

Laurence Jackson School's *Parent Bulletin*

22nd October 2026

As we reach the end of the first half term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students and parents/carers for their support during what has been a positive start to the academic year. Students have settled well into routines and demonstrated commitment to their learning. We have been pleased to see engagement in Year 11 after school revision, which resumes on 9th November and runs until 11th December – please look out for the updated timetable and encourage your child to attend as many sessions as possible. A gentle reminder following notices on previous bulletins that today is the last day of this half term. Tomorrow, Friday 23rd October, is a PD Day and school is closed to students. Students return after the holiday at the normal time on Monday 2nd November. We wish you all an enjoyable half-term break.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education – Parental Consultation - As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, is a statutory part of the National Curriculum. As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme (Learning4Life), your child will receive lessons on relationships, sexual health, and personal safety. We are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing our policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform our decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Please share your views on this by Friday 13th November using the forms link below.

[Relationships & Sex Education \(RSE\) Parental Questionnaire 2026-2027 – Fill out form](#)

The purpose of this is to provide students with an understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on mutual respect in order to encourage them to develop these types of relationships throughout life. Our aim is to support our students to build positive and safe relationships to thrive in modern Britain. Research shows that a comprehensive RSE programme leads to young people having:

- Their first sexual experiences at an older age
- Positive first sexual experiences
- Higher rates of protected sex
- Reduced occurrences of teen pregnancy and STIs
- Feelings of empowerment
- Better relationships with their bodies
- A better understanding of healthy relationships

Although we hope that as parents/ carers, you see the value in the delivery of our RSE curriculum, you have a right to withdraw your child from the sex education element delivered as part of RSE. The Trust will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16 except in exceptional circumstances. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

There is no right to withdraw your child from our overall Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. We are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the Learning4Life curriculum, which we feel will benefit all our students. Please click the following link to access the LJS sex education policy - [RSHE Policy](#). In addition, please use the following link to see how RSE fits in with our overall learning4life curriculum (highlighting clearly the curriculum content and when it's taught based on year group – [Learning 4 Life](#)

You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further on russellp@laurencejackson.org.



Careers Conference - We were delighted with the positive attitude and engagement shown by our Year 7, 9 and 11s at our annual Careers Conference last week. To help continue these important career conversations at home, please click [here](#) to access a list of all the exhibitors who attended the conference with links to each organisation's website for more information about the opportunities and pathways they offer. We encourage you to explore these with your child to support them in making informed decisions about their future education and career aspirations.

Data collection 26/27 - action for Year 8, 9, 10, 11 parents/carers - We routinely like to request updated contact details and consent each academic year - please complete the link below as soon as you're able to in order to keep our records up to date. Thank you.

[LINK TO 26/27 FORM](#)

KS3 Home Learning - Please note that students in Y7, 8 and 9 have new Sparx Maths and Reader home learning tasks to do (set Weds this week as usual.) These tasks are due in 28th October. They will then have a new set of tasks set that will be due in on 4th November. A reminder that Sparx platforms are separate to Class Charts. For home learning we use Class Charts to reinforce details of tasks but the tasks themselves are on the Sparx Platforms. This means that if there are any issues with Class Charts, this doesn't mean students can't access their Sparx tasks. Students should log on to Sparx Maths and Reader each week to complete their tasks. We are reviewing completion data for this half term and will be celebrating success and also identifying which students need follow up to investigate why completion isn't as expected. Any queries can be directed to KS3HomeLearning@laurencejackson.org

Safeguarding Spotlight

As we approach the half term holiday it is important that we encourage and show our young people how to respect our local community and play their part in creating a safe environment where we are all involved. As parents it is important that discussions are had around what is acceptable behaviour out in the community and the experiences they have. Should these conversations raise any concern, or you have concerns about crime in the community Crimestoppers have launched a fully anonymous online reporting tool to raise concerns and make our community safer. This can be accessed by students and parents independently should they wish to report without discussions. Please follow the link to the parental information to help with further understanding and information to help conversations with young people about reporting crime. [Parents/guardians | Crimestoppers](#)

Please also find within this bulletin information for parents/carers about deepfakes, which is related to AI.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DEEPFAKES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of \$893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopeganglers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.