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## Welcome Back!

On Thursday 18th September Year 7 took part in a workshop run by Talk the Talk. Their team of highly skilled trainers delivered engaging workshops to inspire our students to become confident communicators.

Students took part in oracy based activities to develop greater self-confidence and resilience to support a successful transition from primary to secondary school.

During the workshop students:

- Created an individual transition profile
- Talked about how they felt when started Winchmore
- In pairs they interviewed each other and then introduced their partner to their peers
- Established what they see as the opportunities and challenges facing them at school
- They discussed their goals for the coming year at school and presented a structured talk to their peers about them

The workshop aims to:

- Build positive relationships
- Promote well-being
- Boost confidence in new surroundings
- Improve connections with other students
- Develop oracy skills

Our Year 7 students found the workshops thoroughly engaging. We are sure they will be of huge benefit to them in the future.



19.09.25



winchmore\_secondary\_school



@thisiswinchmore



@winchmoreschool



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



### SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



### SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



### SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



### ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



### 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



## *Please be considerate*

Please be mindful whilst driving and parking near the school gates especially on Highfield Road and Firs Lane.

Be considerate and safe and treat others (neighbours, parents, staff and students) with courtesy and kindness.

Thank you.



## *World Car Free Day!*

**Monday 22nd September**

World Car Free Day is an annual day to encourage drivers to leave their car at home and raise awareness of the impact of vehicles on the environment.

By taking part, you will be part of a global movement to encourage active and safe travel on the journey to school. You'll be joining children across London in celebrating the benefits of active, sustainable and independent travel.

We encourage those who need to drive to Park and Stride – where parents park their cars a distance from school and walk the last part of their journey.



## CAREERS & LIBRARY SERVICES



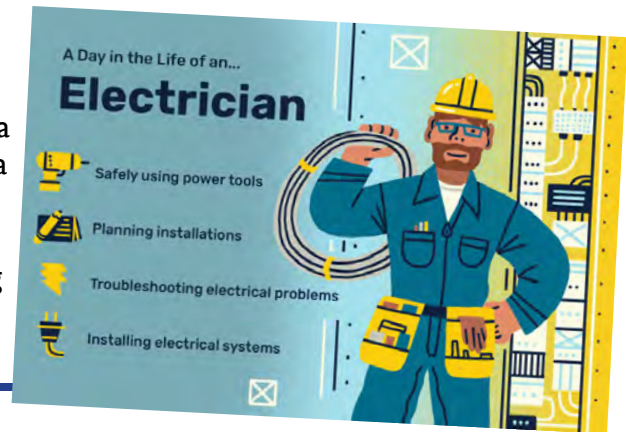
### Electrician

**Role:** Installs, maintains, and repairs electrical wiring, control systems, and lighting fixtures in homes, businesses, and factories. They diagnose and fix electrical problems to ensure safety and functionality.

**Expected Salary:** £25,000 - £40,000+ per year.

**Qualifications:** Typically requires completion of a vocational school program or an apprenticeship. Requires passing a certification exam.

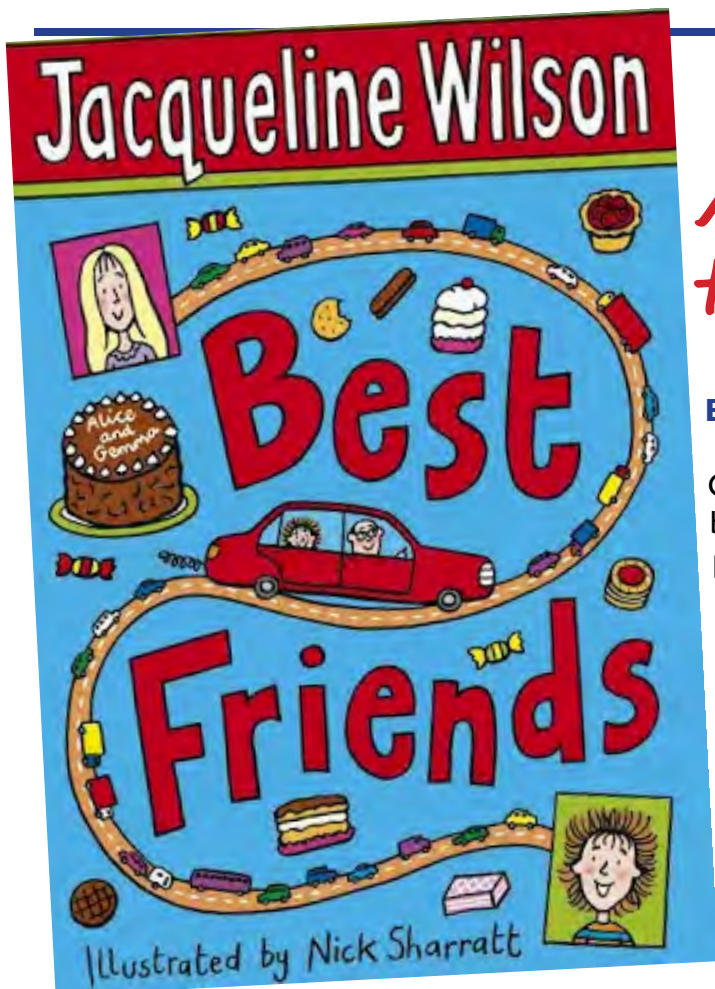
**Entry Requirements:** Completion of an accredited training program or apprenticeship, and often a license.



### Available in the Library...

#### Best Friends - Jacqueline Wilson

Gemma and Alice, born on the same day, have been devoted best friends ever since. Despite Gemma's larger-than-life personality and Alice's quieter, calmer character, the two are inseparable - until that is Alice has to move house, all the way to Scotland. Gemma is utterly distraught, particularly at the thought that Alice might find a new best friend. Is there anything Gem's brothers, or perhaps her grandad, can do to help?





- > Are you aged 14-16?
- > Are you curious to learn what Virgin Media O2 is all about?
- > Are you passionate about STEM?

## Virtual Work Experience Week

27th – 30th October 2025



**Apply now!**

Click or scan the QR code to apply with code **VMO2C3**

Our four-day programme will immerse you in the world of telecoms, help boost your potential and enhance your knowledge of Virgin Media O2 and our offerings.

You'll hear from business leaders what it's like to work in a dynamic industry, learn the latest from the world of broadband, TV, fixed line and mobile and gain insight into our purpose 'See What You Can Do!'

Explore our graduate, industrial placement and apprenticeship opportunities whilst working on a dynamic project that will help you earn your Bronze Industrial Cadets accreditation.

Hear first-hand testimony and tips from graduates, interns, apprentices and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) ambassadors! Delve into the importance of hands-on problem-solving and critical thinking skills, company and sector research.

Take control of your future and make a difference in the world around you.



## Extra Curricular Activities

Here is the diary of the Extra Curricular Activities for next week. Lunchtime and after school activities are free of charge. There is no need to sign up to the activity, your child can just go along and join the fun!

Students should exit through the Laburnum Grove Gate if they attend an after school activity.

Monday  
22nd September

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library  
Careers Drop In Session

### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm  
Coding Club Room 3 - 3pm to 4pm - Miss Askin  
Year 10 GCSE Drama rehearsal DRI - 3 to 4pm - Mrs Kazim  
Netball Club - Years 7-13 Champions Count - 3 to 4:15pm - Miss Winter  
Boys Football - Years 11-13 Field - 3 to 4.15pm - Mr Patrick  
Badminton - Years 7-11 Sports Hall - 3 to 4.15pm - Mr Birchell  
Art Club - Room A2 - 3-4pm - Ms Marin-Pache  
Netball Game - SENIORS vs St Annes

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library  
Careers Drop In Session

### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm  
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze and Silver) Support - Careers Office 3pm to 4pm  
Mary Poppins Dance 3:15pm to 4:30pm  
Mary Poppins Rehearsal ALL cast and Ensemble 3:10 to 4:45pm - HALL  
Fitness Club - Years 9-11 3 to 4pm - Fitness Suite - Mr Miller  
School Run - Years 9-11 3 to 4pm - Field - Mr Patrick  
Table Tennis - Years 7-11 3 to 4.15pm - Gym - Mr Atu  
Girls Football - Years 7-8 & 9-10 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Miss Baptiste  
Netball Game YEAR 9 vs Edmonton County

Tuesday  
23rd September

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library

EARLY FINISH FOR STUDENTS AT 1.20PM

OPEN EVENING

6-9PM

Wednesday  
24th September

## LATE START FOR STUDENTS AT 9.20AM

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

**Library** - silent reading only

**Careers Drop In Session** - including college application support

**Year 9 Drama Booster session** - 1.30pm in DR2 - Mrs Goddard

### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

**Library** - After school - 3pm to 4pm

**Mary Poppins Dance** 3.15pm to 4.30pm - DA1

**Mary Poppins Main Cast only rehearsal** - 3.10 to 4.15pm - HALL

**Fitness Club - Years 9-11** 3 to 4pm - Fitness Suite - Mr Miller

**Basketball - Years 10-13** 3.15 to 4.30pm - Sports Hall - Mr Pohl

**Football - Year 8** 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Mr Atu

**Football - Year 7** 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Mr Birchell

**Guitar Club and KS3 Band** in M1 - 3.15-4.15pm - Mr White

Thursday  
25th September

Friday  
26th September

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

**Library**

### AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

**Targeted Yr 11 GCSE PE Boost class** 3pm

**Winchmore Tabletop Society** Room 88 3pm to 4:30pm - Miss Davies, Mr Pohl, Mr Menda, Miss Zamora and Mr Melling

## WINCHMORE'S WOW! WORD OF THE WEEK

# Nuance

Week beginning: 22nd September



**Word Class** Noun

**Meaning** A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.

- Examples**
- The actor's performance was so good because he understood the nuance of the character's emotions, showing both happiness and sadness at the same time.
  - When you analyse a poem, you have to pay attention to the nuance of each word choice and its effect on the overall meaning.
  - The debate wasn't as simple as good versus evil; there were many nuances to the historical situation.

**Challenge** Wordle : <https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>  
Connections : <https://www.nytimes.com/games/connections>

# NO MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL



**See it.**

**Hear it.**

**Lose  
it!**



## **What Happens Next?**

If a student has a phone confiscated **it will not be returned until the following Tuesday** after it has been confiscated.

This means that a student will be without their mobile phone for at least one weekend.