

Headteacher's Bulletin – 3 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this email finds you well.

Sports day

Due to the hot weather our annual sports week has been spread over two weeks, coming to a head with the track and field events today. This is always a highlight of the school calendar and a fantastic way for students to represent their houses with such pride and enthusiasm! Over the course of the



two weeks, students have been participating in their team events, which included Bench ball, Football, Handball, Rounders, Table Tennis and Dodge ball. It is great watching students work as a team, demonstrate skill and athleticism and, most important of all, having fun. This morning the field events took place, followed by the track events this afternoon. It is always a joy to see the whole school on the sports field

supporting their house and this year dressed in their house colours! I am pleased to let you know the results for sports week are as follows.

- 1st - Brunel
- 2nd - Darwin
- 3rd - Newton
- 4th - Curie
- 5th - Stephenson

Well done to all who participated over the fortnight. I would also like to say a big thank you to the PE Faculty for facilitating a fantastic house event as always.

Parking

This is a topic that we have often covered in the bulletin, but unfortunately, it is still a matter of concern. The traffic and road usage within the school vicinity can be extremely dangerous at times. We often see parents dropping students off in the middle of the moving traffic, which not only causes a lot of congestion, but it is extremely unsafe. I am asking that you think carefully before letting your child out of the car and, if possible, park some distance away. There are plenty of spots within walking distance where cars can be parked easily and for free. I would ask for your support in reiterating the importance of road safety with your children, particularly when there is heavy traffic around. We do not want there to be any accidents, so please do think carefully when using the surrounding roads.

St Marks Meals

As you will know we are proud suppliers of St. Mark's Meals boxes. Please be assured that if you are in need of any support over the summer holidays, you can collect as many boxes as you need from our reception. Additionally, we remind parents that students eligible for free school meals can participate in the Milton Keynes Council Holiday Activities and Food program during the half term. More information can be found [here](#).

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

A reminder that our spectacular production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* opens next Tuesday, with performances in the Meeting Hall on 7th, 8th and 9th July from 7.00pm–9.30pm. As our first full-scale school musical in seven years, this is a special event showcasing the incredible talents of students, both on stage and behind the scenes. We would love to see the Meeting Hall full for all three performances, giving students the audience they deserve after months of hard work. Tickets are on sale now via the link [here](#), so please book and support our students by coming along to what promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment. We would also like to remind parents that our Crowdfunder campaign is now live and can be accessed [here](#), with donations helping to fund costumes, set design, props and technical equipment. We look forward to welcoming you to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

Online safety

Please see the attached poster regarding the importance of online safety and talking to people online.

Bikeability

This week twenty four students from Years 7-9 took part in Level 2 Bikeability. This a scheme run by the Milton Keynes Council with a focus on teaching students how to cycle safely on local roads. Students are put through their paces and spend all day cycling round Milton Keynes, totally 10-19 miles! Well done to all that took part the instructors were very impressed with all students.

Enrichment reminder

A reminder that next week is our final Enrichment day of the year. If your child has an inhaler or epi-pen they must bring this with them on the day.

Word of the week

The word of the week next week is antagonise, meaning, to incur or provoke the hostility of.

Coming up next week

All week - Blooming with brilliance
New staff induction - Monday 6th July

Com Networks Don't get Conned.

The Dark Side of Online Communities
Some strangers online can seem like your best friends when really, they could be part of a dangerous network who use fake friendships and profiles to target you, gain control and cause harm. Here's what you need to know about Com Networks and how to spot the warning signs and get out safely.

What are Com Networks?
Com Networks (sometimes called "The Com") are online groups that look harmless from the outside, chatting in public spaces about gaming, music, memes or digital art. Then things get darker as you're added into private group chats, where status is everything. Members compete for power and respect and in the worst groups, that means doing or sharing harmful or illegal things.

The People Who Run These Groups Know Exactly What They're Doing
The Com members hang out on popular platforms - Discord servers, Roblox games, random chats, comment sections, social media messaging and platforms you wouldn't even think of - looking to recruit. They find common ground, start a 'friendship' and gain your trust. They may make you feel important, special or understood.

Then, you're invited into more private chats. Over time, the tone starts to change - jokes start to get darker. Rules get established. Fitting in starts to mean doing dares, sharing harmful content, or proving your loyalty. What felt like a friendly chat can quickly lead to real harm, including sextortion, cyber attacks, radicalisation, extremist views, even inciting violence.

By the time something feels wrong, you might already feel close to the people in the chat and under pressure to comply, and that's exactly what they want, because it makes leaving feel impossible.

Leaving safely
Trust your gut early - if something feels off in a new group, block the people involved and step away.
If a group has gone too far - stay calm, there's always a way out. Tell an adult you trust (a parent/carer or professional) so they can help plan a safe exit.

The Police Advise:
➤ Screenshot threatening messages as evidence (but never screenshot any nude/semi-nude images).
➤ Consider deactivating, not deleting - it's helpful to show some information to a trusted adult.
➤ The slow fade - gradually reduce contact before leaving to avoid retaliation.
➤ Report abusive users on the platform before blocking them. Remember - being targeted isn't your fault and doesn't make you weak. Support is always there. Just reach out.

Red Flags

- Someone you've met online wants to chat somewhere more private.
- Jokes, dares or content keep getting darker and chats get deleted.
- Platform hopping - a backup platform is lined up in case of bans, often somewhere adults don't monitor (e.g. Spotify, Pinterest).
- There's a clear hierarchy in the group and lots of slang and in-jokes.
- You're pressured into sending personal information or pictures of yourself.
- You worry about your status in the group, stepping out of line or getting kicked out.
- Someone you barely know is gift bombing you - often used to pressure you into repaying them in harmful ways.
- You're pressured to prove yourself - sharing something private or hurting yourself or someone else.

These signs don't always mean you've been targeted but they're all worth talking to a trusted adult about.

If you're asked to do something you know is wrong - Pause. Stay Calm. Don't do it. Speak to a trusted adult ASAP.

Are They Really Your Friends?
Members might feel like the closest friends you've ever had. The only ones who 'get' you, encourage you and never judge. This is exactly what the members want to do. Build 'friendships' to gain control, inflict harm and earn clout in the group. Real friends don't ask you to prove yourself in harmful ways, keep secrets from your family or get angry when you're offline. If any of that sounds familiar, what you're in isn't a friendship.

Helping a Friend
Listen and support them but remember you don't need to know all the details. Always encourage them to speak to a trusted adult and never add, follow or confront any of the members.

Getting Help

- 999 - immediate danger
- 101 - non-emergency police reports
- childline - 0800 1111 - free, confidential, under-19s
- CEOP - report online sexual abuse or grooming
- IWF / Report Remove - if you're under 18, get a nude or semi-nude image or video of yourself taken down from the internet

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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Opening night - Tuesday 7th July
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Wednesday 8th July
New Parent Drop in - Wednesday 8th July
Human Rights and Responsibility Conference - Wednesday 8th July
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Thursday 9th July
Enrichment Day and Year 12 Future Day - Friday 10th July

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Steed
Headteacher