



PARENT BULLETIN

12 DECEMBER 2025

CURRICULUM

Year 11 academic review evening Thursday 8th January 2026 3.15-6pm. We strongly encourage parents/carers to attend this evening for a final opportunity for face-to-face discussions with your child's teachers prior to their GCSEs. A letter with full booking details has been sent via email.

Y11 biology, business and geography revision after school will not be on next week.

Year 9 academic review evening- SAVE THE DATE - Thursday 5th February 2026 3.15-6pm. We look forward to welcoming Y9 parents/carers to this face-to-face evening for you to meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress. A letter with booking details will be emailed after Christmas. We look forward to good attendance at this event in order to support your child making decisions about their KS4 options. Our Y9 option process and information will begin next half term.

KS4 Sparx Reader GCSE English Literature Revision Support - to support KS4 with their study of the 2 set texts for Paper 1 (*Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*), Mr Burke has added information to Class Charts for Year 10 and 11 about using Sparx Reader to revise. This extra support is in addition to the fortnightly 'Recall and Resilience' English Home Learning.

KS3 home learning

Year 7-9 will be informed of the following in form time on Monday next week. Please note that Home learning will not be set over Christmas.

KS3 Home Learning

The following Home Learning tasks are due in this week:

- Sparx Reader from last week (Today)
- Science (from the previous Wk A) (Today)
- MFL (as per Class Charts)
- Sparx Maths from last week (WEDNESDAY)
- Geography (from the previous Wk A) (WEDNESDAY)

Make sure you don't fall behind with your History that was set last week as this will be due in first week back after the Christmas break.

There will be no new home learning set this week - HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

For those of you who have worked hard to engage with your Home Learning - please have a well earned rest over the Christmas break.


For those of you who have fallen behind / have home learning that is incomplete - please make an effort to take some time to get caught up.

Whole-school homework club is not on after school on Monday 15th December.

ATTENDANCE

Please see some important notices regarding attendance next week. Well done to our Attendance Heroes as winners of the prize draws for those attending every day this month.

KEY MESSAGES

Lost property will be displayed next week. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity. 

In terms of promoting road safety, please encourage your child to use designated crossings, stay alert near traffic, and avoid distractions while walking or cycling. Mobile phones can be a major distraction when crossing roads or walking near traffic. Please remind your child to not be distracted by their mobile phone and pay full attention to their surroundings.

The immunisation team are returning to school on 18th December to vaccinate those who were not vaccinated at the last flu session. If you consented to the flu vaccine and your child has been vaccinated by another service, or you no longer want your child vaccinated, please contact the team on 03333583397, option 3.

Thank you to Mrs Konya and her catering team for working so hard to provide a delicious Christmas lunch for our students and staff this week. Thank you to parents/carers who donated to Save the Children for Christmas Jumper Day, and also for any donations made to the Guisborough Bridge Association.

Thank you to Mrs Harris and our students who took part in the Spark Drama Festival last night at our school with other staff and students from our Trust schools.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

As we continue towards Christmas, we have stated to revisit e-safety issues and the inevitability that students will be spending more time on their devices/social media and communicating through multiple apps. This week I have included a Snapchat guide on page 2 of this bulletin. It is very important that parents are regularly checking our young people's phones and their interactions. Even in group chats amongst friends, check what is been sent within these groups. Students easily put themselves at risk of breaking the law should any inappropriate content be shared in group chats. Regular conversations about protecting ourselves online help support students' independence and trust in the online world.

Mr Bayston - Designated Safeguarding Lead

UPCOMING DATES

15th Dec SEN K review evening (invite only)
17th Dec Christmas Concert 7pm
19th Dec Last day for students
22nd Dec - 2nd Jan '26 Christmas Holidays
5th Jan '26 All students return

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

BE PRESENT— **KEEP ATTENDING SCHOOL—** **THE FUN ISN'T OVER YET**

The last week before Christmas is packed with exciting activities and events. Every day brings something special, and great attendance means great rewards. Next week includes:

- ✓ **Daily Christmas Riddle Competition**
- ✓ **Form & Individual Attendance Prizes**
- ✓ **Christmas Cracker Quiz during form time**
- ✓ **Reward Assemblies for All Year Groups**
- ✓ **Daily Attendance Heroes**
- ✓ **Friday Finale: Exciting Activities & a visit from a very special guest.**

Every day at school counts!
Let's finish the term strong

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Encourage your child to attend school every day
- Remind them about the prizes and special events during the last week of term



ATTENDANCE HEROES SO FAR - WELL DONE!

Gracie S	Endean G	Emmie F	Ellie L	Blake R
Jackson F	Sienna P	Klevis K	Lois C	Olivia F
Zak H	Oliver D	Zephan F	Charlotte T	Jack H
Charlie W	Layton-Jay C	Noah G	Kiera G	Layla P
Paige R	Gracelyn A	Jenson D	Archie B	Robert C
Leighton D	Josh W	Evie C-S	Ava H	Jack C
Keziah M	Lenni H	Mollie M	Ellie-Mae M	