



# Newsletter

***Dear Armfield Parents and Carers,***

*A warm welcome to this week's newsletter! We are always delighted to share the fantastic achievements of our students and keep you updated with important reminders to ensure everything runs smoothly at Armfield Academy.*

**Reminders:**

All students should be in school every day. Attendance is vital to learning.

Please write your young person a note if they are missing part of their uniform for a valid reason. It will really help us out when keeping our standards high and our young people smart and ready to learn.

Parents evenings have been added to MCAS so you are aware of the dates and will go live 2 weeks before each parents evening. We are looking forward to the year 7 'Meet the form tutor' evening on the **1st October 4-6pm**.

**European Day of Languages**

We will be once again marking European Day of Languages, which takes place each year on the 26th September.

Again, this year, we have planned a number of challenges. Please encourage your young person to get involved.

**Key Stage 2**

**Year 3-** pebble art-take a pebble and paint/colour/design in the theme of a French speaking country.

**Year 4-** design a flag from a French speaking country-colour it/ craft it!

**Year 5-**create a monument from a French speaking country-last year we were stunned by your efforts!

**Year 6-**research a French speaking country. Prepare a short info-graphic about your chosen country. Include facts and pictures.

We will be presenting our work to our classmates week commencing 29th September. Please bring all tasks into school to your class teacher by Friday 26th September.

We look forward to celebrating all of our efforts.

**Key Stage 3**

## Years 7-11

We will be launching another Duo Lingo competition for staff and students. This will be explained in form and by French class teachers. Last year this was a resounding success. This year, we hope to tie this in with the launch of our new house system too.

## European Day of Languages 26 September



## Christmas card competition:

Chris Webb is inviting all primary school aged children to take part in a Christmas Card Competition. The winning design will win £100 gift card as well as appearing on Chris' official Christmas card and sent across the constituency and Westminster. Second place will receive a £50 gift card and have their artwork on the back of the card.

A runner up from each year group will also receive a £20 gift card and have their entries showcased on social media.

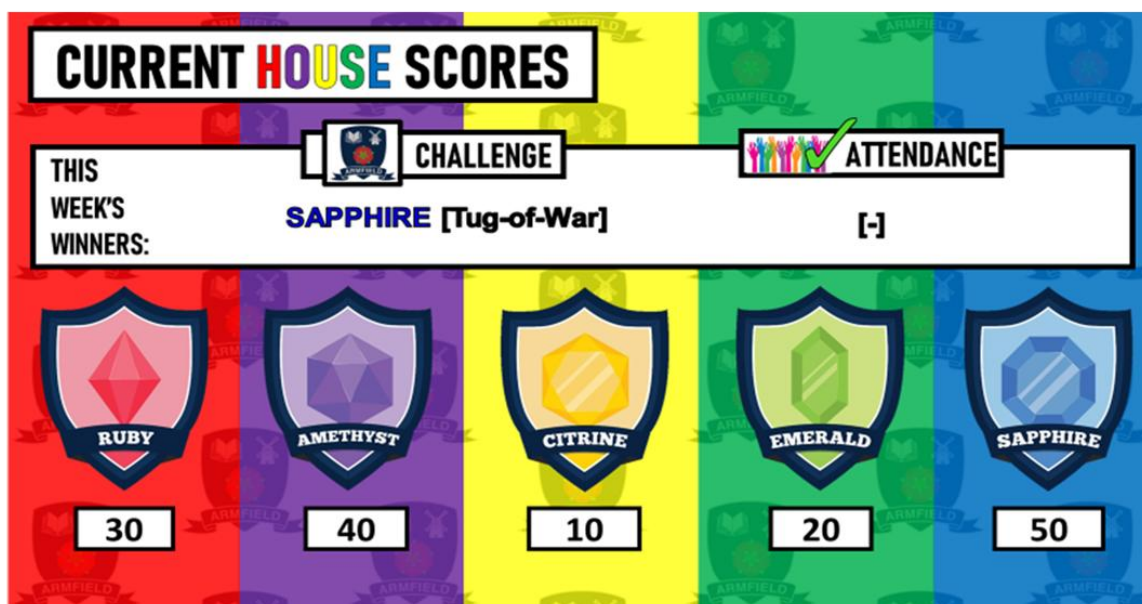
The theme is Christmas and Community

Entries should be drawn or painted on A4 paper with the child's full name, year group and school on the back in pencil and be emailed to [chris.webb.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.webb.mp@parliament.uk) or posted to Chris Webb MP, House of Commons. SW1A 0AA by **7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**



## House System Update

This week, our house system competition kickstarted with a whole-school tug-of-war challenge. Students and staff from the five houses converged on the yard and worked as a team in order to overcome their rivals and clinch 50 house points. Over 600 children participated – and it was great to see the older pupils encouraging our new Year 7 students [and other younger year groups] to participate. The winning house was **Sapphire House**, who now sit pretty at the top of the house leader board. There is already an excitement around the corridors in anticipation for next week's challenges.





## **Year 11 Cambridge Trip:**

The students spent overnight on Monday in student accommodation at Churchill College, experienced eating in the college dining room, spent time in the city centre and then attended the Physics at Work exhibition on Tuesday afternoon.

They saw some really cool equipment including cloud chambers, muon detectors and lasers with diffraction gratings. They also got hands on to change go kart tyres in record time, made their own mini solar cells and some stood on a bed of nails!

They all had a great time and were still laughing and joking at 11pm getting off the bus.



## **Homework:**

Homework and independent learning are crucial at Armfield Academy because they help pupils consolidate their knowledge and practise key skills. They also encourage our pupils to build self-discipline and responsibility for their own progress. Using a mix of written tasks in exercise books and online platforms to set homework provides variety and supports different learning styles. Online platforms can offer immediate feedback, while exercise books help pupils develop their written skills ready for





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future study and exams. Please find further information regarding our homework schedule on the attached document.

## **Important Assessment Dates**

**Year 11 Summer Examinations: Monday 11th May - Wednesday 24th June 2026.** All year 11 students must attend all of their examinations during these dates. Do not book any holidays.

**Year 6 SATs: Monday 10th May - Thursday 13th May 2026.** All year 6 pupils must attend school between these dates.

## **Attached documents –**

- Homework schedule
- Internet safety – Snapchat
- Firework safety

*Thank you for your continued support—we love celebrating our students' successes with you!*

**Best wishes,**

*The Armfield Academy Team*

## Homework Information for Secondary Parents



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Please see an outline of the homework set by each of our departments.

KS3 refers to year 7, 8 & 9.

KS4 refers to year 10 & 11.

Subject	Information	When
Geography	Exercise book	KS3 - fortnightly KS4 - weekly
Travel & Tourism	Exercise book	KS4 weekly - due in the first lesson of the week.
History	KS3: Exercise book KS4: Exercise book / Google Classroom	KS3 - fortnightly KS4 - weekly
Religious Studies	KS3: Exercise book KS4: Exercise book / Google Classroom	KS3 - fortnightly KS4 - weekly
Computer Science		KS3 fortnightly: due every second lesson. KS4 weekly: due Monday.
Science	Carousel Y11: Past exam questions	Weekly (set on Thursday) Due on Tuesday
French	Google Classroom Classcharts Y6 vocab book KS4 vocab book	Y6 & KS3 fortnightly KS4 weekly- due each Tuesday.
English	Century Tech Y7–10 given vocabulary words to learn.	Weekly (Friday 4pm) Due on Friday.
ADT	Sketchbooks/ Google classroom	KS4 Weekly- mirrored with google classroom objectives.
Maths	Yr 7-10 Learning by Questions Yr 11: Past exam questions	All set weekly. Year 11 some classes may also complete Learning by Questions as compulsory or optional homework.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

**SNAP STREAK**

**97**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍀 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

## SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

## SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

## 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.



**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College

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

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025



# Firework Code



Lancashire Fire  
and Rescue Service

**Always supervise young children**

**Light sparklers one at a time**

**Keep pets indoors**

**Keep them in a closed box**

**Follow all instructions carefully**

**Stand well back**

**DO's**

**&**

**Don'ts**

**Never return to a lit firework**

**Don't give sparklers to under 5's**

**Don't set fireworks off after 11pm**

**Never put them in your pocket**

**Never throw them**

**For more information visit:**

[www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/bonfires-and-fireworks.aspx](http://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/bonfires-and-fireworks.aspx)





# Fireworks, The Law and You



Lancashire Fire  
and Rescue Service

**Fireworks can only be purchased from registered sellers for private use between:**

**15th October – 10th November**

**26th December – 31st December**

**3 days before Diwali or Chinese New Year**

**It is illegal to sell fireworks or sparklers to anyone under 18**

**It is illegal for anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in public**

**If you are caught with fireworks in public you could be given an on the spot fine of £80**

**It is an offence to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am**

**It is also an offence to obstruct emergency workers**

**If you are caught committing any of these offences you could be given an on the spot fine or be taken to court where you can be given a heavier fine or prison sentence.**



**THINK ABOUT IT.**