

# ST MARTINS SCHOOL

13 December 2024

It's been a fantastic week of Christmas themed shows, visit to a pantomime for yr1-4 and even a film night! Our students from nursery through to key stage 2 have been performing for parents and carers: here are photos of nursery and reception during their dress rehearsal and KS1 ready to perform "Born in a Barn" - well done to all the students and staff for the hard work and amazing performances.



Congratulations to the two students who achieved the highest number of House Points last year. Pictured receiving their laptops are Tobias and Eleanor Mai ! . Each



year as part of the rewards programme a student in primary and a student in secondary can be awarded a laptop—who will it be this year?! We are a third of the way through the school year so keep up the amazing work and effort to be awarded your house points!



This week Mrs Jones took Mr Wilko to visit nursery. All the children were very pleased to see him, and are thinking very hard of some question to ask about him next time he comes to visit!

For those students who travel to school via Arriva buses, there have been some reports that the 53 service from Oswestry to Ellesmere is stopping in the new year. We have been in touch with Arriva and although they have made the decision to reduce the time table, at this point it still looks like a service will run for students to get into school for about 8.10am and to leave school at the end of the school day. Revised timetables can be found on the [school website](#) or the [Arriva website](#).

Have a lovely weekend, Ms Lovecy

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James Wright has made some fantastic retro 80's jewellery with a TOPGUN theme in Technology classes. Mrs Herbert was so impressed she commissioned a pair of earrings for herself!



Well done to Izzy Powell in year 8 who came 4th in only her second competition with her new pony Misty!

**Gobowen Pantomime**  
**Cinderella**  
 Christmas 2024

**December**

Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	- 7.30 pm	£5
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	- 7.30 pm	£5
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	- 2.30 pm	£5
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	- 7.30 pm	£6
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	- 7.30 pm	£5

**Venue**  
 The Gobowen Working Mens Club  
 Visit Facebook for tickets:  
 Gobowen Pantomime Group

ticket source  
 SCAN ME

Shout out to all the students including Jasmin Cookson who are performing in the Gobowen Panto - well done !

**Let the "feastivities" begin!**

**17th December**

**Roast Turkey/Gammon Christmas Lunch**  
 or  
**Vegetable Christmas Parcel**

With

**Sage & Onion Stuffing**  
**Roasties, Vegetable Medley,**  
**Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding**

Dessert  
**Snowy Chocolate Cookie**  
 or  
**Mince-Pie Crumble**

**Primary £3.25    Secondary £3.50**

**ST MARTINS SCHOOL**  
**CHRISTMAS DISCO**

**MONDAY 16 DECEMBER**    **£2 PAYABLE ON PARENT PAY**    **4:30PM-5:30PM**

**OPEN TO RECEPTION- YEAR 6**

Bring £1 on the night for a drink, crisps and a chocolate bar!

# ST MARTINS SCHOOL

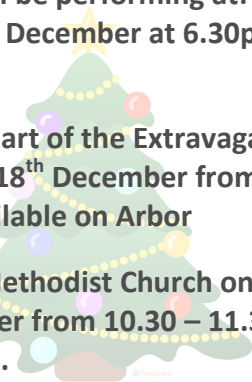


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The choir will be performing at: Stans on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm – all are welcome

School – as part of the Extravaganza on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30pm – tickets available on Arbor

St Martins Methodist Church on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30 – 11.30am – all are welcome.



## Dates for the diary

17 December—Christmas Lunch

18 December—“Extravaganza” and staff panto 6.30pm

19 December—LAST DAY FOR NURSERY

20 December—last day—NON UNIFORM/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY for Save the Children

6 January—back to school

With new internet enabled gadgets on many of our students Christmas lists we thought we'd share some information about a couple of the sites that students may be asking to join. If a parent carer ever has any safeguarding concerns please contact school.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**AGES RESTRICTION 13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed. However, users are known to take screenshots of one another's devices to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help or diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

**SCREEN TIME ADDICTION**  
Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which offer tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Some content on Snapchat is clearly not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content do not always filter out inappropriate content. A search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's geotagging messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or images – so sending content to be not associated with Snapchat.

**ONLINE PRESSURES**  
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in do not disturb mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

**MY EYES ONLY**  
Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. There are concealed sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers to gain. This is done by locking the app on the phone's settings and then using 'My Eyes Only' to lock the app. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS**

- UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Snapchat's Family Center lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report concerns. You must invite a parent or Family Center to them to join. You can also lock down the app on the phone's settings and turn on 'My Eyes Only' and 'Live Location' and restrict who they interact with online.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**  
If a stranger does contact with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or to sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots in that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as harassing or malicious messages, spam or misquoting someone else.
- FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**  
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any precautions they have to take. A link for this can be found in the sources below.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**  
Snapchat's filters can be used to harass if you notice an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how relevant they are. Use parental controls and functions before letting children use it. If they're harassed in a room, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about staying respectful to others and reporting serious concerns to power 'chatgpt' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert  
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher with her expertise in digital safety, wellbeing and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2023>

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## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT**  
There are a number of ways that gamers – commonly chat with one another online. This includes in-game chat, which is chat that happens within the game itself. There's also party chat, a group-wide conversation that can be used to talk to anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more casual and used by players who already know each other. Finally, many games also support on PC – and can use a third-party app such as Discord.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
Whether it's text or voice-based, in-game chat frequently opens up to all players to use. Many games feature a 'mute' or 'block' function, but some don't require a child could still send messages without the game knowing. People they're playing with, regardless of whether they know them, could be a risk. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some examples of how inappropriate what chatting to a child – potentially an offender.

**DANGER OF GROOMING**  
It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children. Sending a child an image of a being sold with voice chat, explains to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the danger themselves.

**BULLYING AND ABUSE**  
While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in bullying or harassment. Behaviour in an online world is often very anonymous to those who are being bullied. Often, there's no real-world consequences for the person who is bullying. This could mean that some people who are bullying online might be the same as people who are bullying in real life. Some people have been known to use in-game chat to bully others, potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

**POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT**  
If a player would like to re-match with a stranger they've met in the game, they can send a friend request. To use the party chat function to talk to a stranger, for example, they should be in-game. This could mean that some people who are bullying online might be the same as people who are bullying in real life. Some people have been known to use in-game chat to bully others, potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

**COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE**  
Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes feel that they need to outperform an opponent to win. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from the game itself and into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get angry and abusive to others in the game, and the impact of this on a young player's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS**

- LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT**  
In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows you to control how much chat is allowed. If that person's a person known to you, you can allow chat. If that person is a stranger, you should be able to lock down chat. This is done within the game itself, so it's important to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the danger themselves.
- REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS**  
Most games offer a range of options for reporting other players, so you can tell the game about the person who is causing trouble. This normally leads to the account not being reported with you to the game itself. If that person's a person known to you, you should be able to lock down chat. This is done within the game itself, so it's important to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the danger themselves.
- CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS**  
If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. The different services have different rules and settings, so you should be able to lock down chat. This is done within the game itself, so it's important to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the danger themselves.
- COMMUNICATION IS KEY**  
Make sure children understand the difference between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unkind or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that anything ever received or sent online, they should be able to lock down chat. This is done within the game itself, so it's important to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the danger themselves.

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