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## Could learning loss and lack of exam practice affect 2022 GCSEs?



With GCSEs just on the horizon, it's important to know that our school and nation have considered the impact of the pandemic on our learning outcomes. Students studying and preparing for exams could be subjected to severe disruption and lack of motivation due to the constant disturbance caused by the pandemic. The lack of exam practice and exam conditions, excluding mocks, could lead to anxiety and trepidation as the weeks build up to the final exams. Also, taking into account the colossal pressure the students will be under to get excellent grades and to work exceedingly hard daily, the disruption has only made things worse. Fortunately, due to mocks, the pupils will not be entirely unaware of the perhaps nerve-racking conditions they will have to succumb to. A quote from the Guardian says, 'Children taking GCSE

Grace Scott

courses appeared most at risk of disruption, with nearly one in four pupils in years 10 and 11 saying they could not get help from family members with questions about their schoolwork, while 40% said they lacked a routine to help them study from home.'

It's evident that for 2 years COVID has caused great catastrophe and calamity all over the country but it's taken an immense toll on the education system. There are many ways our students could be affected. For example, high staff absences during COVID could mean students have missed out on specialist teaching prior to exams. It's unquestionable - pupils with GCSEs approaching will be faced with this continual panic, but I'm sure this year it'll be much higher. BBC news tells us in this academic year 83,255 pupils have missed between five-and-a-half and 10 days. So let me ask you this - should grade boundaries be eased? Should this colossal pressure consuming our students also be eased? I'm sure that if any year 11s express concerns for the upcoming days exams, that they can, and should, inform and ask a teacher for support and guidance.

# The Best Games of 2022

Since a lot of the articles in the newspaper seem to be centred around more serious and 'controversial' topics to some, I thought I'd have my second article be something more relaxed. As someone who is really passionate about video gaming, and has spent almost my entire life playing them, I thought I could write about a few new games that came out this year that you should totally play if you get the chance!



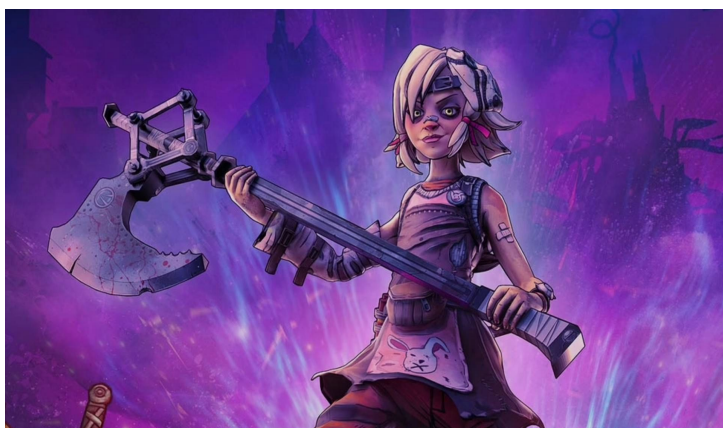
First off is the new Warner Bros. video game, LEGO Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga. At the time of writing, it's to be released on the 5th April this year. The official website states that you will be able to "Play through all nine Star Wars films in a brand-new Lego video game unlike any other." If you're a fan of Star Wars through games, films or comics or if you just like Lego games in general, this may be for you! It's available on both the PS4 and 5, the Nintendo Switch and Xbox One.

Next up is the highly-anticipated (at least in my opinion, I really like Wii sports dude) reboot of Wii Sports, Nintendo Switch Sports, the third entry in the Wii Sports games series. Release is scheduled for April 29th, and so far it is said to contain six different sports minigames; Tennis, Bowling, Chambara, Football, Badminton and Volleyball. Similar to

Emily Goring

how you could play as your own customizable Miis in the previous instalments, Switch Sports also contains its own character customization feature, with way more options than before! If you like sports, gaming, or maybe just going against unfairly overpowered swordplay and boxing CPUs all over again then you should totally 'borrow' money from your parents for it!

I have a feeling at least someone in this school has probably played Borderlands before, so here's a Borderlands game. Tiny Tina's Wonderlands is an action role-playing FPS game, successor to Borderlands 2: Tiny Tina's Assault on Dragon Keep and a spin-off of the main series. It's similar to DnD gameplay-wise, and can be played solo or up to three other players in online or local play. It was released on the 25th of March (5 days before the time this was written) and although I haven't played it yet, I still know enough about the game itself to say it's definitely worth your money.



And while it's still no GTA 6, there is a remaster of GTA 5 that arrived on PS5 and Xbox Series X on the 15th. That's all I'm gonna say because it's an 18 rated game and I don't really know how teachers would feel about me promoting a game with "High Impact Drug Use" among other 'inappropriate' topics.

# What is mental health?

Lilly Hodgkinson & Aaron Denham

Mental health is all to do with you and how you/people around you make you feel. It is usually good and sometimes your mood can get worse which can lead to you feeling stressed out or upset. These emotions can sometimes get out of control and, in some cases, lead to panic attacks or break downs. This can be hard to deal with but there are tactics to help with combating it. Mental health and wellness is a big part of your life and how your day goes.

What should you do when you have a panic attack? There are techniques such as "the 5 senses". This is where you name 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can feel, 2 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste. Sometimes, it also works to name colours. This works because the part of your brain responsible for logic and sequences is stimulated to encourage you to focus.

Another issue is that, sometimes we treat people poorly, which can have an impact on mental health and its deterioration. Certain jokes, even if at the time they seem funny, can have a serious impact on people suffering with mental health issues. We aren't asking you to never tell a joke, only to be responsible when doing so. If you are struggling, you should always try to talk to someone you trust, whether it's a friend, a teacher or a member of staff.

Useful phone numbers for those struggling with mental health:

- *National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK:*  
0800 689 5652
- *Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM):*  
0800 58 58 58
- *The Mix Helpline for Under-25 year olds:*  
0808 808 4994

## BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE - GREETINGS



**HELLO**



**THANKS/PLEASE**



**GOOD**



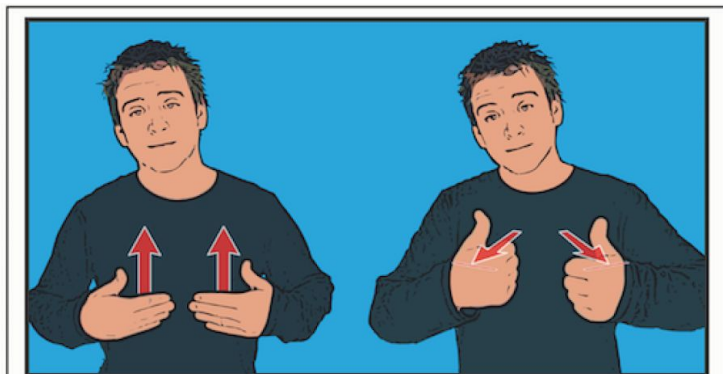
**MORNING**



**AFTERNOON**



**NIGHT**



**HOW ARE YOU?**



**SORRY**



**GOODBYE**




[british-sign.co.uk](http://british-sign.co.uk)



## Taking steps to tackle disability discrimination

Mrs Gray



disability  
**RIGHTS**  
are human  
**RIGHTS**

I am really glad to see that pupils are championing disability awareness. As the new curriculum leader for Secure it is a topic I feel very strongly about and I have taken several steps this year to try to raise disability awareness myself.

At the very start of this academic year, I set up a number of working parties to look at various issues within our school community. These are groups of staff who have a particular interest or skill. For example, the disability working party is led by Miss Williams, our SENCO, but it also includes various members of teaching and support staff who have links with disability, either through personal experience or by loved ones being affected. The group recommended to me that we needed to raise the profile of both visible and invisible disabilities. I made sure this was added to the plan for Secure for this year and this is why we have recently had two whole school sessions about disability.

Year 7 will also have a Respect day about disability awareness where they will be visited by the charity Daisy and take part in sporting activities with disabled athletes.

Miss Greaves is also currently developing a British Sign Language course as part of the Duke of Edinburgh course that she runs in Year 9 Aspire. As more year groups complete this year, we will have a growing number of pupils who can use some BSL, which will be very inclusive for those who have hearing issues.

The working party and I will continue to investigate ways to educate Parklands pupils about this topic. I hope from this that you can see how much I am committed to education about disability equality in Secure. I am always open to ideas from pupils and welcome suggestions for Secure, Aspire and Respect.

### The Big Parklands Paper

**Editors: Sammy Taylor &  
Georgia Budge**

If you have any comments on the content of the paper, wish to suggest future articles or want to submit a report to the paper, please email:

[newspaper@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:newspaper@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

### Want to write for the Big Parklands Paper?

Join the newspaper team at  
1.30pm, every Wednesday in W01.