



# 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.*

**Important messages**

Thank you to all the parents whose young people attend school on time and in full uniform. We really appreciate your support each day to ensure our young people are ready to learn each day.

Please contact us if you have any worries about your young person and form tutors will be happy to support in the first instance and can direct you to the member of staff you need.

Please ensure your young person brings a coat and water bottle to school each day.

Please ensure dinner cards are topped up for the week ahead.

We ask parents not to contact their young people during the school day allowing them to focus on their learning and not be distracted.

**Whole School Attendance – Teamwork makes the dream work!**

A big thanks to our students and parents for making a really positive start to this academic year in terms of attendance to school. We continue to improve our attendance as a school and currently sit at 92.9% overall. This means overall that our students are missing less lessons, missing out less socially with their friends, can access much more enrichment and can therefore develop more of a positive routine day in, day out. All of these factors build to us developing a strong togetherness and culture within school, something we are determined to build on further.

Year	Cohort	School	National	National distribution banding
2024/25	1152	91.8%	92.3%	Close to average
2023/24	1119	90.2%	91.1%	Close to average
2022/23	1061	89.9%	91.0%	Close to average





# Newsletter

## **Secondary Punctuality to School – On time, all the time!**

We continue to challenge our secondary students to be on time to school every day. The school gates open at 08:20am and close promptly at 08:45am when our morning form time begins. A reminder here, as per the letter that was sent out at the beginning of November, is that if students are late to school, they will be issued a same day 1-hour detention. As a direct consequence, punctuality to school has improved week on week over the last 3 weeks but we can still improve further. Thanks for your support with this important initiative. Please do not hesitate to communicate to us any genuine reasons for students being late to school so that it can be accounted for each day.

## **Developing Respect at Armfield**

One of our key principles at Armfield Academy is respect and despite much change in the world currently, we are delighted with the respect and tolerance our students show on a day-to-day basis in school. A strand of being respectful that we continue to develop is the ability of our students to both express their own thoughts and feelings but also listen to the opinions of others with compassion and empathy. We value free speech; however, extreme views are not welcome in school as we seek to develop well-rounded, articulate individuals who finish school and are ready for the wider world around them. Thanks for your support in helping us achieve this goal.

## **Rewards trip**

If your Year 7, 8 or 9 child has received a trip letter please ensure you have filled out the google form (not everybody received a letter).

Payments will open on Tuesday 2nd December on MCAS if your child was one of the first 80 per year group who has filled out the google form.

The google form is on the letter sent home.

Any issues please email Miss Panepinto on [e.panepinto@armfield.fcat.org.uk](mailto:e.panepinto@armfield.fcat.org.uk)



## Christmas at Armfield

What an incredible evening! Our annual **Armfield Christmas Market** last night was a spectacular success, and we are absolutely delighted by the energy and festive spirit shared by everyone who attended. A huge thank you to the fantastic **stallholders** who offered such a wonderful array of crafts, gifts, and treats—your commitment and creativity were truly the heart of the event. We are also deeply grateful to all the **parents, families, and friends** who came out to support the school; your generosity helps us raise vital funds and makes our community events so special. Thank you for making this one of our best markets yet!











## Christmas at Armfield Academy

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

4.00-7.00PM

LIGHT SWITCH ON AT 5.00PM

## FOLLOWED BY A HUGE FESTIVE PROGRAMME!

<b>4th DEC</b>	<b>Families (Ticket Only)</b> Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop 15.30-17.30
<b>5th DEC</b>	<b>Reception</b> Winter Outdoor Day
<b>9th DEC</b>	<b>Whole-School</b> Christmas Dinner Day Pay via MCAS
<b>9th DEC</b>	<b>Whole-School</b> Christmas Jumper Day £1 donation
<b>9th DEC</b>	<b>Primary Choir</b> Blackpool Music Service Christmas Festival
<b>11th DEC</b>	<b>Reception</b> Nativity 10.00-11.00
<b>11th DEC</b>	<b>Year 1 &amp; Year 2</b> Christmas Play 18.00-19.00



<b>12th DEC</b>	<b>Primary</b> PTFA Santa Dash £1 donation
<b>15th DEC</b>	<b>Year 3, Year 4 &amp; Year 5</b> Christmas Poetry Competition
<b>17th DEC</b>	<b>Year 3,4,5,6 &amp; Families</b> Christmas Concert. Holy Trinity Church 17.00-18.00
<b>18th DEC</b>	<b>Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2</b> Breakfast with Santa
<b>18th DEC</b>	<b>Primary</b> Christmas Parties (Non-Uniform)
<b>19th DEC</b>	<b>Primary</b> Christmas Singalong
<b>19th DEC</b>	<b>Whole-School</b> Academy Closes 12pm





## Achievements

Year 9 Football played Carnforth High in the 2nd Round of the Lancashire Cup winning 8-1.

Some great football on a difficult surface!

Year 9 Girls came 3rd out of 8 in the Blackpool schools tournament and played brilliantly as a team – well done



Girls' Primary Football Team – Cup Finals Success!



A huge congratulations to our amazing girls' football team who finished 2nd place in the Cup Finals round-robin this morning!

After previously progressing confidently through two competitive rounds to reach the finals, the team continued to shine, winning 3 out of their 4 games with fantastic teamwork, determination and skill.

We are incredibly proud of their attitude and the way they represented our school. Well done

girls! 🌟👏

#Proud #TeamSpirit #GirlsFootball





Our Yr 10s became Blackpool Basketball Champions this week! With an amazing final score of Armfield 26-6 St Mary's. Well done boys, a great team and credit to the school.



On Monday evening our year 9 team competed in the Blackpool schools netball tournament. They showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and determination. The team spirit from this group of students is brilliant to see. As a result of winning 5 games, the girls finished in 3rd place! A big well done to our year 9 team!





## #WakeUpWednesday - Roblox

Whilst they can be a great way for friends to socialise, online games like Roblox that allow multiplayer gameplay with strangers are always fraught with a variety of dangers that can expose children to inappropriate or harmful content. Roblox enables people to play anonymously, which can often be something that attracts people to misuse the game and potentially put young people at risk of harm.

In addition to interacting with random strangers across the world, other factors such as in-game purchases and potential scams can also pose a financial risk. It's important that parents and educators remain aware of the risks associated with this popular title and how it can be used safely. Poster attached offers parents and educators expert advice on what can be done to ensure that young people have a safe and enjoyable experience with Roblox.

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, links and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
PEGI 7

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

##### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

##### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

##### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

##### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game artefacts and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

##### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real-world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

##### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

#### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviour, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help and figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

#### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dan Upcombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMAbible.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

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## **Computer Science event**

A group of year 7s attended a computer science event at Blackpool and the Fylde college on Tuesday 25th. They behaved really well and performed well as a group. Developing their hard and soft skills, in technology, team work, and problem solving.







## House System Update

This week, we held our first house assemblies of the academic year. Students across all five year groups in the secondary school came together for a presentations from their respective House Leads.

The topics on the agenda were: progress in recent house challenges; charity partnership; house ethos & culture and the upcoming senior student application system. As for the latter, pupils who wish to apply for the following roles and responsibilities will have until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December to complete their application form. This is an opportunity for your child to improve their confidence and develop their leadership skills. It gives them a taste of the working world. The roles are:

- House Captains [Years 11 & 10]
- House Ambassadors [Years 9, 8 & 7]
- Sports Captains [open to all years]



On Friday, our pupils had the opportunity to complete a bushtucker trial in an 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' food challenge. Snails, crickets, worms and fish eggs were on the menu as house members had the chance to move out of their comfort zones and eat food items which are not part of British culture. After many squirms and a lot of watery eyes, the King of the Jungle was **Emerald house**. The scores were:

1<sup>st</sup> - **Emerald** – 50 points / 2<sup>nd</sup> **Amethyst** – 40 points / 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Citrine** – 30 points / 4<sup>th</sup> - **Ruby** – 20 points / 5<sup>th</sup> **Sapphire** – 10 points



Finally, the house with the highest average attendance was Amethyst with 91.8%. As a result, 10 additional points are awarded.

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

**Best wishes,**

*The Armfield Academy Team*