



Which Week?

This Week: Monday 3rd July (Week 2)

Next week: Monday 10th July (Week 1)

Inside Kingshurst



The Year 11 Golden Hour!



As the sun, both, literally and metaphorically went down on our Year 11 students at last Thursday evening's Year 11 Prom event, the setting of Drayton Manor Hotel proved to be the perfect venue. The glorious sunshine setting on a fabulous evening triggered a wave of images being taken by the students basking in the golden hour (*definition: the period of time just before sunset when the light is infused with red and gold tones*) opportunity of looking even more phenomenal than they already were, dressed to the nines in their sequined gowns, flowing dresses and evening wear. Whilst Mr Smith played the role of 'paparazzi' for the evening, recording the arrival of each and every student, they were also greeted by an incredible crowd of family, friends and staff from the Academy, lined up, there to celebrate the super efforts of their children/students alike. A special mention goes to the Year 11 Team of Miss Walker, Mr Shahzad, and Mr Tindall for organising such a fantastic event in addition to the generosity and support of one of our families within the Academy for providing the beautiful decorations within the venue itself. Miss Walker kicked off the evening with range of student awards followed by a entertaining and thoughtful address by Mrs Crehan. From this point, it was eating, drinking and dancing all the way through to the final sing-a-



long to a highly melodic version of Wonderwall before students danced their way out of the event through a tunnel of applauding staff having made the most of their special evening.



Wed 5th and Fri 7th July: Strike Action Details

Please refer to the following webpage to clarify the Academy's arrangements for this week's planned Strike Action days.

Details will be emailed/texted out to all parents and copies of letters for each year group will be posted on the following page of the Academy website:

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO PAGE](#)



Fun Fact: A True Shakespearian Tragedy

With the Year 10 students poised to visit Stratford Upon Avon in the next couple of weeks as part of their Geography fieldwork, we thought it would be fun to add the literary fact that Shakespeare died on the same date of which he was born. He passed away on 23rd April 1616 and was born in April 1564. There is some contention over this as we don't really know the exact date he was born on, as there is no record this, however, as a result of knowing that he was baptised on 26th April, academics believe that he would have been born on 23rd April also!



National Online Safety: Discord - This is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate in private online — but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken. Page 2's guide will provide tips on a number of potential risks such as cyberbullying, predators and inappropriate content.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at grm3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



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Sources: <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/discord-9-stage-safety-rating-teen-or-papar-chat-app> <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/discord-9-stage-safety-rating-teen-or-papar-chat-app> <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/discord-9-stage-safety-rating-teen-or-papar-chat-app> <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/discord-9-stage-safety-rating-teen-or-papar-chat-app>



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