00pm. To book your place register on [Army Foundation College Harrogate Virtual Open Day](#)

New Courses for year 11's at Hertford Regional College to start Sept 2025

Level 1 Plastering Course:

This is a new course, which aims to progress students either to a Level 2 Plastering course after completion of our Level 1 course or to apply to an apprenticeship programme. They can also apply for another study programme course in construction or a different industry completely. The level will be determined by their tutor and based on grades.

T level foundation course in science and engineering

The T level foundation courses are for students who want to complete a T Level course but have not achieved their English and/or Maths GCSE. The foundation course provides them with the underpinning knowledge towards starting their T Level, whilst giving them time to resit and attain their Maths and/or English.

Here is a government link explaining the foundation courses.

<https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/5622112789138-What-is-the-T-Level-Foundation-Year>

Here is the link to our foundation course in science:

<https://hrc.ac.uk/our-courses/t-level-foundation-applied-science-and-technology/>

Here is the link to our foundation course in engineering:

<https://hrc.ac.uk/our-courses/t-level-foundation-year/>

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

REMINDER...

Don't forget to renew your locker ready for September or empty it so that it can be reallocated to another student.



If you need any assistance, please contact Kelly Kemsley in our Student Services office.



There are lots of old padlocks in our bike sheds that don't appear to belong to any bikes!

Over the summer holidays, any unclaimed padlocks will be cut off and disposed of, so if you currently have a padlock in the bike sheds that is still used, please ensure that this is removed prior to the end of the school year.

Thank you!

LOST PROPERTY



Lost property will be left out on the tables in the Heart Space on **Tuesday 22nd July.**

Anything unclaimed will be going to charity.



Attention...
All Year 11 Parents & Carers...

Please can you ensure any medication you have in school is collected by Friday 27th June. After this date anything left will be disposed of.

Thank you

New School Mural

We're working with Murwalls again to create a brand-new mural for the school - and this time, we want it to reflect *our school* community in a personal and meaningful way.

The theme is **togetherness, local community, and identity** – what connects us, what makes our area unique, and what we value as a school.

We'd love ideas from both students and staff.

You can send in:

- A person who inspires you (local legends welcome)
- A symbol, object, or pattern that means something to you
- A phrase, quote, or even just a word that feels powerful
- A quick sketch or abstract idea
- Something that represents the local area, our values, or just something you think would look brilliant on the wall

Deadline: Friday 11th July 2025

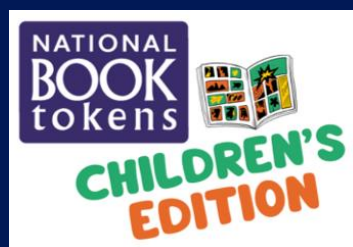
We have introduced this project to students during tutor time this week, and design sheets can be collected from forms.

If you fancy submitting something, or even just chatting through an idea, we'd love to hear from you. No pressure to be an artist – it's all about the message and meaning.

Thanks for getting behind this and helping us make something great!



Have you nominated Passmores yet to win one of five big £1,000 prizes? We could then fill our shelves with new books - and you could also win a £100 gift card to spend on books... Click on the link below to get voting now ...



WIN £1,000

FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY

In association with



Have you nominated your school?

We're giving five schools across the UK the incredible chance to win £1,000 in National Book Tokens to stock their library shelves with brand-new books – and inspire a lifelong love of reading. Each winning school will also receive £300 in cash to transform their library space into a fun, welcoming haven for students.

Right now, the charity Read for Good's research shows that 1 in 7 primary schools in England don't have a library. Children growing up in poverty are the most likely to miss out. Together, we can change that. It's time to #rebuildthelibrary.

Nominate your school today!

If your entry is selected as one of our five winners, not only will your nominated school win big, you'll also receive a £100 National Book Tokens gift card to treat yourself in your favourite bookshop.

Books change lives. Let's get more of them into the hands of children who need them most.

[Nominate your school](#)

Friends of Passmores Summer Fete is TOMORROW!

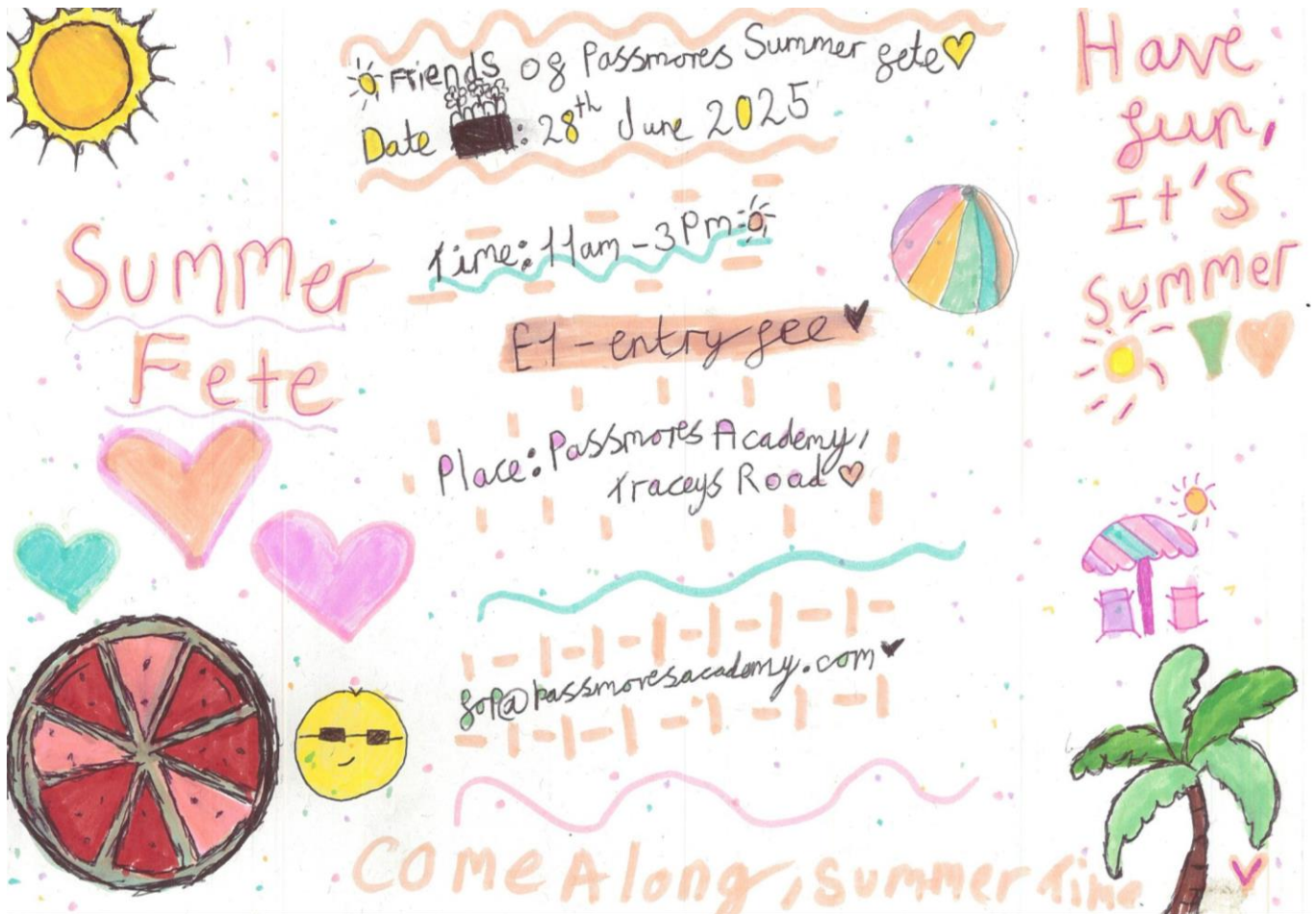
We have a range of stallholders joining us with everything from sweets to handmade gifts, books to glitter! There is something for everyone.

As well as games, and raffle prizes to be won, we have some of our amazing students from the Talent Show who will be showcasing their singing skills as well as the Harlow Rock School who will be rocking out with us throughout the event!

So, bring your picnic blankets or camping chairs and join us between 11am & 3pm, for a fun-filled afternoon. Entrance is through the gate at the Southern Way/Tracyes Road end of the building (Near Dragon).

Prices are £1.00 per adult, 50p for all under 16's.

We can't wait to see you all there!



Fop@passmoresacademy.com

SUMMER

FETE

FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

11am - 3pm

Passmores Academy, Tracys
Road

£1 entry fee

28th June 2025



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 28 th June	Friends of Passmores Summer Fete (11:00am – 3:00pm)
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 10 Work Shadowing Day
Thursday 3 rd July	Year 6 Induction Evening
Tuesday 8 th July – Thursday 10 th July	School Production – Wonka
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 6-8 Rounders & BBQ
Monday 21 st July	Inflatables Day
Tuesday 22 nd July	Early Closure for Students (12:30pm)



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



The Children's Society East

Our CHHAT groups focus on promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing for 8 – 18 yr olds, with these particular sessions focussing on children in **years 8 & 9**.

The team use a range of techniques tailored to support each young person to develop their emotional resilience; with the group programme aiming to help young people build self-esteem and confidence.

The service is open to children and young people who have parents or family members who are misusing substances or have been impacted by a family member's mental health.

We aim to create a safe, confidential space for these children and young people and will signpost/support additional referrals if appropriate.

Venue:

Passmores Academy,
Memorial Hall in the Heart Space

Session Dates:

Tuesday 29th July – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 30th July – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 31st July – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Tuesday 5th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 6th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 7th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 20th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Tuesday 26th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 27th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 28th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

If you would like to find out more, or book a young person in to attend our group, then please contact one of our CHHAT practitioners on **01245 493311** or email kim.stayt@childrenssociety.org.uk

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SPECIAL DRAW

Draw open 16-22 June 2025

7 DAYS, 10 CHARITIES £5,000 EACH NOMINATE NOW



BENEFACT
GROUP

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc is the promoter

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

16th June - 22nd June


In recognition of all the charities who work to support **Children and Young People**, we're giving **10 charities £5,000 each** in this limited-time special draw.

All you need to do is nominate a charity **whose core charitable purpose is to support children and young people (aged 25 and under)**.

[VOTE HERE](#)

[Terms and conditions apply.](#)

(See below example form for how to complete)

Draw	
Search for an organisation, group, charity name or charity number 	<input type="text" value="No Child Without"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>
	<small>Registration example <input type="checkbox"/></small>
Charity name	<input type="text" value="1152609 - NO CHILD WITHOUT"/>
Charity type	<input type="text" value="Education and skills"/>
Your name	<input type="text" value="First name"/> <input type="text" value="Last name"/>
Your email address	<input type="text"/>
Your location	<input type="text" value="Essex"/>
Your age range	<input type="text" value="Please select age range"/>
What is your connection to this charity?	<input type="text" value="None - No Connection"/>
What is your connection to the Benefact Group?	<input type="text" value="None - No Connection"/>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



The National College



Essex County Council

**YOUTH
SERVICE**

HARLOW SUMMER ACTIVITIES

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FEW DAYS FILLED WITH
EXCITING ACTIVITIES. WHETHER YOU'RE INTO SPORTS, ARTS,
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FOR AGES 11-19 AND UP TO 25 WITH SEND (SECONDARY
SCHOOL ONLY)

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MONDAY 11TH - THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST



XPERIENCE YOUTH CENTRE, BROADLEY
ROAD, HARLOW, CM19 5RD



11-2PM



BRADLEY.WALKER@ESSEX.GOV.UK

Celebrating 50 years: Est. September 1974

OPEN EVENINGS

For September 2026 entry

2ND & 3RD JULY 2025

From 5 until 9pm

Come and study with us at Long Road Sixth Form College. Explore our green and leafy campus, meet our staff and students, and design a study programme that is tailored to **YOU**. Whatever choices you make, as a member of our friendly and vibrant community you will develop the skills, independence and focus you need to keep moving forward.

Be Prepared. Be Inspired. Be Long

**Attention year 10s
Scan here to book!**

Year 11s welcome



**These are
our only 2025
Open Evenings,
so be sure to
attend!**

#BeLong

www.longroad.ac.uk



SUMMER TERM

THE ESSEX LOCAL OFFER SEND ROADSHOWS



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.



You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Braintree, Hockley, Tiptree and Chipping Ongar

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with

