



Headteacher's Comment:

Welcome to the roundup of another busy week at Chase High School. As always, the pupils are making the school proud, and you, as parents and carers, should feel equally proud—if not more so! The behaviour and attitudes of the pupils have been commendable, as demonstrated during the Christmas Carol theatre trip, where both members of the public and theatre staff complimented their maturity and behaviour.

The main hall is quickly filling with tins for the food bank, but there will always be room for more. Please send in as many tins as you can spare to support those in need over the festive period. Our target is 2,000, but let's aim for many more.

#ProudToBeChase



UCL Visit:

On Tuesday, Chloe from UCL visited our Sixth Form to discuss what it is like to be a university student with Year 12 and 13. They explored the skills and motivation needed to be successful in higher education. Year 13 then completed a personal statement workshop to further support their UCAS applications.



The 2,000 Tin Challenge – House Wars!

Chase High School is proud to once again support the valuable work of the Southend Foodbank with the 2000 Tin Challenge. We are asking every pupil to bring in two tinned items for the Foodbank – Beans, Fruit, Fish..... if it's in a tin, the Foodbank can pass it onto someone in need. This year, each of the Houses are in a race to collect the most tins. Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz will all be collecting tins every morning at tutor – Who will win? Please help us reach our target of 2,000 tins by giving two tins (or more) to your children. The whole Chase community working together can take your two tins and turn them into hundreds of food parcels this Christmas!



Our New Deputy Head Boy and Girl:

Congratulations to Samina and Rehan in Year 10 for successfully being appointed as Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy!



Prince Charming Workshop:

On Thursday, our Year 8 pupils were visited by the 2handers Theatre-in-Education roadshow which highlighted the issues of domestic abuse and the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. The Presenter, Sally Lawrence, commented on the quality of students' responses and the active way in which they were able to stop and challenge the play, changing the outcomes of what they perceived to be risky situations. The students conducted themselves extremely well and were a credit to the school.



A Christmas Carol:

This week, our English department took over 80 pupils to enjoy a fantastic production of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Palace Theatre. Pupils were praised for their excellent behaviour throughout and enjoyed seeing a GCSE text brought to life on stage.



PE Kit:

As we approach the colder months, please can you support your child with suitable PE kit in order to keep them warm when we have no choice but to go outside. As part of the PE kit uniform, pupils are permitted to wear the following:

Plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms (they can wear their leggings underneath these for extra layers if they want to)

Plain long sleeved thermal/normal long sleeved top that is black/white/navy (they can wear as many of these as necessary under their PE T-Shirts)

Chase High Hoody (this is the only hoody allowed)

Chase High Fleece

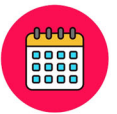


Sports Round- Up:

The below after school practises are cancelled next week due to fixtures and Parents' Evening:

Wednesday 4 December - Girls Netball, Boys Rugby, Year 10 Football, Year 9 Basketball

Thursday 5 December - Year 10 Boys Basketball, Year 9 Boys Football and Year 7 Boys Football



Dates for your Diary:

05.12.24/06.12.24 – Years 7-11 Flu Immunisations

6.12.24 Rewards Cinema – Silent Cinema

05.12.24 Year 9 Parents' Evening



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Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

Chase High School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



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Are You Interested In A Career In Teaching?



Join us at one of our recruitment events to find out more about
Primary or Secondary teacher training with BTSA.

2nd December 2024
at 7pm via zoom

To register email mhoward@theappletonschool.org



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply 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.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. 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.

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