



Ayr Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week 09/10/23 - 13/10/23

Respect

Ambition

Community

Compassion

Responsibility

Believe...Achieve

Upcoming Events

- 11th October Senior Careers Event
- 13th October Ayr Factor
- 14th-23rd October Holiday
- 30th October S4-6 Parents' Evening
- 2nd November Immunisations
- 13th November Book Week Scotland
- 23rd November S1 'Welcome to Ayr' Parents' Event
- 4th December Prelims begin

1	January	2	February	3	March															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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4	April	5	May	6	June															
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30																				
7	July	8	August	9	September															
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30	31																			
10	October	11	November	12	December															
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

AYR ACADEMY - CALENDAR OVERVIEW 2023/2024

Ayr Academy
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Ayr
KA8 0SZ
Email: ayr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01292612028
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AUGUST	
17th	In Service Day
18th	In Service Day
21st	Pupils Return
SEPTEMBER	
22nd to 25th	Local Holiday
26th	Pupils Return
OCTOBER	
16th to 20th	October Holiday
23rd	In Service Day
24th	Pupils Return
DECEMBER/ JANUARY	
2th to 5th	Christmas Holidays
8th	Pupils Return
FEBRUARY	
12th	Local Holiday
13th	Inservice Day
14th	Pupils Return
MARCH/ APRIL	
29th to 12th	Easter Holiday
15th	Pupils return
MAY	
2nd	In Service Day
3rd	Pupils Return
6th	May Day Holiday
24th to 27th	May Day Long Weekend
28th	Pupils Return
JUNE	
28th	Summer Holidays

FULL REPORTS	
24th November	S1-S3
16th February	S3
8th March	S4-S6
10th May	S2-S3

TRACKING REPORTS	
15th September	S4-S6
19th January	S4-S6
13th May	S2-S3

PARENTS EVENINGS	
3rd October	S1s
30th October	S4-S6
5th December	S3
16th January	S2
5th February	S4-S6
13th May	S1

EVENTS	
8th September	Bake Sale—Seniors
11th October	Senior Career Event
13th October	Ayr Factor
13th October	Bake Sale
2nd November	Immunisations
13th November	Book Week Scotland
4th December	Prelims Begin
4th December	S3 Fashion & Textile Trip
6th December	Immunisations
15th December	Bake Sale
15th December	Reward Day
20th December	Panto
21st December	Christmas Disco
7th to 9th February	London Trip
7th March	World Book Day
25th March	Reward Day
11th 12th June	Bump up days



Weekly Quiz



There is a word in the English language in which the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four signify a great man, and the whole word, a great woman. What is the word?



Literacy & Numeracy Facts .to help you sleep better at night 😜

When do you write seven, and not 7? Should I write 738,163,291 or seven-hundred-thirty-eight-million-one-hundred-sixty-three-thousand-two-hundred-ninety and one? Do I have 10 fingers, or eight fingers and two thumbs? Figuring out when to write out a number can be a tricky problem. Sometimes it's obvious (as in 738,163,291), and sometimes it's not (10 fingers or ten fingers?). I can't guarantee I always stick to the following rules but here they are!

- ▶ **Dates:** If it's a date, do not spell it out: November 8, 2010 is correct. As a side-note here, you should not include "th" or "nd" with the date in formal writing. That means, May 8th, 2008 would be grammatically correct but stylistically bad.
- ▶ **Ages:** Never spell out an age. If someone is 6 years old, they're 6, not six.
- ▶ **Maths & Money:** If it's something maths related, like a percentage, never spell it out. Same with money.
- ▶ **Page Numbers:** Never spell out page numbers. While that's obvious when numbering pages, I'll frequently see someone write "Turn to page eight." That's wrong. You should say, "Turn to page 8." [Same goes for places: I live at 43 King Street and *work* in room 13.]

...continued

- ▶ **Page Numbers:** Never spell out page numbers. While that's obvious when numbering pages, I'll frequently see someone write "Turn to page eight." That's wrong. You should say, "Turn to page 8." [Same goes for places: I live at 43 King Street and *work* in room 13.]
- ▶ **Large numbers:** Anything 10 and above should be left as is. This isn't a hard set rule, though. Some will tell you that if you can write it out in two words, then write it out. Otherwise, leave it. So between 10 and 100, you can be correct no matter how you write it. But for anything 101+, you definitely need to leave it as is.
- ▶ **Small Numbers:** If it's from 0 to 9, write it out! So really, I should say: If it's from zero to nine, write it out!
- ▶ **Beginning A Sentence:** If it's the start of a sentence or a title, you should always write out the number, unless it's a year or a large number (must be 101+). Of course, if it's a year or a large number, see if you can rearrange the sentence so that you're not starting off with a number. It's not grammatically wrong if you do, but it can be stylistically poor.

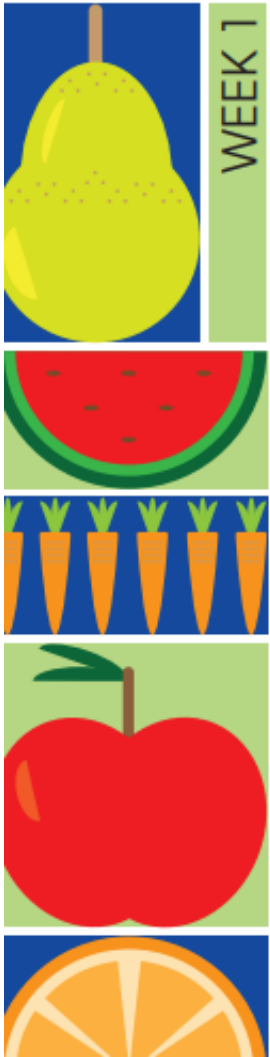
S1 Parents' Evening

A huge thank you to our S1 parents who attended the recent parents' evening! It was great to have a chance to pass on how well pupils have settled since starting at Ayr Academy. If you haven't had a chance yet to complete the questionnaire, could you please follow the below link or QR code as soon as possible. Your opinion and views are very important to us and allow us as a school to continually improve to give your young person the best possible experience.

(<https://forms.office.com/e/C3sBfw3SJG>)



SOUTH AYRSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOL MENU 2023/2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Starter	Lentil soup Potato & leek soup	Lentil soup Farmhouse soup	Lentil soup Tomato & red pepper soup	Lentil soup Chicken & rice soup	Lentil soup
Mains option 1	Cheese & tomato pizza	Beef mince	Chicken curry, boiled rice & chapati	Steak pie	Breaded fish
Mains option 2	Vegetarian meatballs	Macaroni cheese & garlic bread	Veggie pasta	Spicy veg noodles	Pasta bolognese
Veg	Peas, potato wedges & salad bar	Mixed veg, mashed potato & salad bar	Peas, sweetcorn & salad bar	Oven roast potatoes, green beans & salad bar	Chips, beans, coleslaw & salad bar
Sweet	Self-service fruit bar available daily				

Available Daily
 Sandwiches, rolls, wraps and baguettes with a variety of fillings
 Panini's, pizzini's and toasties
 Baked potatoes
 Pots to go
 Salad bar
Check the menu board for daily specials



Scan here to see the dates for each weekly menu and allergen information

- Vegetarian

- Vegan





Biscoff Millionnaire - Mrs McGarry's Recipe

Ingredients

Biscoff Base

500 g Biscoff Biscuits

185 g Unsalted Butter

Caramel

3 x 397 g Condensed Milk

Biscoff Topping

250 g Milk Chocolate

200 g Biscoff Spread

Biscoff Crumbs

Instructions

For the Biscuit 'Shortbread' Base

- Blitz the biscuits in a food processor to a small crumb, and add the melted butter - either pulse in the food processor a few times till the mixture is combined, or mix it in a bowl.
- Tip the biscuits into a lined 9x9" Square Tin and press down firmly.

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For the Caramel

- Boil the unopened tins of condensed milk for at least 2 hours.
- Pour the caramel onto the Biscuit Base and leave to set for one-two hours on the side. If it's hot, set in the fridge!

For the Chocolate Biscoff Layer

- Melt your milk chocolate down carefully in the microwave, or in a bain-marie.
- Also, in a separate bowl, melt the biscoff spread for about 30-40 seconds so that it's softer and not as hard.
- Mix the two together, and spread on top of the caramel. Sprinkle over some biscoff crumbs and then set on the side or in the fridge.
- Once set, cut up your pieces and enjoy!



Life is
WHAT YOU
BAKE IT.

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October Focus

Black History

School Values:

- Respect
- Responsibility

Wellbeing (SHANARRI):

- Respect
- Responsibility

5 Ways to Wellbeing:

- Learn
- Take Notice

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AYR ACADEMY COUNSELLING SERVICE PROVIDES A SAFE AND CONFIDENTIAL SPACE FOR PUPILS TO TALK ABOUT ANY ISSUES OR PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE IN AN NON-JUDGEMENTAL RESPECTFUL AND CONFIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT.

COUNSELLING CAN HELP YOU FEEL BETTER, MANAGE YOUR EMOTIONS AND SUPPORT/EMPOWER YOU TO DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEMS. EVERYONE NEEDS SUPPORT IN THEIR LIVES AND LOTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO COUNSELLING AT SOME POINT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APPROACH TEACHING STAFF TO REFER, SIMPLY SELF REFER BY COMPLETING A REFERRAL FORM, WHICH ARE OUTSIDE COUNSELLING ROOM AND GUIDANCE STAFF ROOM AND PUT IN LOCKED RED POST BOX WHICH ARE ALSO BASED OUTSIDE THESE ROOMS, ONLY COUNSELLORS HAVE ACCESS TO THESE BOXES. STAFF CAN ALSO REFER PUPILS THIS WAY OR EMAIL MARIA.BERRY@SOUTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK.

THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY

THE COUNSELLORS ARE VERY KEEN TO SUPPORT AND HELP ANYONE WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH ANY ASPECT OF THEIR LIVES. RESPECTING EVERYONE'S CONFIDENTIALITY, RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND AUTONOMY IS PARAMOUNT TO THE COUNSELLORS.

**NOW TAKING REFERRALS – WE ARE HERE TO HELP
PLEASE NOTE WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR DROP INS, ONE
OFF MEETINGS AND CAN BE AVAILABLE AT BREAKS
IF WE KNOW IN ADVANCE**



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Working Independently



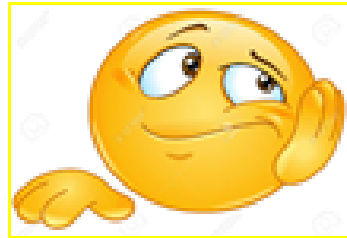
Last week we focused on **ATTENTION**.

This week we will be looking at **WORKING INDEPENDENTLY**.

Which of these statements do you think suits you best? If you are yellow or red, what steps can you take to move towards green?

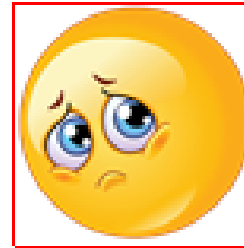


I can work on a task on my own.



I get started but sometimes I get distracted and start chatting.

With a prompt from the teacher I can easily get back to work.



I need regular, individual prompts from the teacher to keep me on task

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COMING SOON

COURSES ARE LOADING



*B A R I S T A A N D
N A I L B A R*

BIKE MAINTENANCE HAS STARTED ALREADY

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T H E

Friday 13th
October –
period 5 & 6
Ayr Factor
will be held in
the games
hall

AYR

Tickets on
sale Monday
9th October
& are £2
each!

F A C T O R

IS BACK!

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S1 After School Cycling Club

After the October holidays a club will be set up for S1 pupils who are not confident with riding a bike. It will take place every Tuesday after school. Places will be limited.



StAyrway to Success Trip to the Backstreet Kitchen



Our StAyrway pupils had an amazing trip to the Backstreet Kitchen, to work with Robert. Pupils were shown how to make a pizza from scratch, which they were then able to eat! A huge thank you to Robert for giving up his valuable time and resources to work with our young people. Check out the Backstreet Kitchen on Whitletts Road, Ayr. The food is absolutely delicious!



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S1 School Poster Design Competition

Huge well done to Halle, Autumn and Antonia (all S1) who were chosen as winners of the S1 school poster competition! Fabulous effort and stunning, informative posters - well done girls!



Respect Ambition Community Compassion Responsibility

Legally Blonde Music Trip



The Music department took 40 of our young people on a trip to the Kings Theatre, Glasgow to see Legally Blonde last Thursday. They had a pitstop at Silverburn for some retail therapy and dinner en route. Our young people were a credit to themselves and great ambassadors for our school. Some tired faces on Friday though...

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Last session in South Ayrshire Secondary schools, nearly 100,000 days (the equivalent of over half a million teaching hours!) were lost to unauthorised absence. Poor attendance has been linked to lower levels of attainment, peer relationships, emotional and behavioural difficulties and poorer employment opportunities, which is why we want to see **Every Learner Every Day!**

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**KEEP
CALM**

IT'S A

**NON UNIFORM
DAY**

on Friday 13th October!!



Remember - clothing that is controversial or degrades any culture, gender, religion, or ethnic values are not acceptable. This includes football tops.

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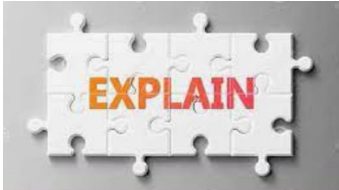
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Command Word of the Month

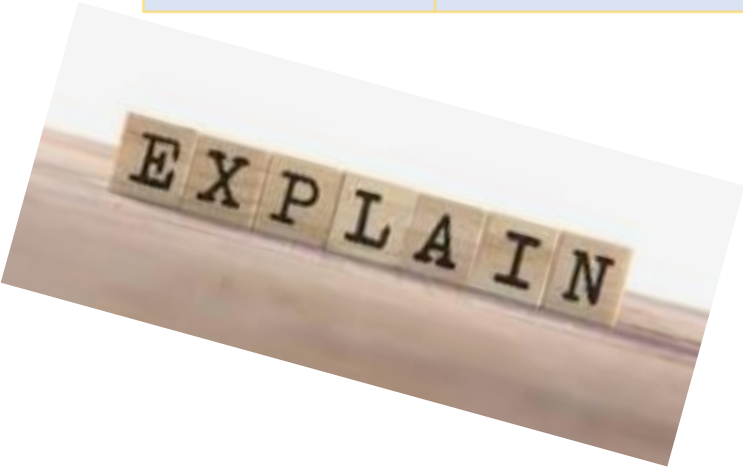


Explain

“Give details about something or describe it so that it can be understood”



Command Word focus for this month



Ayr Academy's Finest



Our first P7 challenge day took place this week & this group of responsible S3 pupils acted as their guides, taking them from class to class and answering any questions. The P7 pupils, staff and Miss Dunstall were all singing their praises! Well done 🌟

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Ayr Academy's Finest



If anyone would like to nominate a pupil as one of Ayr Academy's Finest, please email nicola.mcgarra@south-ayrshire.gov.uk with details and any photos you may have. 😊

LOGGING INTO TEAMS



1



:GLOW

Log into your GLOW account by going to the following website:
<https://sts.platform.rmunity.com/Account/SignIn>



2



Finding TEAMS

In the Launch pad, click on the wee house on the left. Find the Microsoft Teams app and click it.

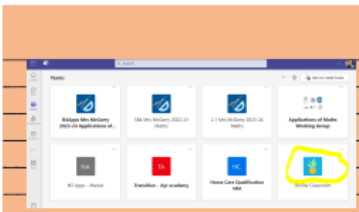


3



Finding your subject TEAM

All the TEAMS you need will be there - so open them and find the work allocated.



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Friday 13th October 2023

BAKE SALE *Bake Sale*

**Please come along
and bring money for
our delicious bake
sale!**

**If you would like to help
out for London please bring
in some treats – store-
bought or homemade!**



Help us raise money for London!

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P7 Challenge Day 1 - 10/10/23

The first of our P7 challenge days took place this week and proved a resounding success with all pupils! Time was spent in the Art and Music & Drama departments with some exceptional talent on display! Check out the photos of pupils in action in the next newsletter. Some of the final products from their session in art are shown below.

CHALLENGE DAY CREATIVE & EXPRESSIVE ARTS
AYR ACADEMY - ART AND DESIGN

WHAT?
We are going to create a collage portrait

WHY?
To develop creative skills in using mixed media to create a piece of art work

HOW?
Following teacher demonstration and instructions, working with magazine pages, glue and patterned paper.

Your artwork will be inspired by Picasso's work

Pablo Picasso faces front and side view

Abstract faces using collage techniques and materials



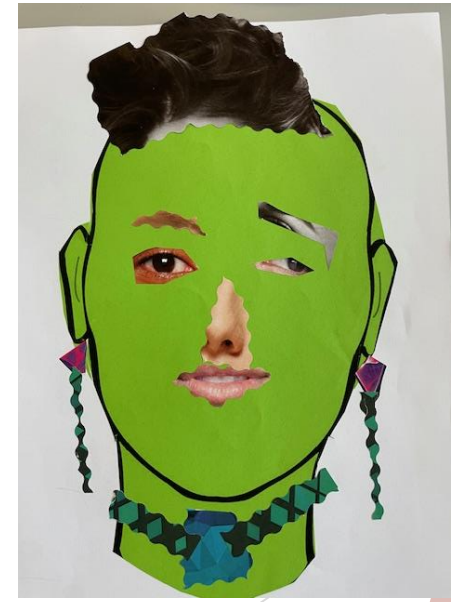
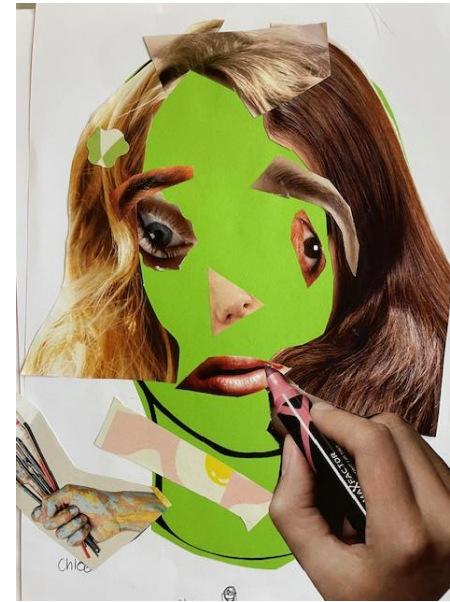
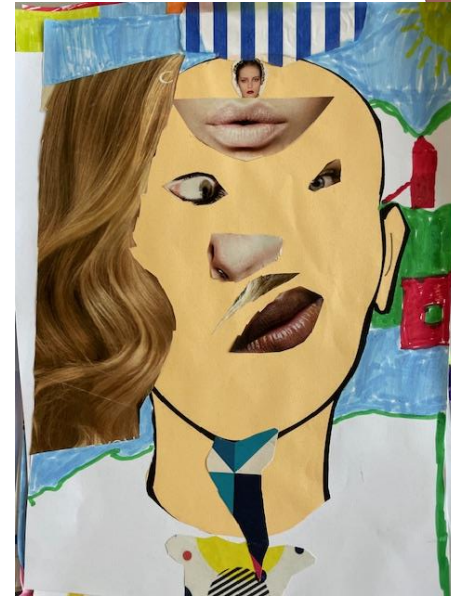
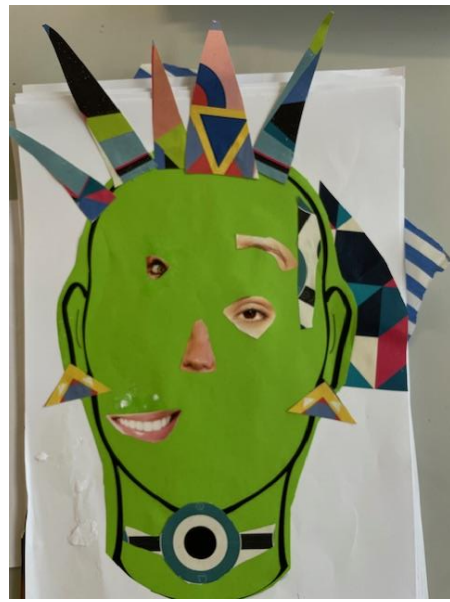
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THE BIG BREAKFAST



Our S1 pupils had the surprise of their life when their P7 teachers and headteachers came in to have breakfast with them last week



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**Coming Soon
With Miss Roche...**

A

D

H

D



**Support
Group**

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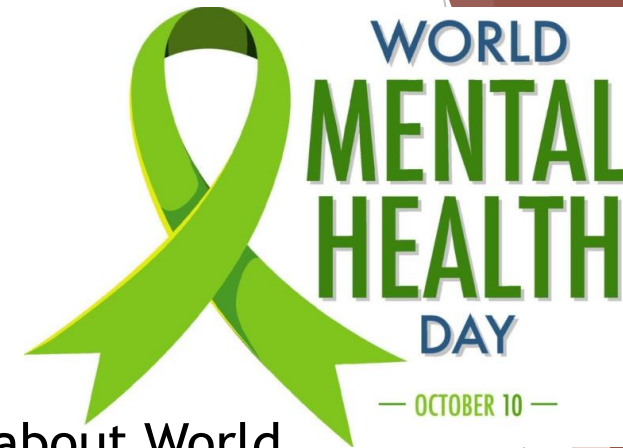
Responsibility

World Mental Health Day 2023



Our S6 Wellbeing Ambassadors spoke to all pupils at their yeargroup assembly this week about World Mental Health Day and the importance of getting help if you are struggling  Every year World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10th October. The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is Mental Health is a universal human right.

Let us nurture our young people's minds, offer love and create a safe space where their mental well-being can flourish. 



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Questions to ask your child

What things are you looking forward to?

Is there anything you want to talk about?

When was the last time you were very happy?

What makes you feel calm?

What things would you like to do in the future?

What difficulties are you facing now?

What can I do to help?

Where is a place you feel safe?

How are you finding things at school at the moment?

What are you worried about when you lie in bed and can't sleep?

Would it be helpful if we planned each day together?

Do you have any worries about the coronavirus?

Where in our home do you feel like you can have your own space?

What have you enjoyed about today?

Can you show me what you like about gaming?

How do you feel about things changing?

What do you think could help you to feel better?

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YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



Ayr Academy

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to
help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!
- Drawn every Saturday at 8pm

To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Ayr Academy**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

16+

In UK and Europe, rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original - and might not be entirely factual, either.



'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content - but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location - potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.



Advice for Parents & Carers

...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



EMA Grants



Applications for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for school session 2023/24 are open - available to young people aged between 16-19 years old who are in full time school education.

Guidance, criteria, and the application form can be found here: <https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/28209/Education-maintenance-allowance>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

COME DOWN TO P.E FOR SOME AFTER SCHOOL FUN!

Monday - basketball



Tuesday – Fitness + Badminton



Wednesday – Netball



Thursday – Volleyball + Football



Respect

Ambition

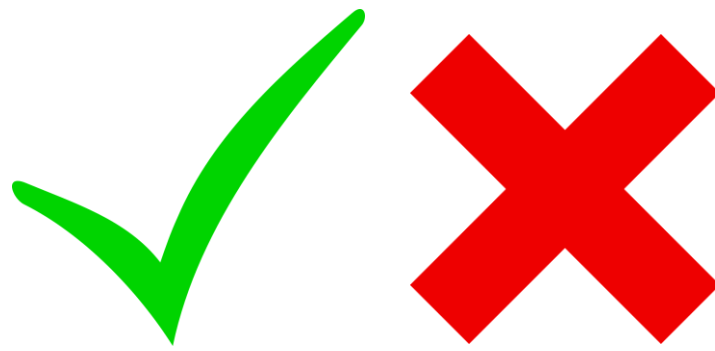
Community

Compassion

Responsibility

Believe...Achieve

Weekly Quiz Answers



Answer = Heroin

Respect

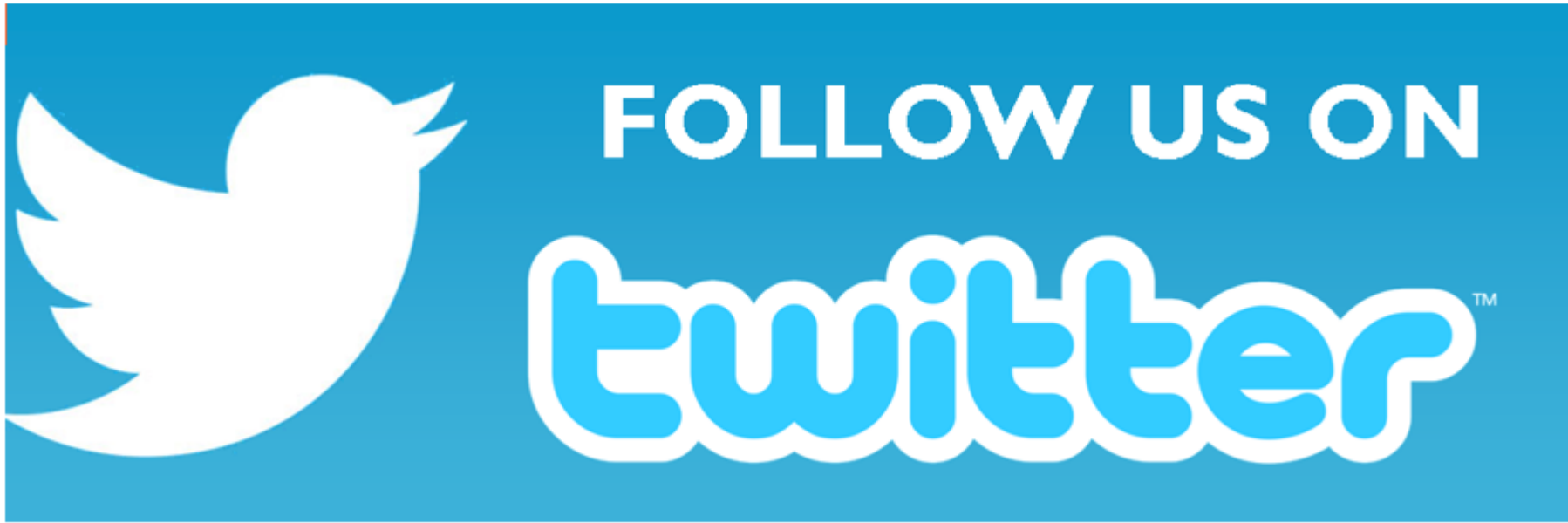
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Responsibility