



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week has gone by as we head into October, with students celebrating the European Day of Languages by holding a Cake Sale at break and lunch, whilst also learning about different languages in their Citizenship lessons. The cake sale was a huge success with so many cakes being brought in from all year groups – a huge thank you to Mrs Russell, Mrs Gerald, Mrs Dare (Governor) and all the students who contributed to this event.

In addition to this, we've had lots of sporting fixtures played this week, with our students showing real resilience and enthusiasm. My personal highlight of the week was being able to get out and see some of the Year 7 boys rugby against Ratcliffe College. We also welcomed our Year 7 parents into school with 'Meet the Tutor Evening'. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's tutor and find out how well they've settled in. Again, it was great to see so many supportive parents. Without your support, it makes our lives so much harder to educate your children – so thank you for taking the time to visit us.

Finally, we had some celebrities visit us this week, with the Year 6 Teachers from Foxton, Farndon Fields, Meadowdale and St Josephs coming in to see how their students have settled into school life. This is always a special opportunity for us to see students from all years, affectionately reminisce with their teachers from Primary School. The current Year 7s were positively ecstatic to see their previous teachers, in what was something like Beatlemania or OneDirectionmania (cultural reference).

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Pete Leatherland  
Principal





**We are holding a Careers Fair for years 10 and 11 on Thursday 4th October 2023. Parents and students are welcome to come along and speak to Post 16 providers, training providers and employers.**



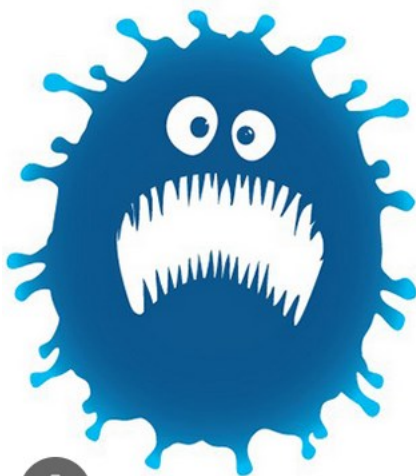
**Welland Park  
Academy**  
Learning For Life

## **CAREERS FAIR**

**Thursday 5th October 6.00-8.00**  
Welland Park Academy Sports  
Hall



Speak with colleges, universities,  
local employers and training  
providers about the next step  
after school.



# **flu fighter<sup>®</sup>**

**The NHS Immunisation Team are coming into school on Wednesday 4th October 2023 to deliver the flu immunisation to all year groups.**

**A consent form has been sent out and currently 54.5% of families have responded.**

**Please do complete the form even if you do not want your child to have the immunisation.**





## A note from Mrs Askham

It has come to our attention that a number of Y7 Forms have made a whole Form/class group chat, on social media platforms such as WhatsApp. Whilst we want to encourage them to make friends and practice their interpersonal and social skills, a group chat on this scale with 30 children or more and with no supervising adult rarely remains positive.

Speaking from experience these group start with the best of intentions, but soon descend into unpleasantness and cyber bullying. Which causes a great deal of distress and hurt for those involved, as well as school sanctions for those making the comments.

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP**

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients. Not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

**AGE RESTRICTION 16+**  
In UK and Europe, rest of the world 13+

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**EVOLVING SCAMS**  
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

**CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**  
To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

**FAKE NEWS**  
WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

**ONLINE**

**'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT**  
The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

**CHAT LOCK**  
Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

**VISIBLE LOCATION**  
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

**Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...**

**EMPHASISE CAUTION**  
Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

**THINKING BEFORE SHARING**  
Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

**ADJUST THE SETTINGS**  
It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

**CHAT ABOUT PRNACY**  
Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

**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.

**...HEY OSCAR...**

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/en-us/open-letter> | <https://iq.whatsapp.com/0272683958232> | [https://iq.whatsapp.com/320068988245/?href=no\\_har](https://iq.whatsapp.com/320068988245/?href=no_har) | <https://www.whatsapp.com/privacy> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-inmate-contacts-2023-09-06>

@natonlinesafety | /NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonlinesafety | @national\_online\_safety

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We have spoken to them all recently about these types of groups and have asked them to leave the groups. Group chats are a great tool for them to communicate but we recommend it is only with a handful of close friends. At their age they still lack the skills to manage these groups appropriately and they often don't stop to consider the effects of their actions.

Please could you support our request to stop these whole Form or class group chats by speaking to your child. Peer pressure to remain in these groups is often something that adds to their stress levels and the constant chain of conversation in a group of this scale is also not good for their mental wellbeing.

Thank you for your support in this matter. Please see the 'what parents and carers need to know about WhatsApp'.

Kind regards

Mrs Askham  
KS3 Progress Leader





This is our Reception and Front Office. It is a very busy area of the school.

Every day we are taking in items from parents that students have forgotten at home.

Space is very limited in the office and whilst we are always willing to help the students, we do sometimes end up with a large number of items—PE kits, water bottles, homework, coats and even the odd suitcase.

Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to either deliver all of these items to the youngsters or keep them in

the office until they are collected so can we please ask that you encourage your child to bring everything they need into school with them each day.

Many thanks

Front Office Team

6TH  
NOVEMBER

PROM 2024

**FASHION  
SHOW**

7.00PM-9.00PM

**OCTAGONAL HALL**

M&S, River Island, Planet, Phase Eight, Monson, ASOS, Italian Linen and many more

Over 1000 items to choose from in sizes 8-26 with up to 70% discount

£5 incl. glass of fizz

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND GRAB A BARGAIN

TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE - 9TH OCTOBER 2023

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The committee for Prom 2024 are organising the annual fashion show .

6th November 2023

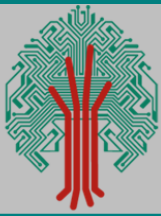
Doors open at 7.00pm

Members of the committee will model some of the items and then you are free to look through over 1000 garments and purchase any that you like.

All items are discounted with some of them up to 70% off

Tickets on sale from the front office from Monday 9th October 2023.

This is usually a very well attended event so please get your tickets early.



## Welland Park Academy Lunch & Deli Menu Week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Concept</b>	Indian	Mexican	Best of British	Asian	Chip Friday
<b>Option 1</b>	Chicken Tikka Masala	Cowboy Beef Chilli	Roast Chicken & stuffing, with gravy	BBQ Mandarin Pork	Chicken Breast Nuggets
<b>Option 2</b>	Butternut & Chickpea Passanda	Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa	Cauliflower Cheese Bake	Korean Spicy Rice Bowl with Fried Egg	Vegetarian Sausage
<b>Sides</b>	Wholegrain Rice Gajar Matar (Spiced Carrots & Peas)	Garlic & Herb Wedges Rainbow Slaw	Roast Potatoes Peas and Sweetcorn	Beggar's Noodles Sweet Chilli Slaw	Chips Baked beans
<b>Authentic Italian</b>	Authentic Italian Pizza and Pasta Bar				
<b>Hot Deli</b>	Cheese & Tomato Panini Jacket & Topping	Tuna Melt Panini Jacket & Topping	Cheese & Onion Panini Jacket & Topping	Roasted Veg Panini Jacket & Topping	Cheese Panini Jacket & Topping

# THE GREAT GLOBAL BAKE OFF

MFL competition to celebrate the European Day of Languages

**Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and bakes to the Global Bake-Off competition. We had nearly 30 entries from across the year groups and the winners will be announced in assemblies next week.**

**Thank you also to those who bought cakes as we raised over £150 for Oxfam.**

