



Which Week?

This Week: Monday 16th Dec (Week 1)

Next Fortnight: Christmas Break!

Return: Tuesday 7th Jan 2025 (Week 2)



Sixth Form



Inside Kingshurst

End of Term Arrangements

Friday 20th December is final day of term. This will be a half-day. Please find details below regarding the arrangements for end of term.

- It is a non-uniform day for staff and students (charitable £1 donation).
- Students attend Registration, Reading, Period 1 and Period 2 as normal. Students return to their tutor groups Pd3.
- 12.30pm finish for all students.
- Student who receive free school meals are able to purchase a lunch (baguette etc) during or spend their credit during brunchtime. Alternatively, parents and carers can request a 'grab and go' lunch for their child who receives free school meals through clicking on the following link—[CLICK HERE](#).

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!



The academy has had a long heritage of supporting the local community, with one of the most popular events being the OAP Christmas Celebration. A little thing called 'Covid' prevented this event from occurring but we are over the moon to see this take its place back on the academy's calendar as a result of Mr Tindall and our brilliant Catering Team bringing it back for the 19th time overall!

Last Friday's event injected some festive fun into December for some of our local community and included a programme of Christmas Carols, from our choir, led by Mr Bradley and Mr Venson; a table-full of festive food platters, some bingo (where things got serious!) and a wealth of good conversation and energy, courtesy of our students who volunteered and to helped out for the afternoon and found themselves invigorated by the experience of sitting down for a chat with our guests, topping-up cups of tea, reading out the bingo numbers and leading the festive raffle, where the generous offerings from parents and staff meant that no visitor went home empty-handed! Roll-on event number 20 next year!



You Will Go To The Ball!

As the clock strikes **5.45pm on Tuesday 17th December**, no cars will turn into pumpkins, but we hope you will be making your way to your seat to see this year's student and staff extravaganza as part of your build-up to the festive period. Tickets are available via MCAS.



Christmas Card Competition

Please find the shortlisted entries to this year's Christmas Card Competition, organised by Mr Baxter-Smith. I think you'll agree that all of the students have produced some wonderfully festive results, with the winner, Tayla Shorters (Bronte College), having their card professionally printed to send to out on behalf of the academy this year.

Xmas Fine-Dining



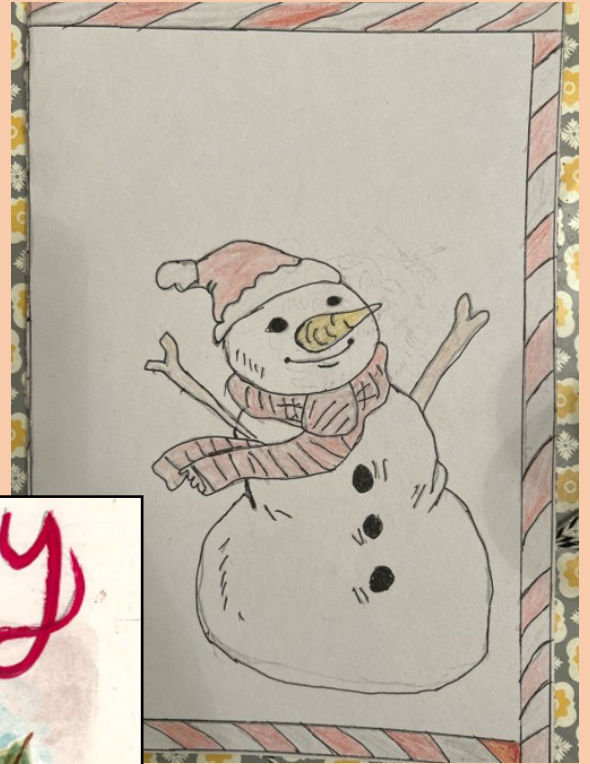
Thank you to Denise and the Caterlink team for last week bringing a belly-busting festive food tradition forwards to 11th December for this year's TGAK

Christmas Dinner. Both the turkey and vegetarian Wellington went down a treat!



'Pressing' Forwards with Careers

I am very pleased to share press coverage regarding the brilliant Careers Fair held at Tudor Grange Kingshurst during November via the popular www.birminghamworld.uk website. [CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE ARTICLE](#).



Tayla Shorters



Amy Allsop



Macey Grant



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCs

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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