



# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

ISSUE 420  
2nd December 2022

#### Dates For Your Diary

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we move towards the end of the term I want to bring the following dates to your attention:

- **Friday, 9 December** is a staff training day and **the school is closed for all students.**
- **Thursday, 22 December is the last day of term, students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm and the school buses will be available at this earlier time.** There will be an extended canteen service available at break time for all students. Those entitled to a Free School Meal will be able to access their entitlement at break time.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support for our school.

Yours faithfully

Ann Webster  
Headteacher

*To view the original letter as a PDF, [click here.](#)*

#### Student Affairs Committee Interview Sir Keir Starmer!

The Student Affairs Committee were delighted to be involved with the recent visit of Sir Keir Starmer this past Monday. Our new Year 7 members had the honour of interviewing Sir Keir on the current 'Cost of Living Crisis', all students that were involved in the interview handled themselves impeccably and behaved in an extremely positive manner with compliments given by Sir Keir himself.

Other SAC members assisted in the event with Year 9 SAC welcoming Sir Keir and some Year 10 SAC members providing assistance to the members of the Labour Party & Newsround team.

We also provided Sir Keir with one of our newly delivered SAC badges and made him an 'Honorary Member of the Student Affairs Committee'. Sir Keir was a huge fan of the work of the SAC which is a testament to our members and their hard work.

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We have lots of excellent pictures from the event which have been on our Twitter account (@SharplesSAC). These photos will also be included in our upcoming Student Affairs Newsletter that will be released at the end of the term.

We would like to thank all members of the SAC for their hard work and involvement in the event, you are all a real credit to The SAC & Sharples School.

The interview should hopefully be released next week on their website and CBBC!

Well done!

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#### Bolton Youth Voice Visit



This week also included a visit from the Bolton Youth Voice Council with workshops being given to SAC members in Year 7 - Year 11. It was a fantastic experience for our students to be involved in and experience first hand what it is like to represent Bolton. We were involved with 2 students from Rivington & Blackrod and 1 student from Thornleigh, with all visitors presenting excellently.

SAC members were asked what qualities and characteristics they think would be useful for a Youth Councillor. We were also given details of how our SAC members can get involved in Bolton Youth Voice, with 2 SAC members already getting involved at the time of writing this article.

We were really grateful for the visit and look forward to working with Bolton Youth Voice more in the near future.



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#### Twelfth Night Interpretation



Congratulations and very well done to the cast of Twelfth Night who performed in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, at the Contact Theatre Manchester in November. Well done to our musicians and actors and special thanks goes to Joseph for his photography and filming.

Our acclaimed piece was widely praised in our appraisal feedback from the organisers this week:

"I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sharples School, for your marvellous interpretation of Twelfth Night as part of the Autumn 22 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a great night at the theatre, and I'd like to take this time here to mention a few things that I really loved! You really opened the night with a bang. Your production had so much joy in it from the very beginning. I don't think any of us were expecting Sci-Fi Shakespeare but it really worked. It was fun and fitted in so well with the play's themes of characters finding themselves in strange places, mistaken identity and confusion. I loved the physical moment when Viola and Sebastian were parted! The design elements really pulled the whole thing together. I loved the choice of lighting, sound effects, costumes and props. The wonderful live music onstage and the rap were

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so much fun! I thought your characterisation was really great. Each character was so different. I thought the use of the twins in your company to play the twins in the play was lovely. The creative way you made that work with two actors portraying Viola and Cesario was brilliant. They did a fantastic job of speaking together. This really was a comedy! All elements of your production added to the fun - the reactions of the ensemble, the attitude of the musician when told to stop playing, the Mission Impossible physical clowning sequence, the capering, Malvolio's costume and the Holy Father Robot... I could go on! It was all so joyous throughout and I loved that you ended with your own version of a Shakespearian jig! It was all so much fun and it looked like you really enjoyed yourselves. A musical, creative and joyous Twelfth Night from a hardworking company."

Thank you once again to all the staff who support this annual event.  
Huge congratulations to all of our young performers!





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#### Live stage performances with Aitch!



Huge congratulations to Year 9 student Harry on his performance on stage with British rapper Aitch. Harry performed as a backing singer and dancer in Aitch's new song 'Close to home' at London's Alexandra Palace and O2 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester. Congratulations on great performances!

#### Musical Winter Showcase

More Performing Arts news! We look forward to welcoming friends and family to our Musical Winter Showcase on Wednesday 14th December, 7.00pm - 8.00pm, at Sharples Theatre - everybody welcome! Please see Mr Corrigan in G66 for tickets.

See the last page of this newsletter for the poster.

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#### Eco Committee Tree Planting



On Tuesday 22nd November, Mrs Finney and members of the school's Eco Committee (pictured above) were helping the environment by planting various different trees in the Year 7 playground. The trees were supplied from The Woodland Trust through their 'Free Trees for Schools and Communities' scheme. They planted oak trees, rowan trees, berry bushes and various other trees and bushes along the side of the playground, to attract wildlife and improve the appearance of this area. The Eco Committee politely asks you to look after these trees as they are helping the environment.

This is all part of the school's recently started scheme to earn the 'Green Flag' award, an award that is given to Eco Schools that encourage the students to help protect the environment around them. Only one school in Bolton was awarded Green Flag status last year and normally high schools don't have the award. We are planning more activities for the New Year which will help to contribute to this prestigious award.

Ben P, Hatim K, Ryan S (Year 9)

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#### World Cup in Maths

You may have noticed that the men's football teams are currently competing in the World Cup in Qatar. Over the period of the competition, our KS3 students are attempting a variety of World Cup themed activities in their maths lessons. This has included questions about individual players, the nations involved and their flags. For example, on the morning of England's first game, some Year 9 students answered maths questions to 'score' goals for England and 'save' goals from Iran, resulting in a 2-1 final score. Not quite as good as the actual score, but an accurate prediction nonetheless! Watch out for more activities in the weeks to come.

#### Harry Kane - England

The English flag on Kane's shirt is the Saint George's Cross. How many lines of symmetry does the flag have?

2 lines of symmetry



← Previous Player

Next Player →

Return to Start

#### Ehsan Hajsafi - Iran

Answer these questions to work out Ehsan's date of birth.  
Day =  $4^2 + 2 \times 4 + 9^0$   
Month =  $\sqrt[3]{8}$   
Year =  $11\,940 \div 6$

25/02/1990



← Previous Player

Next Player →

Return to Start





# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

#### Science Enrichment Newsletter

##### Educake

Well done to Ashton R, Saarah H, Jenna H, Alex W, Khadijah A, Raeesa M and Inioluwa E who top-scored in Year 11 this week. Congratulations to Sadiya K and Fatimah M, who scored highest from Year 10. Heidi F, Munisha T, Mariam U, Ruby M, Faheemah P, Isabelle W, Alizah A, Ayesha M, Adil B, Reo K, Muhammad A and Tafiq H all scored 100% on the Year 9 quiz. Super work, keep it up!

##### STEM club

Mr. Albrighton and Mr. Burke, this week, have been showing pupils how to build their own planetarium! Using three different paper constellations, pupils built a planetarium out of cardboard tubing, card and a flashlight. This allowed them to experience the wonders of the cosmos from the safety of the classroom! The next step will be for pupils to transform the drab, grey cardboard tubing with a colourful and attractive space themed design.





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#### Van de Graaff

Miss Melmoth's class were discovering all about static electricity using a Van De Graaff generator. The generator removes electrons from an insulating material, creating a positive charge. Anything, or anyone, touching the generator will also become positively charged. As like charges repel, this can be used to show the effect of the electrostatic repulsion between objects with the same charge, such as hairs standing on end.



#### Space News

The Orion spacecraft, which is part of NASA's Artemis mission, has broken the record for the furthest distance a spacecraft has travelled away from Earth. The spacecraft, which is unmanned on this mission, but is intended to carry astronauts in future missions, has reached a distance of over 400,000 km away from Earth! The spacecraft will now continue its journey before splashdown on 11 December.

More information can be found here:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/63794169>

*Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator*





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#### **English Department's Stars of the Week**

##### **Work of the Week**

Year 7

Saba Z has completed excellent analysis in her poetry lessons. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Rebecca K has shown great skill in her analysis of an extract from Silence of the Lambs. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Sabah I has written a brilliant letter in the character of Miss Havisham. [Click here to view the first page](#) and [here to view the second.](#)

Year 10

Kevin B has shown excellent analytical skills in his English lessons this week. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Tazeem K has written a brilliant review of the show Breaking Bad. [Click here to view the first page](#) and [here to view the second.](#)

##### **Readers of the Week**

Year 7

Sifan A for confidently reading a short story.

Year 8

Ahmed M for enthusiastically reading an extract from Blood Brothers.

Year 9

Jamie A for an excellent reading of Frankenstein.

Year 10

Zara M for her brilliant reading of A Christmas Carol.

Year 11

Megan H for an excellent reading of Gerald in An Inspector Calls.



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#### English Trip to the Octagon Theatre

A group of Year 10 pupils went to the Octagon Theatre to watch a performance of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. It was brilliant fun and pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

#### Year 8 Football vs Westhoughton



Year 8 (pictured above) took on Westhoughton on Thursday night and came out on top in a very close game. We took the lead early in the first half after Dan Wright made a darting run goal bound, finishing well with his first attempt. Westhoughton pulled one back in the second half and Sharples fired back straight away with Dan Wright getting his second. We managed to hold on after a late push by the home side. Special mention to 'man of the match', Tom M who had a fantastic game at centre back! Well done sharples, another win in the bag!





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#### Top of the League



The winning run continued for the KS4 football team who secured an impressive 8-3 win over Bolton St Catherine's Academy on Thursday night. Top of the league, the girls had another brilliant game controlling the midfield from the start. Fatima U was a stand out, scoring a hat-trick within the first half. Izzy F and Cherie U were also on top form linking up well with Grace G who dominated the right wing. The girls will face their toughest test of the season on Monday evening where they face Westhoughton which will determine who will stay top of the league. Well done, girls!



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#### Utilita Cup Bolton Tournament



Well done to our Year 7 & Year 8 football team (pictured above) who took part in the Utilita Cup organised by Bolton Wanderers in the Community on Wednesday night. In freezing conditions, the girls remained unbeaten in the group stage which ensured they safely progressed through to the knockouts. Up against Turton in the quarter-finals, the girls knew it would be a tough game. Their keeper pulled off a fantastic save from Talia D to keep the game at 0-0 heading into the last couple of minutes of the match. With less than 90 seconds to go, Turton managed to score two goals in quick succession which meant our semi-final hopes were over. To make it to the quarter-finals out of 16 teams is a brilliant effort from the girls! They will be back in action on Monday against Westhoughton. Well done, girls!

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#### KS3 Football vs Harper Green



The Year 7 & Year 8 football team were back to winning ways against Harper Green on Tuesday night where they secured a very impressive 6-2 victory. Talia D (5) and Aamira H (1) were the goal scorers with Ruby M performing some fantastic saves which ensured she came away with 'girl of the game'. Special mention must also go to Hollie K who had a brilliant game at right back. The girls will be taking part in the EFL cup on Wednesday before facing Westhoughton in the league on Monday.

## BOLTON COLLEGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S

# OPEN EVENT



Part of the University of Bolton Group



**Deane Road Campus**  
**Wednesday 7th December 2022 5pm-8pm**

Register via: [www.boltoncollege.ac.uk](http://www.boltoncollege.ac.uk)

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#### Attendance Information

Reporting an absence:

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: [attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk)

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

#### Attendance Data

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 93.83%

Year 8 = 87.55%

Year 9 = 56.67%

Year 10 = 92.75%

Year 11 = 92.46%

342 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Best forms this week:

7ples4 = 98.15%

8R = 97.39%

9S = 92.11%

10E = 97.62%

11R = 98.15%

#### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 8th  
December: Year 11  
Parents Evening  
(16:00 – 19:00)

Friday 9th  
December:  
Staff Training Day  
(school closed for all  
students)

Wednesday 14th  
December: Musical  
Winter Showcase  
(7.00pm - 8.00pm)

#### Career of the Week: MP

*MPs represent people's concerns and interests in the House of Commons.*

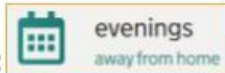
Average Salary:



Typical hours:  
(per week)



You could work:



Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/mp>

#### Qualifications:

- You can apply for this job through being elected by voters in the constituency you wish to represent.
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C).
- A University degree.

#### Skills required:

- Legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations.
- An understanding of society and culture.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- Active listening skills.
- The ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Persistence and determination.

#### Relevant Subjects:

- Humanities, English and Maths.



Careers &  
Enterprise  
at Sharples School

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#### PE Lunch Time Clubs - October - December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 & Y10 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y7 Football - Boys & Girls (Big Astro) - GBA & SCU & AHM	Girls only Football (Big astro) - GBA & SCU
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - GBA & SCU	Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - CCH	Just Dance- all years (Gym) - GBA & SCU	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - CCH	Y7/8 Football (Big astro) - AHM
Pilates (Gym) - CCH	KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR	KS3 Basketball (SH) - CCH		KS3 Basketball (SH) - CCH
	Just Dance (Gym) - GBA	KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR		



#### PE After School Clubs - October - December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 Swimming	Yr 7/8 Football practice	KS3 Swimming	Yr 11 Progress Evening 4-7pm	No clubs
KS4 Girls fitness suite	Yr 9 Football v Canon Slade (a)	Running club- all years		
KS3 Thai boxing club	Basketball- all years	Y8 Football v ESSA Academy (a)	Clubs cancelled	
KS3/4 Girls Football v Westhoughton (a)	Yr10 Sports Studies detentions/ALS	KS3 Netball Training (GBA)		
	Y10 Netball vs Essa (h)	KS4 Boys Fitness suite		
	KS3 Girls Football practise			

Week beginning 5th Dec



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

### TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS  
National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

AGE RATING

PEGI  
18

The Call of Duty (CoD) series is a worldwide gaming phenomenon, with millions of copies sold every year. While 2021's release, *Vanguard*, wasn't quite as well received, this latest entry – *Modern Warfare II* – has so far proved a massive commercial success. A sequel to the recent *Modern Warfare* reboot (and not to be confused with the original *Modern Warfare 2*, from back in 2009), the game is an online shooter which features – unsurprisingly – extreme violence, rendered in realistic graphics. Amid the explosions and political nature of the plot, there's much for parents to be aware of.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, *Modern Warfare II* carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter – according to PEGI's wording – depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

### OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on *Modern Warfare II* in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against – or cooperating with – strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

*Modern Warfare II* follows the 'battle pass' model of games like *Fortnite*. For a fee – usually around £10 – each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

### POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history": failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

### AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multiplayer mode in *Call of Duty* titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of any age to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, *Call of Duty* games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous *Modern Warfare* featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With *Modern Warfare II* offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending – and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance – and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

### CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays *Modern Warfare II*. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. *Call of Duty* fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

### TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays *Modern Warfare II* in multiplayer, you could try out the *Spec Ops* mode with them – formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website *Dexerto* and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechRadar*, among others.



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Sources: <https://peginfo/what-do-the-labels-mean/> | <https://www.augamemal/call-of-duty-modern-warfare-accused-of-rewriting-history-to-blame-russia-for-controversial-us-attacks>



SHARPLES



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS

# *A Winter* SHOWCASE

WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2022

START: 7PM-8PM

WHERE: Sharples School, Hill Cot Road,  
Astley Bridge, Bolton, BL1 8SN

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MR  
CORRIGAN (G66)

