



Inside Kingshurst

Upcoming Key Dates

Not to be outdone by the Year 7 students, Miss Shaikh, Subject Leader for History, led our second educational visit of the week to the Black Country Living Museum with her Year 9 History students.



Students were treated to a warm, Black Country hospitality as shop keepers, black smiths and towns folk sought to bring their world to life and included an invigorating journey into the coal mines, providing an insight as to what life might have looked like for them 150 years ago.



Students also had the opportunity to enjoy some good, honest fun in the traditional fairground area in addition to making full use of the legendary chip shop!

"Action!", Auditions Are Live

After a sensational set of auditions for A Christmas Carol, last week that saw almost 60 pupils audition for roles from Bob Cratchit to Fezziwig, the Drama Club will continue to audition all students who want to take part, as part of rehearsals that begin on Monday.



A Christmas Carol will be performed on 16 December and tickets will be available for purchase in the coming weeks on MCAS.

Year 7 Natural History Heroes

Last Friday saw Mr Parfitt, College Leader for Tull, take over 200 of the Year 7 students for a magical educational visit to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London.



Students were in great spirits on the way down, reportedly singing to a full range of pop classics, and were in awe as they entered the Hintze Hall which is the gateway to the Museum's collections and galleries that include walking beneath the largest animal on Earth and explore dozens of other exhibits representing 4.5 billion years of natural history including meteorites, dinosaurs, mammals, fish, birds, minerals, plants and insects.



From the appearance of Cooks Lane during collection time in the afternoon where parents and carers lined the road and entrance, it looked like they were in for an enthused, fact-packed journey home!

Fantastic Fundraising

Following the fantastic efforts of the students and staff over the two-day Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale, the grand total raised for this important charity was **£188**. Many thanks to everyone who supported!



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

Secondary | October 2025

In this issue:

- Vapes
- Child Criminal Exploitation

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SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



What parents need to know about vaping

Vaping has become increasingly common among teenagers, and many parents are understandably concerned. E-cigarettes were originally designed to help adults quit smoking but they are not safe for children or young people.

The rise in brightly packaged, sweet-flavoured disposable vapes has made them particularly appealing to young people, despite the health risks.

Research shows that more teenagers are experimenting with vapes each year, often without realising how addictive and harmful they can be.

Why vapes are dangerous for children

Although often marketed as 'safer than smoking', vapes still carry serious risks:

- **nicotine addiction** – many vapes contain high levels of nicotine, which can cause dependency and affect brain development in teenagers
- **harmful chemicals** – new research shows vapes can contain toxic substances such as formaldehyde, acrolein and metals like lead. These can damage the lungs and cardiovascular system
- **respiratory effects** – vaping can irritate airways, trigger asthma and cause long-term lung problems
- **unregulated products** – some disposable vapes, especially those bought online or from informal sellers, may exceed legal nicotine limits or contain banned substances. More recently, tests have even found some vapes laced with illegal drugs such as Spice, making them extremely dangerous.

Why young people are drawn to vapes

- Bright packaging and sweet flavours – flavours such as bubblegum, mango and cotton candy make vapes seem harmless and child-friendly, masking the fact that they often contain addictive nicotine.
- Peer pressure and social media trends – vaping is frequently shown on TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, making it appear fun, fashionable, or a way to fit in with friends.
- Belief that 'everyone is doing it' – many teenagers think vaping is common and safe, not realising the health risks or that many of their peers actually choose not to vape.

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Supporting your child to avoid the risks of vaping

1

Talk openly

Ask what your child knows about vapes, listen without judgement and correct myths gently.

2

Share facts

Explain that vapes can be addictive and harmful, even if they seem less dangerous than cigarettes.

3

Set boundaries

Make clear family rules about not vaping, just as you would for smoking or alcohol.

4

Stay alert

Look out for signs such as unexplained sweet smells, coughing or new gadgets/USB-like devices.

5

Seek support

If your child is vaping, speak to the school, your GP or visit resources such as NHS Smokefree for advice.



The law on vaping

- It is illegal to sell vapes or e-cigarettes to anyone under 18.
- It is also illegal for adults to buy vapes on behalf of under-18s.
- Schools treat vaping on site in the same way as smoking – it is strictly prohibited.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

What parents need to know about Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) happens when children and young people are manipulated, coerced or forced into committing crimes for someone else's benefit. It can affect boys and girls from all backgrounds and often begins without a child realising they are being exploited. Understanding how CCE works is key to protecting children and knowing when to step in.

What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

CCE is when adults, gangs or organised networks exploit children to take part in criminal activities. This can include:

- **County Lines drug dealing** – transporting or selling drugs between areas
- **carrying weapons** – being pressured to hold or use knives or other weapons
- **theft, burglary or shoplifting** – committing crimes on behalf of others
- **online exploitation** – being recruited or directed through apps, social media or gaming platforms.

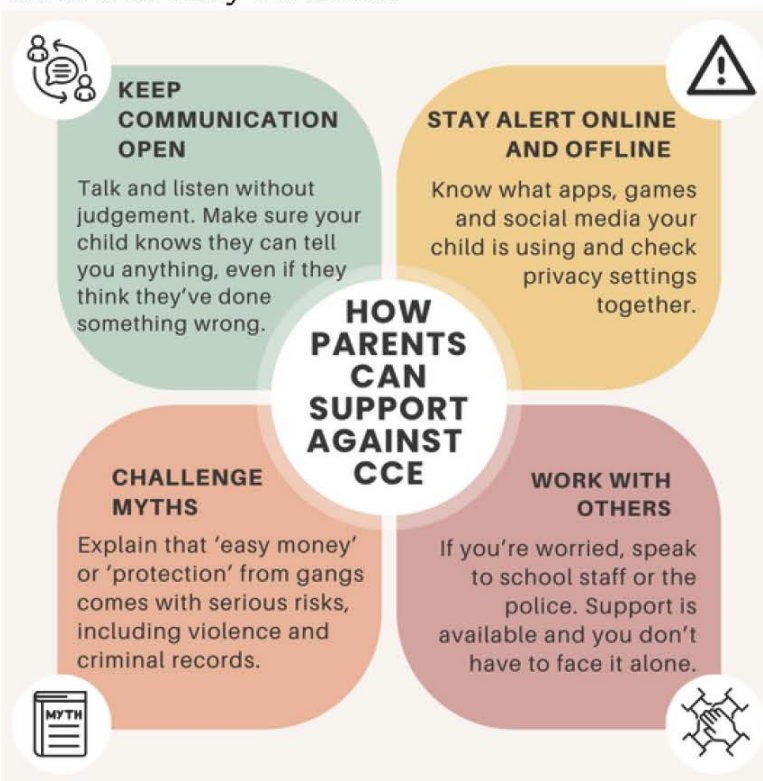
The role of the online world

Criminals don't always approach children in person – many now use the internet to make contact. Social media, messaging apps and gaming chats are common recruitment tools.

Exploiters may:

- start with friendly conversations to build trust
- use games or group chats to identify and target vulnerable young people
- offer money, free items or a sense of belonging online
- move conversations to private messaging, where they apply pressure or give instructions.

Because online communication is hidden, parents may not see what's happening until the child is already involved.



Criminals often exploit children, targeting those who seem vulnerable. They may:

- offer gifts, money, food or clothes
- create a sense of owing a debt in exchange for the gifts. The debt is paid by undertaking criminal activities
- provide friendship or a sense of belonging
- use threats of violence.

Watch for signs of exploitation in your child, such as:

- unexplained money or new possessions
- secretive behaviour about online interactions
- sudden changes in friendships, including unfamiliar adults
- signs of anxiety or reluctance to explain actions.