

# ALL SAINTS'

## CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Parent Bulletin – w/b 26/06/23

*Thought for the Week: "Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks and serve him with great humility." Francis of Assisi*

Reminders/information:

**All Saints' Way** - This week's All Saints' way theme continues to be Lead! We always encourage students to lead by example and be the best ambassador for the school both in and out of lessons.



### Berlin trip

Some of our Year 10 students enjoyed a week in Berlin studying the history of the city and practising their language skills. The students were fantastic and a credit to the school. Thank you to the staff who organised and supported the trip.



### Online Safety

Reuters reports that ChatGPT is the fastest-growing consumer app in history, with around 13 million users per day. Given those sorts of figures, it's no surprise that a host of AI imitators have arrived – with many being grafted onto existing social networking platforms.

Our guide this week is again from National Online Safety and looks at the type of AI-powered online companions proving popular with younger users – and highlights what trusted adults need to know about these 'virtual friends'. Please see the flyer at the end of this bulletin.

## Careers:

Last week we were fortunate to have our latest Careers Café hosted by Haart Estate Agents. Students enjoyed talking to the staff and learning about a career in this industry.



## Sixth Form Open Evening

A reminder that the Sixth Form Open Evening Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 6pm – 7.30pm. A great opportunity to find out about our A Level courses and what Sixth Form at All Saints' has to offer.

The poster for 'All Saints' Sixth Form Open Evening' has a blue background. It features the school logo 'AS6', the title 'ALL SAINTS' SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING', and the date '28 June 6.00pm - 7.30pm'. It includes contact information: telephone 01623 474700, address Broomhill Lane, Mansfield, NG19 6BW, email sixthform@allsaints.notts.sch.uk, and website www.allsaints.notts.sch.uk/sixthform. A QR code is provided. The right side shows a collage of students working. Logos for 'OUR LADY OF LOURES' and '#ASPIRE' are also present. At the bottom, the words 'OPPORTUNITY', 'SUPPORT', and 'SUCCESS' are displayed.

## Year 5 Design and Technology Day

Y5 students from St Patricks visited the Technology department on Tuesday for a transition day. They had a fantastic time making gravity racers and competing for whose was the fastest.

A huge thank you to the Technology Department for organising the event and teaching the pupils for the morning. The pupils had a great time.

## Personal Development:

1. **Stress Container** – please follow the link below to watch a video on how stress can be managed by both young people and adults.  
<https://mhfaengland.org/mhfa-centre/resources/address-your-stress/whats-in-your-stress-container.mp4#>

*If you any questions then please refer to the email address below.*

## Careers update:

**Progress Careers reminder:** Please email the address below if you would like to make an appointment to speak to our careers advisor following Year 9 parents' evening.

**Parent sessions** - Email: [naomi.whiting@progress-careers.co.uk](mailto:naomi.whiting@progress-careers.co.uk)

### Parents Evening

Monday 3/7/2023 – Y9 - 1 week after progress evening

## Well-being:

- **Wellbeing email address:** If you have any questions or specific concerns regarding your child's wellbeing then please email the address: [wellbeing@allsaints.notts.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@allsaints.notts.sch.uk)
- **Website links:** Please refer to our school website for any extra support: [Wellbeing - All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy - Mansfield](#)

**Upcoming events:** (details of each event will be sent out to the relevant parents nearer the time).

- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 12 exams begin
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – Sixth Form induction days
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports Day and Year 11 Prom
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 13 Prom
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Rewards Day
- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Year 10 Work Experience
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – students break up for the end of term.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial Intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday