



Tudor Grange Academy
Kingshurst



Sixth Form

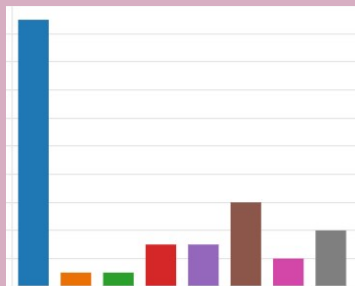
Sixth Sense

Which Week?

This Week: **Monday 12th Nov (Week 1)**

Next Week: *Christmas Holiday!*

Return Date: **Tuesday 3rd January 2023 (Week 2)**



I think we have a winner?!

As we embark upon the final week of the academic term, please be aware that we go all the way up to Friday, and therefore have a full week ahead of us still. The final day will be a non uniform day, with the normal business of a £1 being donated for the privilege that will directly go towards the Make a Wish charity.

As part of the more relaxed end to Friday, a survey was conducted as to which Christmas film you would like us to put on in the Common Room for us to wind-down to. Your response was swift and emphatic: Home Alone will be our classic film of choice (by an incredible margin!). We will be putting this on as of Period 3 (11.30am).

Many thanks also to the Student Union who have put together a Christmas Spotify List for us to play in the Common Room on Friday earlier on in the day.



Reading Rich!

Following our commitment to

being a reading-rich school, we are now one term into the process. There are a multitude of reasons to read, and I offer one set of finding in particular below from a study conducted at Brigham Young University in the USA. I invite you read the conclusion to their study, given below—this is why we are doing what we are doing—have faith in the process!

“Reading offers a plethora of benefits. It enhances cognitive performance. Students with reading habits have been shown to perform better in the classroom and on tests. It also increases social awareness and leadership abilities...Leadership abilities are also enhanced by reading as it enables leaders to efficiently gather new information that their organizations need. Reading also provides opportunities for healthy emotional engagement. In this sense, reading can act as both an emotional escape and an emotional training ground where people can learn to see themselves in a more advantageous light. Lastly, reading can lead to greater longevity due to its mentally invigorating effect. With so many benefits of reading, everyone ought to set goals and commit to reading more. After all, the amount of time the average American spends leisure reading each day is a measly 16 minutes, less than one-tenth of the average time spent watching T.V. Surely we can shift some of that television time into reading time.”

Having started the process of re-reading a Christmas Carol (something I do each December), I took it upon myself to generate a Dickensian name online and was gifted with ‘Henry Trolness’ for my troubles, a name many of you, no doubt, agree with! Why not get festive, and head to <http://www.namenerds.com/uucn/randdickens.html> and generate your own Dickensian-type name?

Extension: For those of you who have read this and fancy something festive but different, why not download a copyright free copy of ‘The Chimes’, the second Dickens Christmas story, released in 1844. This story is about a discouraged elderly man who has lost faith in humanity. He is drawn to the bell tower of a church where he finds the spirits of the bells, and through a series of visions, he learns why he must not give up hope in man’s ability to improve.

Missed Reading Tests

Many thanks to the majority of you having completed these last week. **For those who were absent or missed the test** for whatever reason, these will be sat on **MONDAY 12th DECEMBER in the I.C.**—please be prompt:

Year 12: 8.50am (start of Reading session)

Year 13: 10.15am (start of Period 2)

Our series of information from National Online Safety, continues on the second page—this week, regarding FIFA 23.



For any feedback, please email: (Yr12) Mr Curran: ccurran@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, (Yr13) Miss Foster: jfoster@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk;

(Learning Mentor) Ms Akhtar: norakhtar@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk, Mr Bowers: jbowers@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk (Director of Sixth Form)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder, a recognised mental health issue.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/sep/14/fifa-23-ultimate-team-mode-scams> | <https://www.ea.com/games/fifa/fifa-23/ultimate-team> | <https://www.nos.org.uk/parents-and-carers/what-to-know-about-online-gaming-disorder/> | <https://www.ea.com/games/fifa/fifa-23/ultimate-team>



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