

Fowey River Academy



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FROM THE HEAD...

BY BEN EDDY

Hello everyone,

I cannot believe that we are already breaking up for Christmas; this term has been so busy and the time has just flown by.

The return to school in September has been very different for the students and staff at Fowey River Academy as it has across the world. Many of our freedoms of the movement have been taken away due to the restrictions which have had to be applied due to COVID. I have to say a massive thank you to everyone for being so adaptable and supportive in such difficult times.

With the vaccine starting to be rolled out, we all hope that things will slowly start to move towards a more normal life but it could be a good few months until we see big changes in the school.

I am sure that you will have seen in the press that when we return in January, schools will have access to "Rapid testing". These tests show COVID results in thirty minutes and this will allow us to test staff once a week as well as any students who show symptoms or have been near someone who has tested positive. This should mean that fewer staff and students will need to self-isolate.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. With the restrictions this year most people will be having much smaller gatherings and I encourage you all to abide by the rules and ensure that we keep everyone safe.

Yr11 return to school on Monday 4th January, with all other students returning on 11th Jan, see our recent update for more information. <https://fracademy.org/school-reopening-january-2021/> We have one change to the INSET days next year due to specific staff training across the Trust. Monday 8th February will be a normal school day, the INSET day has been moved forward to Monday 25th January. Sorry for any inconvenience caused; please contact the CGS Managers if this is an issue for you.

Merry Christmas!

Mr Eddy

WHAT'S INSIDE

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

DRAMA UPDATE

IMPORTANT DATES

WOW WALL

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

This year, with COVID all around us, we have tried to make the most of things. At FRA, we have tried not to let COVID beat us or stop us from doing things. Inevitably some activities have had to stop, and rightly so, but we felt it important to do as much as we could to put a little fun back into life at FRA, so here are a few photos of the fun we've had!



“

**It's not how
much we give
but how much
love we put
into giving.”**

Mother Theresa



7 AIR CHARITY CHRISTMAS SALE!

On 11th December 7Air held a charity Christmas sale. We sold decorations, cards and gift boxes that they were buying at lunchtimes during the last four weeks. It was wonderfully helped by the fantastic Mrs Ball who was in charge of the stall. The money is going to be donated to a charity as yet undecided, the running total £44. Well done to all the guys.





GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

by Emma Bennett

This year we have had some great entries to the Gingerbread House Competition. This year we had three categories:

Traditional

Wild Card

General Gingerbread

Unfortunately for us, there was no Taste Sensation category this year as we wanted to be Covid secure. Entries were submitted from all year groups and we were so impressed with the hidden baking talent that we have here. Henry T in Year 8 won the prize for Traditional, Emma S in Year 8 won the Wild Card competition for her Father Christmas in a Gingerbread Sleigh and Connie and Chloe in Year 8 won the General Gingerbread competition with their Gingerbread Snowflakes.

The entries were so great, that there will be a prize for all entries as well as prizes for the winners. Well done everyone! Thank you for taking the time to make your creations.





CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION

by Carla Moorcroft

This year we challenged tutor groups to come up with the best decorations for their tutor room doors and desks. The energy and enthusiasm were plain to see and the designs were amazing. Despite a few last-minute changes to ensure COVID safety, the final designs were brilliant and helped to spread plenty of Christmas cheer around the school. So, here are the winners:

**YR8
FIRE**

YR7 - AIR

**YR10 -
RS**

**YR9
MW & RW**

Desk decorating winners follow the door competition and here is a picture of Freya and Ruby from 7Earth with their hot chocolate lunch prize.

“

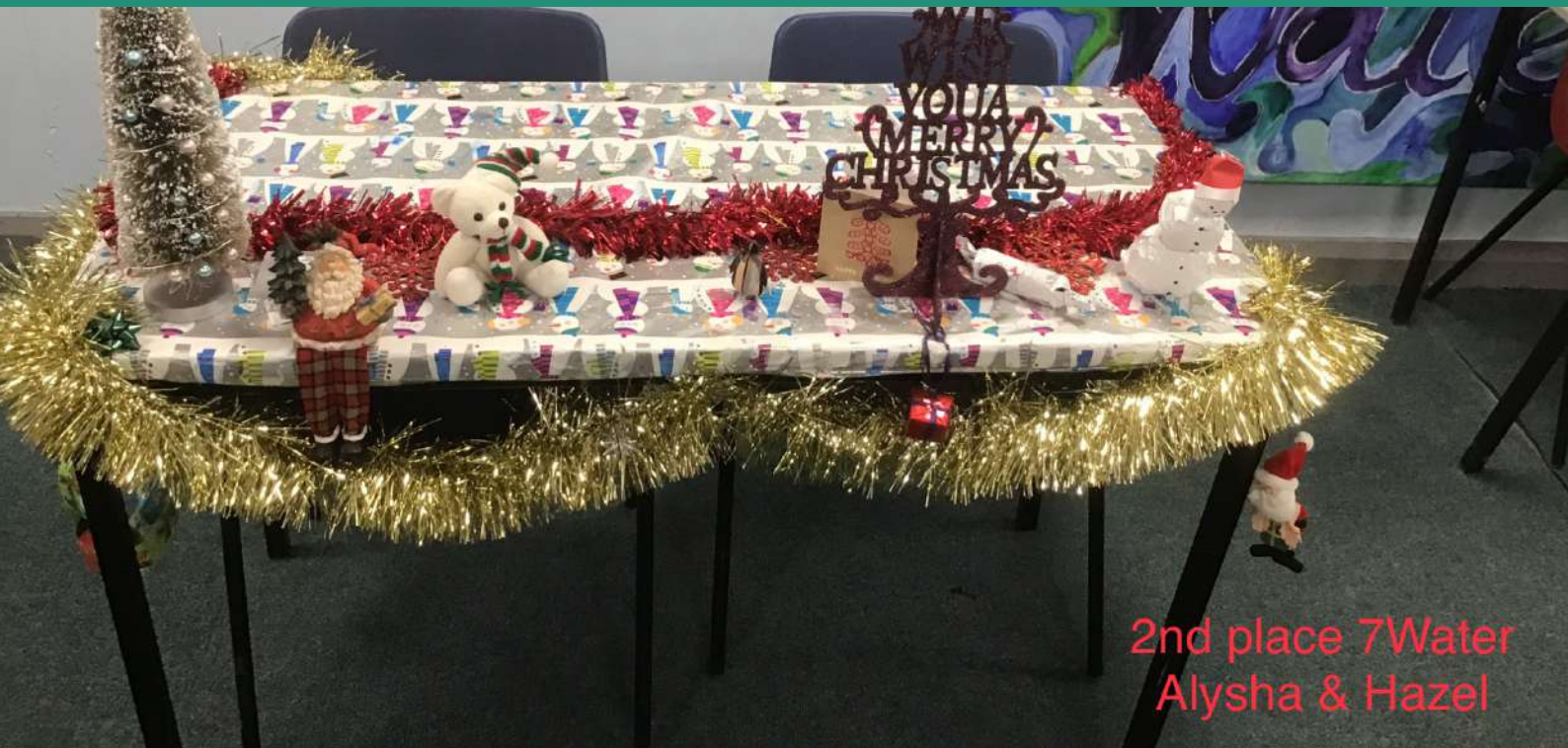
The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”







1st place 7Earth
Freya & Ruby



2nd place 7Water
Alysha & Hazel



3rd place 7Air
Sophie & Bea

FOWEY READING ACADEMY

by Chrissy Berry

During the Autumn semester Year 7 and 8 have been taking part in our Accelerated Reader programme. Each group, as well as the individual, has been working towards prizes that were handed out in Week 1 of our new semester.

Across the two year groups we have read:

1,780 books

Passed 1,248 Accelerated Reader quizzes

and read a total of **17,457,903 words!**

Well done to our winners -

Most words read - Year 7 - Raffy

Most words read - Year 8 - Emily

Most progress - Year 7 - Andrew & Isabel

Most progress - Year 8 - Lily & Charlie

Winning Tutor groups - (Who won a pizza party!!)

7 Earth

8 Earth

Here is Ruby, Freya and Layla enjoying their reward!!



PIZZA
PARTY

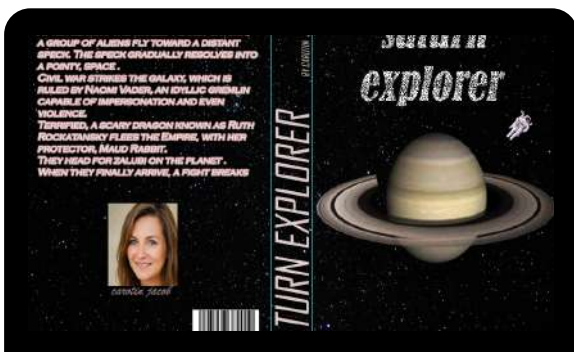




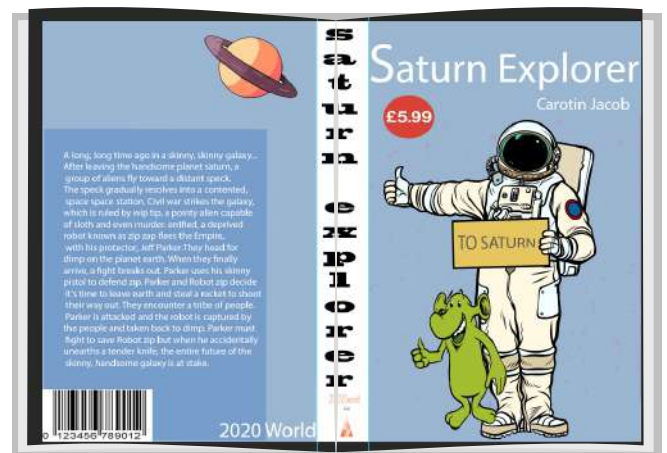
Year 10 IT

BY MR WALMISLEY

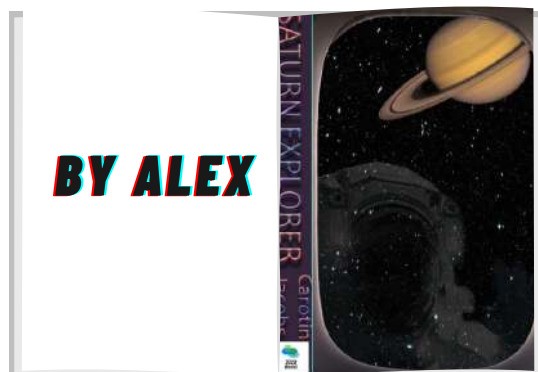
Year 10 have been creating some fabulous Book Wraps for their IT coursework and have produced some excellent pieces. They had to create, from scratch, an entire book wrap using their skills learnt in photoshop. Great work Year 10!



BY MILLIE



BY WILL



BY ALEX



DRAMA

by Sarah Mottart

Christmas Time by Near Ta Theatre Company

Live theatre has had a difficult year in 2020 and this has been quite problematic for GCSE Drama students who are required to see theatre as part of their course. However, a number of innovative theatre companies, such as Cornish company Near Ta, have adapted to the current pandemic situation by making theatre available through streaming.

Both year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students were treated to a performance of Christmas Time which was streamed within their lesson times. The play is a comic musical production based around two prison inmates trying to bring some festive cheer to their lives while locked away in their cells. The two actors: Ciaran Clarke and Daniel Richards play Charlie and Toby who recreate a whole range of festive events in a creative and inventive way – Christmas TV, the family coming around, Christmas number one chart-toppers, the Queen’s Speech to name a few. The GCSE students gained a lot from watching the show as just two actors managed to adapt basic items in the set to create wholly different scenarios: toilet brushes created a Christmas tree and a duvet became a snowman. Some of the students favourite scenes included the prisoner’s rendition of The Snowman where both actors played the scene balancing on one leg each, and a puppetry scene where an entire family with opposing viewpoints and characteristics was created just by using socks. Covid 19 was ever-present in the production through the many quips and jokes, with the Queen’s Speech presented on Zoom. It was an inspiring and fun show - a great way to complete a very busy term. As one student noted ‘ It shows that the magic of happiness can be found in even the most confined spaces.’ Thank you to Near Ta theatre company for making this show accessible to our students – hopefully, next Christmas we will be able to see their work live and at a theatre venue.



Year 8 Drama classes have been working on fun costume design challenges where they’ve had to create outfits using clothing in an unconventional way. The work has been inspired by Marsha P Johnson, a transgender activist who the class have studied in their REAL lessons and who was known for her flamboyant dress style.



TEN TORS

by John Payne

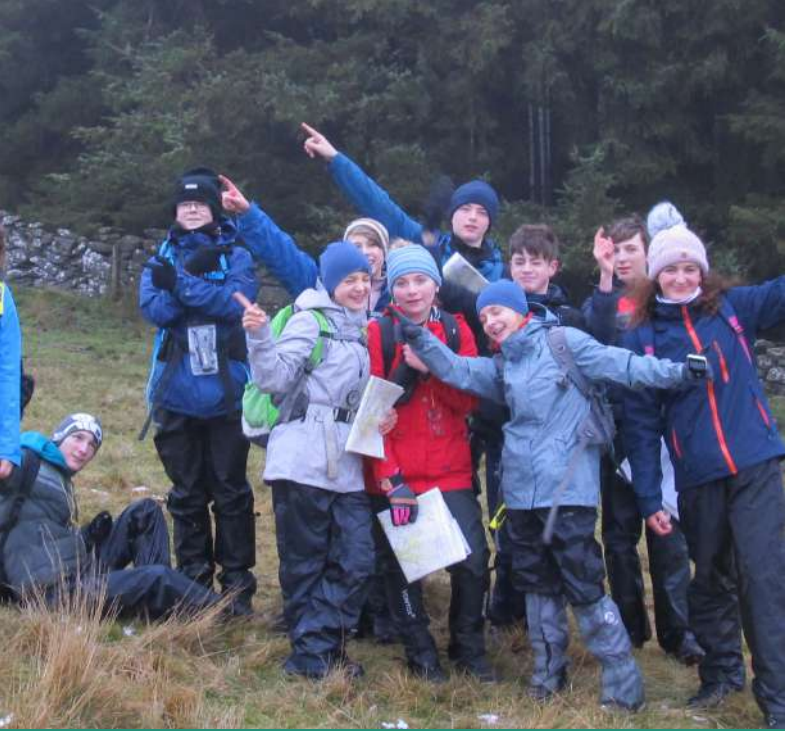
Our Year 10 Ten Tors team resumed training in December, as soon as the lockdown ended, and lost no time in getting out on Dartmoor for training walks on successive weekends. On the first Saturday of December, we did a 13-mile circuit of Fernworthy Forest, from Postbridge, to get our first real taste of Dartmoor. The moor didn't let us down - it was bitterly cold, with flurries of sleet and rain. The team did extremely well and successfully navigated their way around, including walking on a bearing in mist for the first time.

For our second walk, we traversed Dartmoor (North Moor) from north to south, starting at Meldon Reservoir and finishing at Merrivale, a distance of 15 miles. The team did extremely well again, navigating their way smoothly throughout all the checkpoints and finishing ahead of schedule.

Everyone has finished tired and happy - and the minibus has been eerily quiet on the way back to Fowey....

We resume training in January when we will be back on Dartmoor with backpacks and carrying full camping gear - although we don't start wild camping until March. A big thank you and well done to the students and staff involved (Mr Bays, Miss Bennett, Miss Quigley, Miss Bryan and Mr Doyle) - the preparation for Ten Tors is testing and requires a high level of commitment, but if you enjoy it, it is a life-changing experience - and the blisters will heal!







SCIENCE

by Marianne Bryan

Year 11- Year 11 have been working on forces following the mock examinations and seem happy to have settled back into a normal routine.

Year 10 - This semester year 10 has been studying electricity and magnetism. It came as quite a SHOCK, to begin with and there was a general underCURRENT of not being able to understand the work. However, after some RESISTANCE the POWER of self-belief kicked in and many have reached their POTENTIAL (difference).

Year 9 – kicked off the Winter semester creating crystal gardens in a water tank, with crystals growing as you watch. This has led us to discover the 3 different types of chemical bonds.

Year 8 –Started researching famous Cornish Scientist's, looking at their contribution to modern scientific understanding. Their Cornish Science project has been taking a look back at the history and development of the atom. Leading them into metals ores and mining.

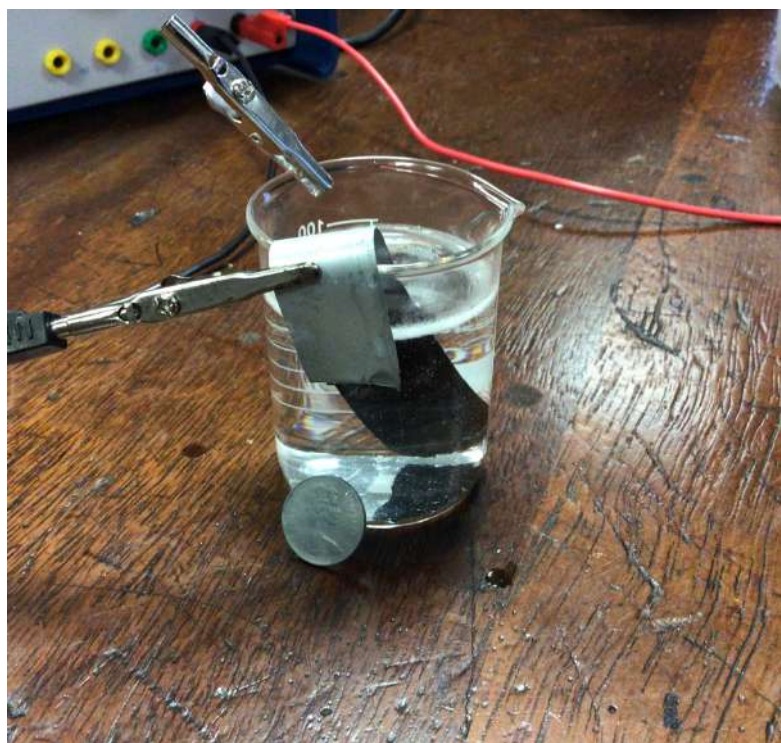
Year 7 – This year group have taken on a Polar expedition. With a chilly introduction from David Attenborough of the creatures we may encounter. They have learnt how to create a compass to guide us North, the forces acting upon them, the best technique for keeping us warm and whether or not the drone will float or sink.

STEAM CLUB

The STEAM club has restarted with lots of 'Wow!' for Year 7. The club has made crystal gardens in a water tank, with crystals growing as you watch! They have experimented with 'Harry Potter's magic wand' which suspends a foil ball in the air - using the repulsive forces of electrostatics. Students have made their own microscope slides - of fly legs, seeds, feathers and all sorts of tiny things. They have watched crystals of pure silver grow into a wonderful forest. They have grown cress seeds to investigate how they respond to the direction of light.

For our Christmas extravaganza, we couldn't let it pass without a little decoration of S2 into the Christmas spirit - the students made Science Christmas trees from a variety of science glassware and coloured compounds.





SCIENCE TIME!

Watch the magic online here:

<https://youtu.be/mgL8oFDAD14>





COMPASS

by Rosie

In Compass this term we have been working on the school curriculum in conjunction with various activities to do with celebrations and commemorations. These have included Halloween where we made our own paper pumpkins to put on display.

For Armistice Day we made poppies to put up on the walls as well as drawings to remember those in the armed services and joined in with the two-minute silence on 11th November.

We have also looked at Diwali and the festival of light and all the pupils together made a large poster to celebrate this.

For Christmas, pupils have been putting up their own decorations and also helping to make decorations for charity with Mrs Ball. These will be put on sale shortly. Decorating started in Compass on Monday last week and pupils have been adding their own pieces as well. We have been making paper trees, snowflakes and paper chains and the department is now looking very colourful indeed.





Intervention Room

Christmas is a time for celebration and families but also a time of reflection. We have all had a pretty tricky year but we celebrate your amazing coping skills and your adaptability.

To celebrate this and give students an opportunity to reflect, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Bateman have a Christmas tree in COMPASS which some of our students have decorated with various messages of hope, reflection or things they are proud of.

Our Messagemas Tree is awesome!



MOCKS!

YEAR 11

by Matt Double

At the end of November, all Year 11 sat their mock exams. This was an intensive 7 days with most days having two exams.

The students were excellent in both their application and attitude throughout this exam period which bodes well for later in the year. In the last week of term, students picked up their results and got the experience of opening an envelope to find out what their results were. This was a positive experience for many and SLT, tutors and other support staff were on hand to have follow-up conversations with the students.

Teachers and students will be working hard on the next steps of analysing the papers, giving positive feedback on how to improve, and working towards improving for the next set of mocks.

Christmas in the College

Post-mocks Mr Bayes, Mrs McHardy and Mr Double have been working hard to get everyone in the Christmas spirit by decorating the college. Students have also been having some down time during their breaks and lunches with the introduction of a mini (and we mean mini!!) pool table and a very popular Table Football table. Football and other sports and games carry on one lunch break per day and upstairs in the college a Just Dance club seems to have formed at lunchtimes with students, and Mrs McHardy, showing us their moves!





PARENTS & CARERS

Parents and Carers are one of the most important elements in helping Year 11 be successful for your child and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help since September. Your encouragement and reminders to attend revision sessions and catch up is really appreciated. Please can we ask that you check Parentmail regularly as this will be one of the ways we keep you updated. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team on:

Mr Walmisley – Tutor: mwalmsley@fracademy.org

Mr Bidder – Tutor: tbidder@fracademy.org

Miss J Martin – Tutor: jmartin@fracademy.org

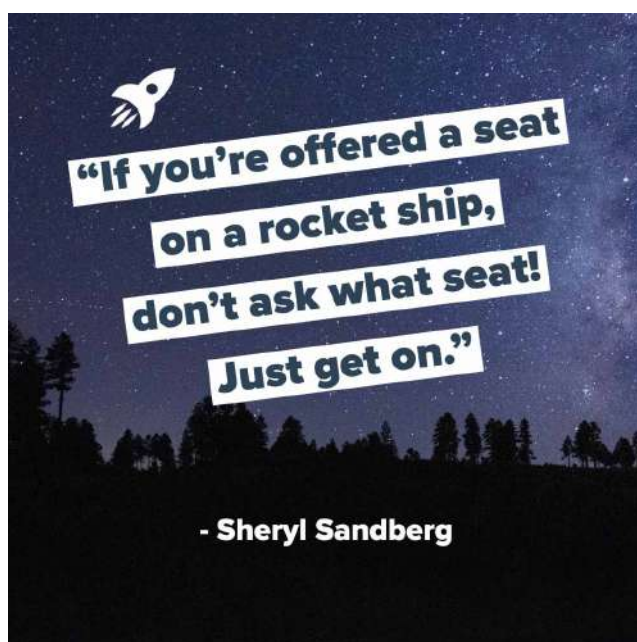
Mr A Doyle – Tutor: adoyle@fracademy.org

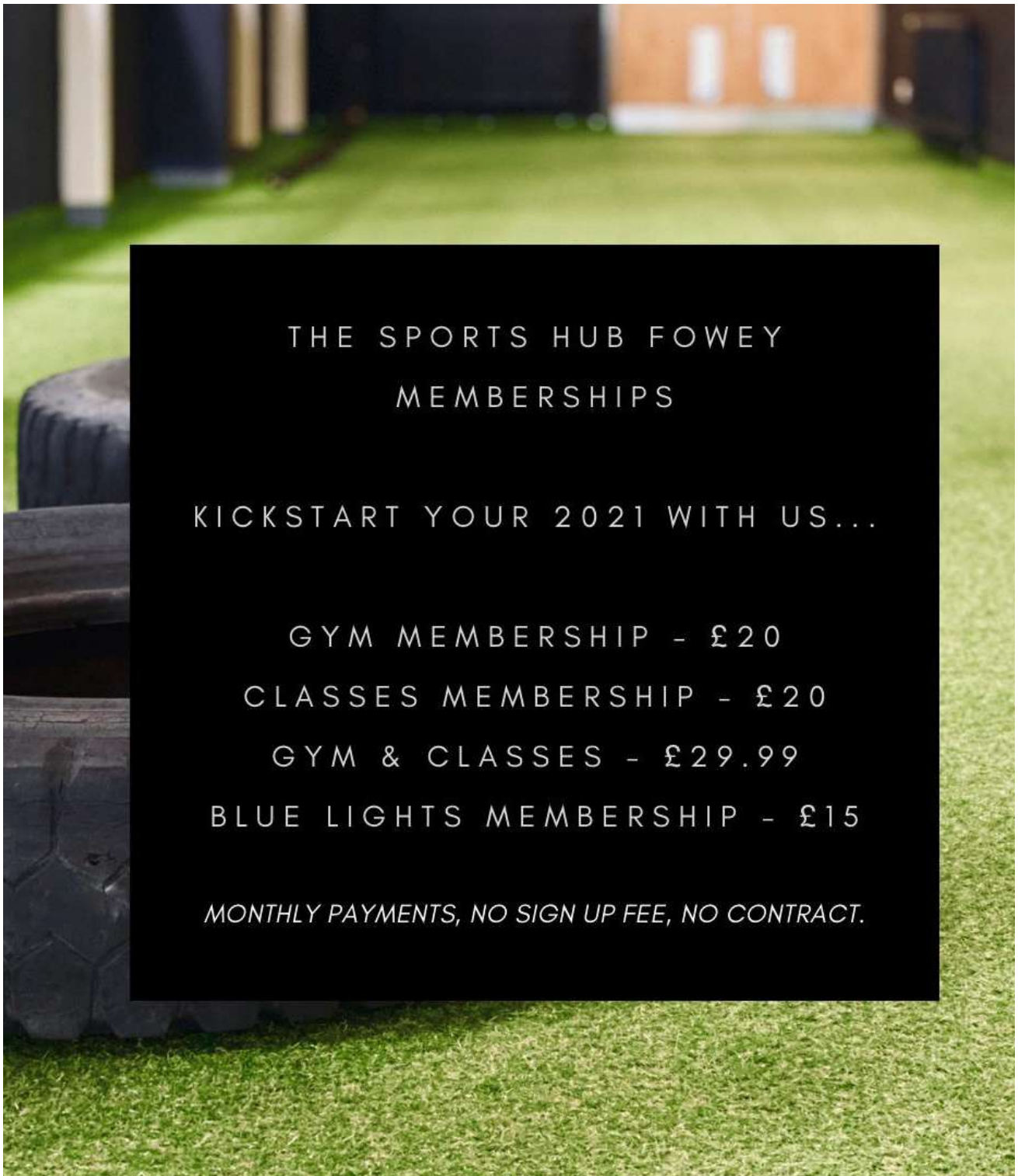
Mr M Double – Head of College: mdouble@fracademy.org

Mr S Bayes – Head of Year 11: sbayes@fracademy.org

Mrs L McHardy – CGS Manager: lmchardy@fracademy.org

Or telephone 01726 833484 extension 243.





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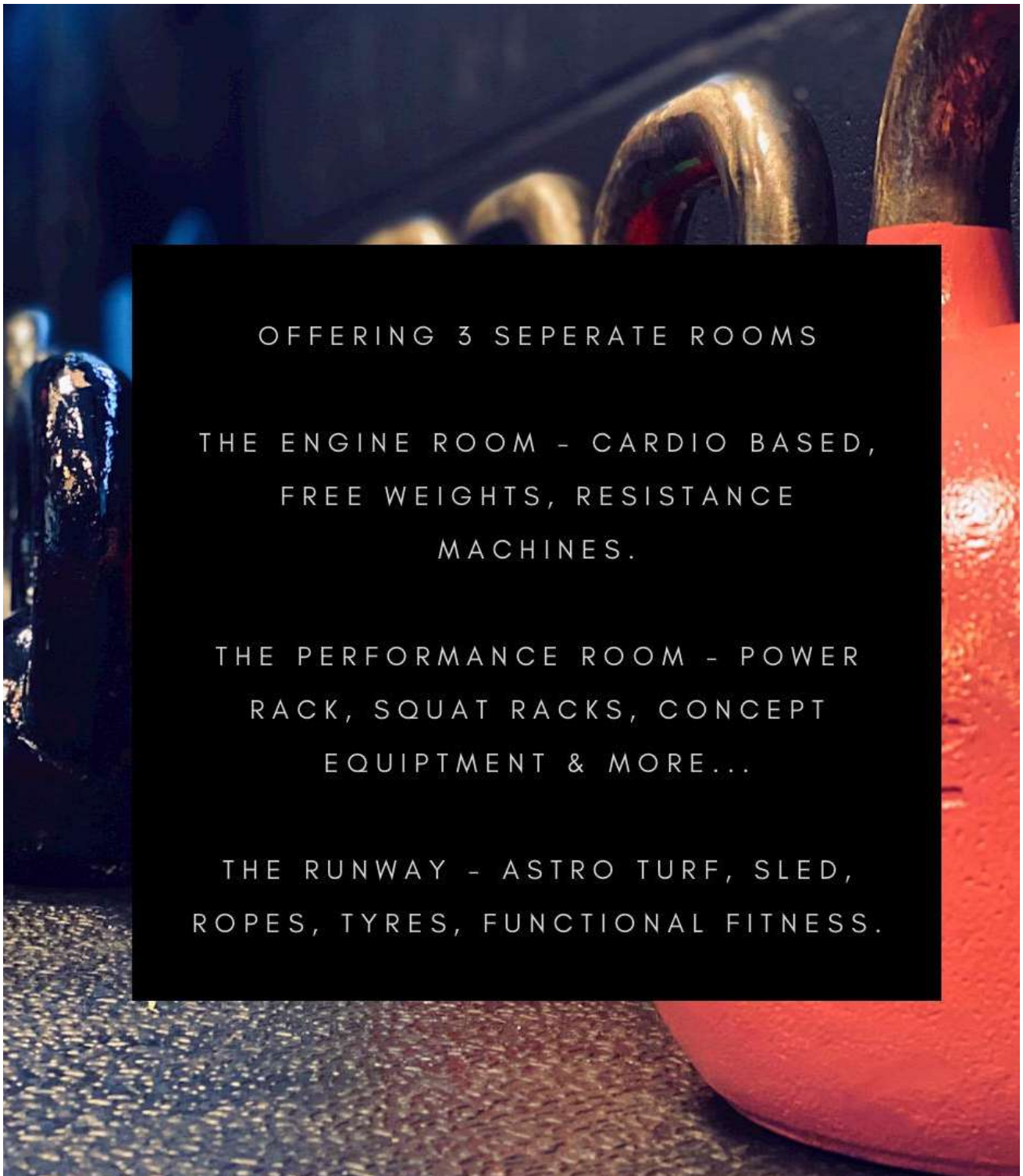
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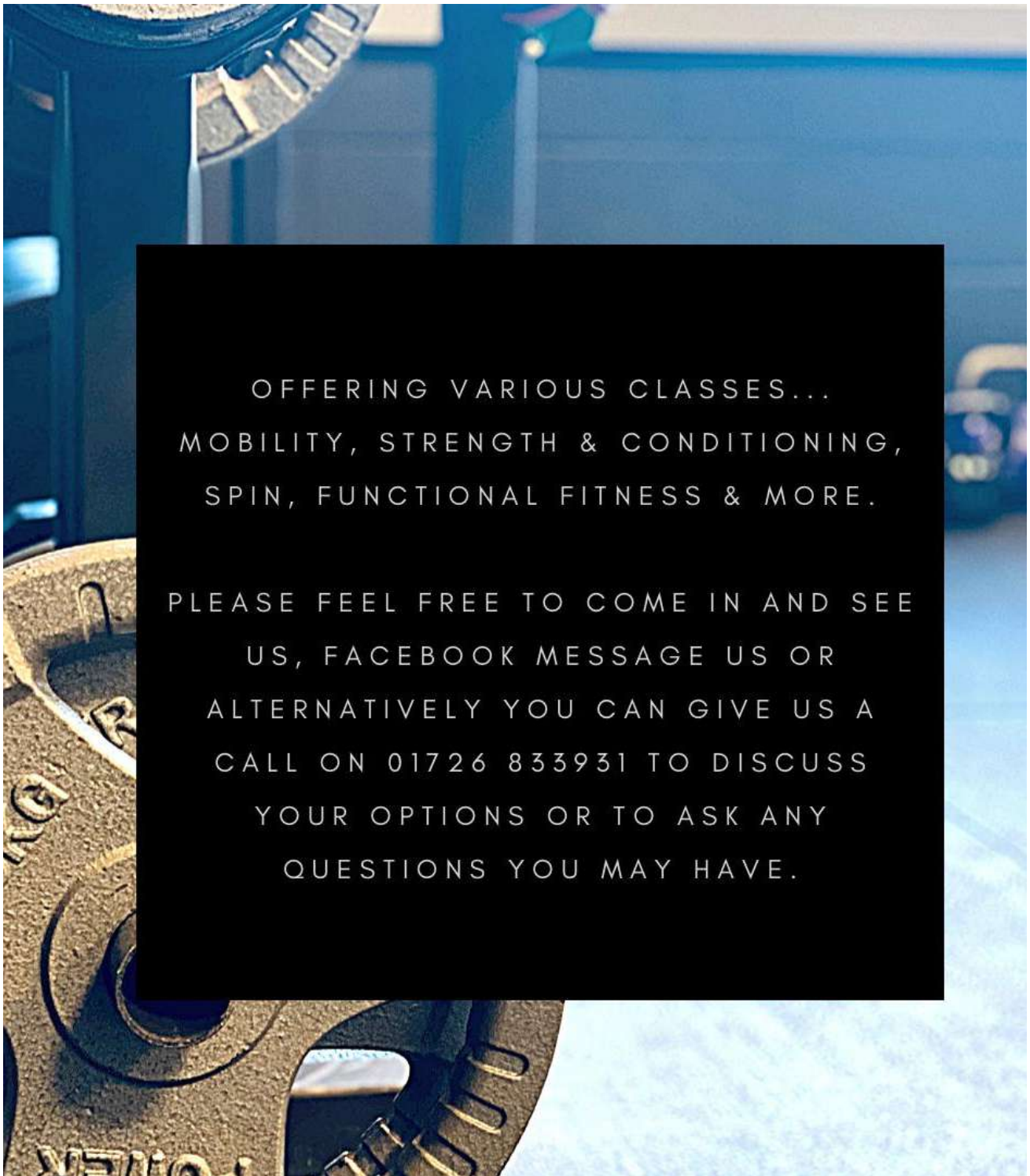


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CALL ON 01726 833931 TO DISCUSS
YOUR OPTIONS OR TO ASK ANY
QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

WOW!

Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate

We couldn't be prouder of Amelia, one of several students who passed their Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificates as part of Mrs Rolls Life Skills group. Each week the class learn new skills, and they have shown a great aptitude to gain a valuable qualification. Perhaps we'll see them next on 'Master Chef'!



Christmas Carol...

On Monday 14th December, year 7 had the pleasure of watching a one-man show based on a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Year 7 completed a Dickens unit of work in the autumn semester where they looked at his life and work. To celebrate Christmas and the life of this English author - what better way than to watch on the stage!



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips for Parents



DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers. If/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Spring Term Starts - 11th January
- Year 11 - In school from 4th Jan, All other year groups online learning & back on 11th January
- INSET DAY - Monday 25th January

**TERM DATES FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR
CAN BE FOUND BELOW**