



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

You may have seen the focus from both main political parties during the last couple of weeks on attendance and the need to do more to improve attendance nationally, particularly for persistent absenteeism. Attendance remains well below pre-pandemic, it has not recovered for a range of reasons, including mental health and the challenges that exist in trying to get the right support. We know the importance of being in school, students who attend regularly make more progress and do better in exams, we can see this from exam results. But we also recognise the difficulties that some of our young children are experiencing, it is important for us to work with them and you so that we can the best from everyone. As a school we are working hard to create a positive environment that enables all young people to flourish, a place where young people feel that they can be successful, with spaces to support. The relationship with our families, with you, is key in helping us to improve our attendance.

For our year 11s, this is especially true as we approach these last few months with us. We are looking forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday for our parent/carers’ evening, the last real chance to get feedback from staff before exam preparations really kick in. If you haven’t signed up, please do so, and if for whatever reason you are unable to attend, you can always get in contact with class teachers.

Finally, a reminder that we have an INSET day this Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

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**TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS****Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Fin Hodson	Year 7	79
Makiah Mfon	Year 7	63
Sienna Coyle	Year 7	62
Chloe Theophil	Year 7	61
Paige Bedford	Year 7	61
Louis Monaghan	Year 7	58
Rosie Stacey-Bocking	Year 7	58
Gemma Scott	Year 7	57
Penny Howard	Year 7	56
Florence Norton	Year 7	55

Kye Barnes	Year 8	64
Demar Potgieter	Year 8	56
Charlie Brown	Year 8	55
Layla Clark	Year 8	50
Ryan Youens	Year 8	49
Nicolas Silva Magri	Year 8	46
Emily Wilson	Year 8	44
John Adesina	Year 8	42
Marcus Maw	Year 8	42
Oskar Zborowski	Year 8	42

Benjamin Dack	Year 9	46
Louis Dinnell	Year 9	41
Savannah Bullard	Year 9	41
Pj Sunshine	Year 9	40
Lily Cracknell	Year 9	38
Jennifer Wan	Year 9	37
Sid Francis-Melvin	Year 9	37
Tanaka Tawonezvi	Year 9	37
Joshua Wheatley	Year 9	36
Elissa Morris	Year 9	35

Bobby McDonald	Year 10	53
Tamzin Mason	Year 10	47
Izzy Cobie	Year 10	45
Katie Mahon	Year 10	45
Sam Wix	Year 10	42
Angel Fernandes	Year 10	41

Mario Olaru	Year 10	41
Hannah Lutwyche	Year 10	39
Harry Dorrington	Year 10	38
Mckenzie Laney	Year 10	38

Freya Nash	Year 11	47
Madeleine Hooker	Year 11	46
Orla Daniels	Year 11	46
Lucy Martin	Year 11	44
Ethan Gilbert	Year 11	41
Gemma McAusland	Year 11	35
Jackson Iona	Year 11	35
Kallie Jackson	Year 11	35
Amelia Wator	Year 11	34
Blaze Hibbert	Year 11	33
Blessing Danquah	Year 11	33
Bobby Durrant	Year 11	33
Lexi Bowles-Millar	Year 11	33
Lily Bonwick	Year 11	33
Maheen Anwar	Year 11	33

## HOUSE PASSMORES POINTS

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<b>Dragon</b>	<b>13287</b>
<b>Griffin</b>	<b>12367</b>
<b>Lion</b>	<b>13094</b>
<b>Unicorn</b>	<b>12817</b>

## HOUSE ATTENDANCE

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<b>Dragon</b>	<b>90.45%</b>
<b>Griffin</b>	<b>90.16%</b>
<b>Lion</b>	<b>89.29%</b>
<b>Unicorn</b>	<b>89.24%</b>

## PASTORAL UPDATE

Welcome to another edition of our weekly update, where we share the highlights of what our students have been learning in their pastoral programme. This week was full of insightful lessons and activities aimed at personal growth and development.

### Thought for the Week: Connecting with Others

Our thought for the week centred around the importance of connecting with others. In a world that is increasingly fast-paced and digital, we encouraged students to reflect on the value of genuine connections. The discussions and activities focused on fostering meaningful relationships, understanding the perspectives of others, and appreciating the strength that comes from a united community.

### In the News: Creating Your Own Success

As part of our commitment to empowering students, the 'In the News' segment delved into the theme of creating one's own success. We explored inspiring stories of individuals who have overcome challenges and forged their paths to success. Students were encouraged to think about their aspirations and how they can take ownership of their journey, no matter the obstacles they may face.

### Student Voice Initiative: Cultural Diversity in Passmores

In our ongoing efforts to amplify student voices, we invited students to share their thoughts on cultural diversity in Passmores as part of our student voice initiative. The responses so far have been thoughtful and reflective, providing valuable insights into the diverse perspectives within our school community. This serves as a reminder that our differences are what make us strong, and it is crucial to celebrate and understand the richness of our cultural tapestry. The survey is still live so please visit SMHW to have your say. but can also be found at the following website [Cultural Diversity within Passmores \(microsoft.com\)](https://microsoft.com). Please note the survey shouldn't take any longer than 5 minutes and the closing date for completing the survey is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Year 11 Interview Preparation

For our Year 11 students, tutor time was dedicated to honing essential life skills. This week, the focus was on interview preparation. As they approach a crucial phase in their academic journey, these sessions equipped our year 11 students with the skills and confidence needed to excel in interviews, setting the stage for future success. Next week, year 11 students will have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice as Harlow College spend the day at Passmores interviewing their prospective students.

The following students have been "caught doing good during social time"-

- Lacey Webb - Year 8
- Phoebe Miles - Year 9
- Luis De Fretas Souza - Year 7
- Rowan Blackman - Year 7
- Kalan Cliff - Year 10
- Jaydan Watson - Year 7
- Reggie Fitzpatrick - Year 8
- Layton Parlour - Year 8

The Harlow Education Awards are a yearly event where all schools can nominate students and staff for a range of categories. It is an opportunity for Harlow to celebrate the wonderful contributions and achievements of many young people and adults, as well as each school vying to win the overall award. This year's event is being held on 7<sup>th</sup> February and I am please to announce our nominations this year –

- Outstanding Effort – Lucy Martin
- Exceptional Academic Achievement – Timmy George
- A Remarkable Demonstration of Compassion and Kindness – Layton Parlour
- Significant Contribution to the Wider Life of School – Freya Onslow
- Teacher of the Year – Sarah Wright
- Support Teacher of the Year – Anna Marsal

Good luck to all nominees at the event in a couple of weeks.

## SPORT / PE UPDATES

### Match Report:

Year 10 Football vs Stewards - [Passmores Academy - Sports Reports](#)

## SUBJECT INFORMATION / UPDATES

### Barcelona trip

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who have already sent me this information, but if your young person is going on the Barcelona trip (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024), could you send their passport details to Mr Farmery or Mrs Friedner please to the following addresses:

[a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com)

[c.friedner@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:c.friedner@passmoresacademy.com)

We would also like to invite Parents and Carers to an information evening on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February between 6pm and 7pm. We look forward to seeing you then!

### Drama

A big welcome back and Happy New Year from the drama department! We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed spending some quality time with family over the holiday period.

As expected, the drama team have hit 2024 full pelt and we are busy preparing Year 11s for their performance exam in February. Meanwhile Year 10 are beginning their Devising Drama paper, with a performance for that exam coming up on 1st March. Year 7 Drama Club and Year 10 Excellence Club are busy making final preparations for their showcase next month and we have also set the wheels in motion for the school production this year! Hopefully more exciting news on this front will appear in the coming weeks.

Year 10 and 11 are off to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith on Wednesday 14th February, to see Franz Kafka's 'Metamorphosis', adapted for stage by Frantic Assembly. Letters for this trip have gone out on Parentmail and payment can be made via Parentpay. Do get in touch with us if your child is due to attend the trip and you are concerned over the £30 cost. It is vital that Year 11 GCSE drama pupils attend this trip as they will be using this production to underpin the evaluation section of their final GCSE exam in the summer. Exam preparation lessons will

be focussed around this performance so all in the cohort have the best possible opportunity to do well with specific instruction from their class teacher.

We'll be back with dates for showcases and exam performances soon. Enjoy the rest of January (in our opinion the worst month of the year!), February is creeping up on us really soon.

**Computing Live! Trip – Disneyland Paris**

On Saturday Feb 3rd, 48 year 10 and year 11 students are making their way to Disneyland Paris for their Computing Live! Trip. All details from the information evening held on Thursday Jan 18th will be emailed out to parents/carers.

Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for updates throughout the trip.

A reminder to all those who are going to bring warm clothing and be at Passmores by 9:30pm on Saturday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr M Moloney



**Maths Problem of the week:**

Riddle 1:

Two people in front of two people, two people behind two people, and two people beside two people. How many people are there?

Riddle 2:

Can you arrange four nines to make it equal to 100?



**YEAR 7 ONLY**

**2024**

**23rd – 26th June**

**We have a limited  
number of spaces  
available!**

# **EAST MERSEA**



£50 deposit  
ASAP

£190 final  
payment by 28th  
March

Payment issues?  
**We may be able  
to help.**

## **PLEASE CONTACT US**

**DON'T  
MISS OUT!**



Mr Stredder [g.stredder@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:g.stredder@passmoresacademy.com)

Mr Paddon [b.paddon@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:b.paddon@passmoresacademy.com)

**Deadline ending soon.**

01279 770 800





## CAREERS NEWS

### **Robert Halfon MP Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair 2024**

Friday 26th January, 10.00-14.00 at the Latton Bush Centre, CM18 7BL

A fantastic opportunity for all Harlow residents, young people and adults to find out more about jobs and apprenticeships locally and speak to employers about their opportunities. It is free to attend and perfect for our students attend with it being an INSET day!

### **Engineering technician apprenticeship**

Summer school leaver vacancy, asking for 5 GCSEs grades 4+ including grade 5 in maths required. Starting salary £16,000 pa.

[Engineering Technician Apprenticeship, Ware, UK, 2024 in Ware, United Kingdom | GSK Careers](#)



### [Engineering Technician Apprenticeship, Ware, UK, 2024 in Ware, United Kingdom | GSK Careers](#)

GSK Careers is hiring a Engineering Technician Apprenticeship, Ware, UK, 2024 in Ware, United Kingdom. Review all of the job details and apply today!

[jobs.gsk.com](https://jobs.gsk.com)

### **College Open Events**

- Fashion Retail Academy, Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Braintree College, Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 5pm-7pm
- Stansted Airport College, Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 5pm-8pm
- Cambridge Regional College, Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am -12.30pm

## ANY OTHER INFORMATION

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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

**7** You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### 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.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

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  @national\_online\_safety

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## Children's Mental Health Week

Mind in West Essex is encouraging children and young people to use their voices, share what matters to them and encourage those around them to listen.

The aim of this event is to bring the community and families together to explore this year's theme of

### **'My Voice Matters'**

We will be hosting various fun activities for children and adults at each venue facilitating conversation and support for everyone.

These events will take place in Harlow, Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Loughton and Touchpoint Stansted. Please contact your local hub for further details.



**Wednesday 7th February 2024**

**3:30-5:30pm**

**Come and drop in for some snacks & a chat, all ages welcome.  
We look forward to seeing you there!**

**Mind in West Essex  
The Wellbeing Centre,  
10-11 Corner House, Bush Fair, Harlow, Essex,  
CM18 6NZ**

#### Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents/Carers On-line Evening 4pm to 7pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Non uniform day – winning house in each year
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Half term



Natalie Christie

**Principal of Passmores Academy**

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?

Contact Gareth Walsh on [g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com)