



Maghull High News

Aspire Achieve Enjoy



6 January—
10 January

Happy New Year! Welcome back to our weekly newsletter. We hope all of our staff, students and families had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the break. We were pleased to see all students returning to school this week, despite the icy temperatures. As we enter into the Spring term, our year 13, year 11 and year 10 students draw closer to the examination period starting and working hard in lessons to complete their studies. This half term we have our annual Careers and Industry Fair, as well as our year 9 Options Evening for parents, carers and students. Our second Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 30 January where we will be able to share our exciting new pathways for 2025. We look forward to the term progressing and hopefully, warmer temperatures beginning to embrace us.

Back to School

As we return to school from the Christmas break, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our standards and expectations in line with our Behaviour and Attitudes Policy. This week, all students have received assemblies to remind them of such expectations, and staff have continued to complete daily standards checks through form time. All students should arrive to school wearing full school uniform, including a school bag. Students should have all the relevant equipment they need for their lessons, including PE kits when appropriate. Trainers are not permitted to be worn in school (except during lunchtime when using the field). Nails should be natural and free from all products. All devices are not to be used on site and carbonated drinks are prohibited. Students will receive behaviour logs under 'Standards and Expectations' which will lead to sanctions should they not adhere to our policy. We ask all students to adhere to school life in line with the Maghull High Way.

Maghull High Way

Aspire	Achieve	Enjoy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend every day and every lesson on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be ready to learn and listen to all instructions – First time every time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat all members of the school community with kindness, dignity and respect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear full school uniform worn smartly and with pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay engaged and always try your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move in a calm and orderly manner taking responsibility for the school environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be fully equipped every day for all lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take pride in your work and achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace all opportunities that are offered throughout the school

Attendance

We understand that some parents/carers have struggled to make contact with school to report an absence due to busy phonelines. When reporting your child's absence, please email attendance@maghullhigh.com so a member of the team can get in touch.

Nut Free School

A polite reminder that Maghull High School is a Nut Free School. Most school classrooms will have at least one allergic pupil. To protect our school community Maghull High School is ensuring we are a Nut Free School.

Rewards and Recognition

Congratulations to this week's Headteacher's Award winners: Louisa, Jacob, Charlie, Maya Rae, Saskia and Thira.



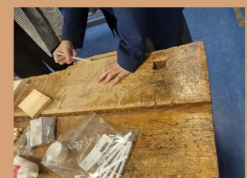
Gardening Club

This term, in Gardening Club, we have been working with the DT department to make bug houses. We will then look to paint them and place them around the school gardens.

Last term, we planted a variety of bulbs such as crocus, daffodil and iris bulbs outside of our Sixth Form Centre. We look forward to these blooming in Spring.



Part one
Making our bug
houses



Animal Encounters

To support their GCSE study of art and photography, students in year 10 were visited by some very special guests this week...



Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 30 January



Year 9 Options Evening: Wednesday 12 February

Parents and carers of students in year 9 are invited to attend our Options Information Evening on Wednesday 12 February, 6pm-7pm. The evening will be held in the Howe Theatre and will provide parents and carers with essential information regarding the options process, pathways and subjects available to choose.

Maghull High School
Southport Learning Trust

Maghull High School

Year 9

Options Information
2024

START
THINKING
ABOUT
THE
FUTURE

Social Media and County Lines.

A briefing on how organised crime groups use social media to groom and exploit young people.

There is information that "one in four young people (24%) reported that they see illicit drugs advertised for sale on social media – a significant figure considering how recent a phenomenon this is."

- Most common social media platforms used to advertise drugs are Snapchat 56%, Instagram 55% and Facebook 47%.
- Most drugs are available with adverts viewed being Cannabis 63%, Cocaine 26%, MDMA/Ecstasy 24%, Xanax 20%, Nitrous Oxide 17% and Codeine/Lean 16%.

In The Children's Society report "Counting Lives: Responding to Children Who Are Criminally Exploited" (July 2019) Practitioners mention young people are approached through social media platforms to initially engage in County Lines models of exploitation. During Covid-19 restrictions, young people are spending more time online. There has been a national increase in perpetrators grooming young people online via social media and online gaming sites for both sexual and criminal exploitation.

Online Grooming is the act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline. Online platforms, such as online gaming, social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to do this.

There are many risks facing young people online to be aware of. Anyone can adopt any identity, young people can be manipulated to share information or images online, constant contact means there is no escape for young people from their exploiter.



Social Media and How It Can Be Used within the County Lines context.

- Largely media audiences are grown through developing a customer base and encouraging young people or customers to share. Often "customers" are sharing on their stories positive reviews, referral deals, new products.
- Dealers can share "stories" to their followers but depending on the app, information can be shared through geographical location.
- Advertising occurs through sharing photos, videos or statuses showing money, new drugs or when they are open for "business". Use of hashtags on platforms such as Instagram mean that individuals can search for specific terms linked to drug use and can find an account to purchase from in minutes. Outright searches for drugs are banned, however users can still search slang that will go undetected by Instagram.
- Emojis are also used to mask and hide language that is linked to drugs, violence and sexual activity online. Examples for selling drugs may be 🍷 (buying "Snow") 🍷 (buying an 8th) or 🍷 (purity of drugs).
- After finding an advert, buyers can then contact dealers directly by commenting on their post or by using encrypted messaging services. Exchanges can then happen in person or through postal delivery.
- The design features on Social Media Platforms enables dealers to expand their network and professionalise their "business". Functions like 'suggested friends' means that there is an element of trust through acquaintance and young people are more likely to accept requests with mutual friends.
- End to end encryption on many platforms means that only the individuals sending and receiving communication can see this. Some social media platforms also have time limits on when a message can be viewed making it more difficult to be able to capture evidence.



How can Parents, Carers or Professionals use Social Media to protect their child?

- If a young person is linked to online criminal activity, some essential information to evidence:
 - Username
 - App being used
 - QR code/barcode (Snapchat, this can be found by clicking the account detail in the top left corner of the home screen.)
 - Evidence of content that is concerning. This can be through a screenshot or taking an image from a different device. Screenshots on some apps like Snapchat and Instagram alerts the original poster that a screenshot has been taken and this can put someone at risk of further harm.
- Some apps have functions that mean that messages or images shared are only visible for a small period of time or are only able to be opened once. The best way to record this is through taking a photograph of it from another device.
- Seek immediate advice from the local police, who have access to specialist resources to ensure that the evidence is recovered to allow for children to be safeguarded.

Further Information and Support.

- **The National Crime Agency County Lines Website** explain more about County Lines and indicators of exploitation in your area. [National Crime Agency County Lines Information](#)
- **Safe 4 Me** has details about support services nationally for young people impacted by Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation. They also have lots of information regarding specific forms of exploitation, understanding trauma, rights and the law and much more. [Safe 4 Me Support Services Information](#)
- **The Safeguarding Network** have helpful tips for understanding indicators of exploitation and what may make a young person more vulnerable to being exploited. [The Safeguarding Network Resources](#)
- **The NSPCC** offer guidance on understanding specific apps and platforms that young people may be using on their [Net-Aware](#) website.

Regular Attendance

100%

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress. Being present allows children to form lasting friendships, develop essential interpersonal skills, and contribute to better mental health and overall well-being.



Authorised Absences

Schools must only grant leaves of absence for specific circumstances set out in the 2024 attendance regulations.

The permitted circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

See the guidance (paragraph 37).

Unfortunately a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.



SCAN ME!



Penalty Notice Changes

There are significant changes to penalty notices for unauthorised absences during term time, effective from 19 August 2024.

What you need to know:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

New penalty rates:

£160 per parent per child, £80 if paid within 21 days.

Second offence within 3 years:
£160 with no discount.

Penalty after 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period.
This includes late arrivals after the register closes.
The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.

Max 2 penalties in 3 years per child. Further offences may lead to prosecution.

Regular attendance helps your child succeed!
Contact us if you have any questions.



Late to School

School registers close at 9.15am. The guidance states, 'if a pupil...arrives...after the register has closed, the attendance register must be amended to record them as absent using code U or another absence code that is more appropriate.'

This means that a child who arrives between 9.15am and 12.25pm will be marked as an unauthorised absence, unless there is a reason set out in the authorised absences section.



ATTENDANCE UPDATES



New Statutory
Government
Guidelines for 2024



Academic Benefits



<i>Better Learning</i>	Regular attendance helps children keep up with lessons & understand material.
<i>Steady Progress</i>	Attending school every day means students don't fall behind and can stay on track.
<i>Higher Grades</i>	Being in school regularly gives children more chances to improve their marks.
<i>Increased Participation</i>	Regular attendance helps children get involved in lessons and activities.
<i>Extra Support</i>	Children who attend regularly have better access to teachers and extra help when needed.



Social Benefits

<i>Improved Social Skills</i>	Being in school helps children make friends and learn how to work with others.
<i>Sense of Belonging</i>	Attending regularly helps children feel part of the school community.
<i>Teamwork</i>	Working with classmates in lessons and activities builds teamwork skills.



Wellbeing Benefits

<i>Emotional Stability</i>	Routine helps children feel secure and less anxious.
<i>Good Habits</i>	Regular attendance builds important life skills like time management and responsibility.



CONTACT US

If you would like more information about the government statutory guidelines and the school's policy, which can be found on our website, **please email: attendance@maghullhigh.com**

Additional Support



Following the new government statutory guidance around attendance, we want to reiterate the support that is available to our young people and their family.

At Maghull High School we are committed to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment that prioritises the mental health and wellbeing of every student.

Our dedicated Wellbeing Support Team is here to provide the resources, guidance, and care needed to help students thrive both academically and personally.

There are several external agencies who also provide support for young people and their families. Click the logo to find out more information:



Online wellbeing offering ways to manage emotions, helpful podcasts and more!



A great app to help with every day worries and to help look after yourself using meditation and breathing techniques.



An app to help learn hundreds of meditations to help with sleep and feelings of worry.



Emotional and practical support and guidance for children, young people and families



A mental health charity offering online counselling to those aged 8-21, who cannot afford or access support quickly.



Upcoming Event: Careers and Industry Insight Day

Advanced notice that on Friday 14 February we will be holding our annual Careers and Industry Insight Day for students across year 8-13. This event takes place throughout the day in our school sports hall with each company, industry and organisation set up with a stall each. Students are then able to attend and find out more information about various career pathways. There will also be representatives from further and higher education establishments taking part. If any of our parents or carers wish to take part to represent their own business or career, we welcome any additional support. Please email careers@maghullhigh.com for more information.

Staying Safe in Icy Weather

As temperatures continue to plummet, it is essential that all students keep themselves safe, especially around frozen water. Some top tips for staying safe have been provided in the graphic.

'Friday Feels'

Every Friday, we will be bringing the school speaker into the canteen where students can choose the songs they love to listen to during lunchtime. This is a great way to help kickstart their weekend!



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50% of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may over balance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can



DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.



Dates for the diary

- Monday, 6 January: All students return to school
- Thursday, 23 January: Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thursday, 30 January: Sixth Form Open Day
- Thursday, 6 February: Year 8 Parents Evening
- Wednesday, 12 February: Year 9 Options Evening
- Friday, 14 February: Staff and students finish for half term (normal school hours).
- Monday, 24 February: INSET Day.
- Thursday, 27 February: Year 11 Parents Evening
- Thursday, 6 March: Year 9 Parents Evening
- Thursday, 3 April: Year 13 Parents Evening
- Friday, 4 April: End of term