

Sharples S C H O O L Newsletter

Issue 535 14th November 2025

Start of Autumn 2 Half Term Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the second week of Autumn Term 2 I would like to update you on the latest news from school and what is coming up in the next few weeks.

Last weekend we opened our doors to the local community of Astley Bridge as Sharples played host to the Remembrance Day Service. The Royal British Legion Club of Astley Bridge organised the event, which saw a marching band make their way from Belmont Road to Sharples, followed by the local scout and guide groups, members of the local community, and the parade was greeted at the school gates by a guard of honour of our Gold Tie School Leaders. The service was moving and respectful, with beautiful performances by the Sharples Choir. We are honoured that our school was able to provide this occasion for our community and we look forward to continuing the tradition for years to come.

This week, Year 11 students have sat their first GCSE Mock Examinations in English and maths. It has been an intensive week, with revision sessions every evening and an exam every day. The students have shown great commitment and resilience and we are very proud of all of them. The results will be analysed and used to provide next steps to improve in their journey to final GCSE exams in May 2026.

On Friday 28th November we will be holding our annual Diversity Day. This is always a favourite day in the Sharples calendar for students and staff, and we look forward to seeing students dress in outfits which represent their heritage, countries of ancestry or just something that is unique to them. As this is an annual day to celebrate the diversity and individuality of our Sharples students, once again we ask that no flags are brought into school on this day. We will be holding our popular Diversity Day stalls at lunchtime, with food, drink, crafts and gifts on sale from 50p. Parents/Carers can buy books of vouchers via MCAS for £5 each. The vouchers will be delivered to students via forms on the day, and these can be spent in multiples of 50p at the stalls. Cash will also be accepted on the day. All proceeds will be donated to the charity OXFAM.

Year 9 students are beginning the preparations for their formal pre-option exams in January which will provide invaluable assessment information to students, teachers and parents prior to our Options process where students will select their GCSE courses of study for September 2026. Revision technique sessions are being delivered to all Year 9 Forms this half term and parents will receive revision lists and a full exam schedule in due course.

... continued on next page ...



A reminder that our new Breakfast Club is available from 8am every morning in the canteen, with free toast and bagels available. Students can catch up on home learning, revise for assessments, or just set themselves up for a positive day ahead.

We have a busy half term coming up with even more events and opportunities for our students and their families to get involved with. These include our Winter Concert and our annual Christmas Markets evening. As always, we would love to see as many families as possible coming along to support.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Molyneux

Headteacher

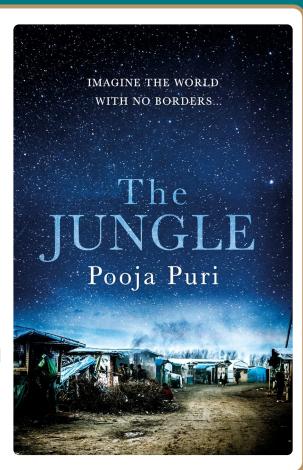
Click here to view the original letter as a PDF.

Live Author Talk: Pooja Puri

Last Friday, our Year 9 pupils had the exciting opportunity to hear from Pooja Puri, author of the novel The Jungle. Since the start of the year, students have been exploring the book in their English lessons, discussing the important issues it raises and the key messages it conveys about immigration.

During her talk, Pooja Puri gave a fascinating insight into her thoughts on the Calais refugee camp and the struggles faced by asylum seekers. She also explained why she developed her characters and setting in the ways she did. Hearing her discuss her writing inspirations, the beginnings of her interests, and the small, deliberate details she included in the novel opened up a whole new perspective for the students.

The talk gave them a deeper appreciation for the story and its characters, and they are now even more excited to continue reading!





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"I can do Physics!" Club - Inspiring the Next Generation of Physicists



This week saw the launch of Sharples School's brand-new "I can do Physics!" club at The Valley Primary School.

The project aims to inspire younger pupils, particularly girls, to develop confidence and curiosity in physics from an early age.

The club is led by a team of five Year 10 Sharples pupils, who act as near-peer role models, delivering fun, hands-on physics activities to a group of Year 1 pupils.

During the first session, pupils explored the idea of floating and sinking by building their very own rainbow density towers. The room was full of excitement, laughter, and bright colours as the children carefully layered liquids to create their beautiful rainbows — all while discovering how density makes objects float or sink!

The project will continue throughout this half term, with pupils exploring a different strand of physics each week.

Afterwards, the club will move to another local primary school, giving even more pupils the chance to take part.

Miss Melmoth, Physics Teacher and KS3 Science Coordinator, who leads the project, said:

"It's wonderful to see our older pupils inspiring the next generation. The enthusiasm from both the Sharples students and the Year 1 children has been fantastic — it's exactly what learning about physics should be about: curiosity, creativity, and confidence."



Sharples school Newsletter

Mathematician of the Month



Every month a student is nominated from each of the maths classes for Mathematician of the Month. These students are nominated based on their hard work, enthusiasm and efforts within the lesson.

Well done to October's nominees for fantastic work in maths lessons!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Khadija P	Aysha B	Afrin S	Hamzah H	Declan J
Hafsah P	Fatima M	Shaunna C	Aisha I	Ismael I
Zahra A	Lewis B	Tombo A	Jaicob L	Halima P
Fatema G	Sofia Y	Arfa A	Ben L	Calista C
Alfie B	Ashton S	Alfie W	Krisztina H	Jundab S
Olly M	Muhammed D	Emelia G	Rayyan Y	Danyaal S
Fatima D	Mohammed-	Amaan Y	Safa D	Jessica K
Bareerah Y	Iqbal B	Aaliyah S	Mia J-R	Kayleigh V
Hafsa T	Ayni H	Aizah A	Hayden R	Kelsey H
	Fatima B	Ethan H		Areeb S



Art Ambassadors Primary School Workshop



On Thursday 13th November some of our Art Ambassadors went to The Oaks Primary School to talk about doing Art at Sharples and to teach an Art Workshop. Our Ambassadors had the idea to do this towards their Impact Award and The Oaks asked if we could do something with them for their Art Week. Zahraa B S, Krisztina H, Declan J, Isabelle L, Hadiya Q, Pippa M and Minhaal F worked with trainee Art teacher Mr Hafizullah to design the session for year 6 students. Zahraa talked about Art at Sharples, Krisztina talked about the importance of Art for Mental Health and careers in creative industries were also discussed. For the activity inspired by artist J Vincent Scarpace, Pippa demonstrated and explained mark making and Declan introduced and demonstrated watercolour techniques. All the Ambassadors supported the Year 6s to create their artworks.

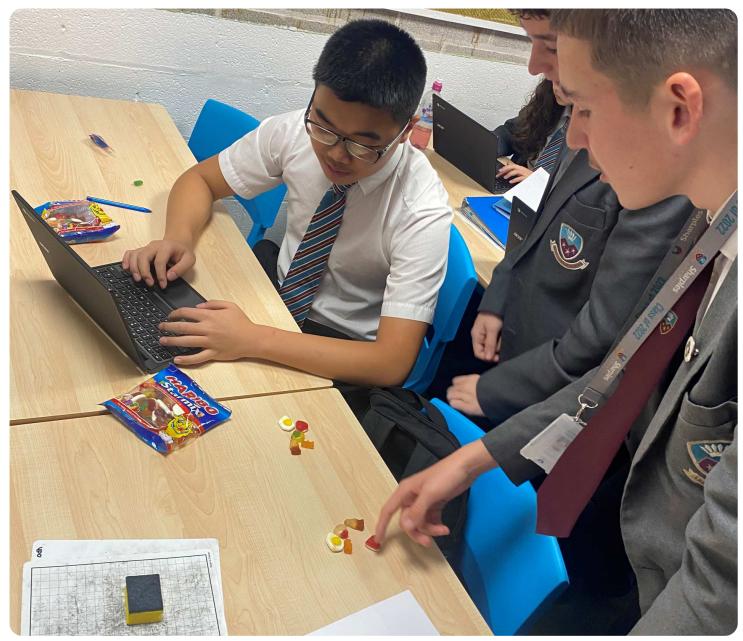
Katherine Robertson Deputy Head at The Oaks said "Thank you so much for this morning's art session in Y6. The children really loved the activity and enjoyed being supported by your knowledgeable staff and students."

Our amazing Art Ambassadors are already planning other ways they can support primary links.



Sharples 5 C H O O L Newsletter

Year 10 GCSE Statistics



Over the past few weeks, the Year 10 GCSE Statistics class has been working on projects based on their own hypotheses. Students have been busy collecting primary data, which they will soon analyse and present. Their investigations have covered a wide range of topics — from taste tests comparing branded products with supermarket alternatives, to experiments exploring whether people can tell the difference between the colours of Skittles and most popular Haribo flavours. Other projects have looked at IQ testing, reaction times, and even favourite holiday destinations.



English Department's Stars of the Week Work of the Week

Year 7

Aya - for superb effort at her first attempt at analytical writing. Click here.

Year 8

Avyukt - for fabulous annotations of Shakespeare's Sonnet 130. Click here.

Year 9

Metuschel - for writing a very powerful and moving speech based on I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings. Click here.

Year 10

Muhammad - for a great poetry plan and essay on the poem Disabled by Wilfred Owen. Click here.

Year 11

Maliha - for a wonderful, well-structured narrative. Click here.

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Frankie A for leading by example and reading with confidence.

Year 8

Teegan S for reading fluently and with clarity.

Year 9

Subhaan K for always reading with confidence.

Year 10

Oliver B for always reading his answers out confidently.

Year 11

Muhammad Shahzaib N A for playing a brilliant Inspector in An Inspector Calls.

Year 11 defeat Westhoughton in the Bolton Cup

Year 11 will only be playing in the Bolton Cup this year and they will be looking to finish their time at Sharples with a cup final. The team were at full strength going into the game and Rob had recovered from injury to go in net. Sharples started brightly but went behind against the run of play. The team reacted well and scored 2 goals before half time after good work from Cole. Tom was solid at the back and scored a fortunate goal before half time. Sharples were dominant in the second half and the opposition struggled to cope with Mitha and his amazing runs from full back and Abdur up front who was a constant threat throughout. Abdur added 2 more in the second half and then won a penalty for Mitha to secure the win and slot home from the spot. Next up is Little Lever in the Quarter final!



Girls Football vs BSCA



The girls football league season began on Monday with an exciting opening fixture against BSCA. Our KS4 team put in a fantastic effort, narrowly losing 4–3 in a closely contested match. Scarlett S-R delivered an excellent performance in the middle of the park, showing great composure and leadership throughout. Our KS3 team, however, produced a brilliant display to secure a 6–3 victory with an outstanding performance from Amara H! The girls will be back in action against St Joseph's on Monday.



Sharples 5 C H O O L Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17th November: Christmas Cooking Club for Y7

Wednesday 19th November: InnovateHer Assembly for Y9 (8:45 - 09:15)

Wednesday 19th November: BWFC kids Cup (12:05 – 15:15)

Thursday 20th November: PwC New World New Skills Event for Y10 (Full day)

Thursday 20th November: Movement for Mind session for Y10 & Y11 (11:15 – 12:55)

Reporting an absence:

Attendance Information

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

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

Best forms this week: Year Groups attendance this week:

7 = 94.61%

8 = 91.73%

9 = 92.08%

10 = 93.70%

11 = 96.83%

7Ples4 = 99.26%%

8Ples4 = 98.15%

9Shar5 = 95.81%

10Ples5 = 100%

11Ples4 & 11Shar2 = 100%

500 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

Career of the Week: Forensic Psychologist

They study criminal behaviour and the reasons behind it, and help to treat people who have committed offences.

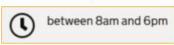
Average Salary: £

£63,000 37 to 39

Typical hours: (per week)



You could work:





Qualifications:

- A 3-year degree in psychology accredited by The British Psychological Society (BPS).
- A postgraduate master's in forensic psychology.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths.
- 3 A levels or equivalent.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of psychology.
- Counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach.
- Analytical thinking skills.
- The ability to understand people's reactions.
- Sensitivity and understanding.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under

Relevant Subjects:

English, Maths, Science and RS.

Information sourced from: https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/forensic-psychologist





Sharples s c h o o L

Newsletter



PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR Y10 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - AHM Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - LAL	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL/AHM Sports studies catch up/KS3 hmwk- AHM	Just Dance- all years (SH) - LAL/PGR	Basketball (SH) - LAL	Y7 Girls Football (SH) - LAL



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 & KS4 Football v St Joey's (h)	Y8 Football practice	Y10 officials @ Power League	U16 Basketball tournament @ Smithills	PE detentions
	KS4 Fitness Suite-	Y9 Netball v BMGS (h)	KS4 Fitness Suite-	
Y7 Football practice	SHAR	KS3 Football v BMGS (h)	SHAR	Descible V44 aug
KS3 boys Swimming Club	Running Club- all years	Y9 Football practice	Girls Football- sports	Possible Y11 cup match TBC
Netball - all years	Racquets- all years	Basketball- all years	hall	
		KS3 Girls Swimming	Y9 & Y10 Netball v St Joey's (a)	
		KS4 Girls Fitness Suite	Commence Av. 2007	

Week beginning 17th Nov

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN
Tel: 01204 333253 Fax: 01204 333250 www.SharplesSchool.co.uk.



NO FLAGS OR SLOGANS PLEASE





ENGLISH NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 14TH NOV

Win yourself a cuddly autumn gnome!

READ a short extract and identify the missing silent letters. Write the words in the box provided, spelt correctly.

Some of the key words are relevant to history,

geography, maths, RE and science.
The sheets can be found in the library:
but there's a copy here too.

EVENTS

A Fantastic Evening

Unlock the Mystery! The school is
transforming for A Fantastic Evening of
magic, sci-fi, and fun for Y7-9s. Come
dressed as your favourite fantasy
character for a chance to win prizes!
The Upside Down Escape Room
Fantasy Scavenger Hunt (Relic Hunting!)
Science Lab (Explosive Fun!)
Build Your Own World Zone
Dual Screenings: Wicked / Stranger Things
Food Available!

£15 per ticket
5-10pm
See Miss Patel for tickets/letters

THE SILENT SPOOK

On a dark, cold autum night, all was quiet in the haunted librry. The our was twelve.

In the freezing tempratures, only one gostly old knight was frightningly meandering between the shelves. He had come out of his tom and left his casle on a shadowy iland, to find his missing sord.

All was silent and the spook floated about without a sound. He was num with cold and his every spooky bone and musle ached, but he was desprate to know where his ancient nife had gone.

He looked with intrest along the shelves, searching for a book about old weapons. At last, he found a refrence, written in an old book, to a rusty blade. It had been found under a stone in the cemetry in the local environment.

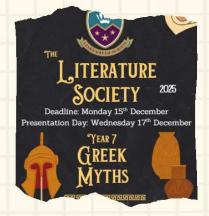
The ghost shattered the silence with a cackling laugh, garanteed to spook anyone who heard it!
'Marvllous!' he croaked. 'I have found you at last, after a hole night searching!'

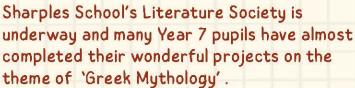


COMPETITIONS AND MORE ON THE NEXT PAGES!



YEAR 7 LITERATURE SOCIETY: GREEK MYTHS





We've seen models, drawings, short stories and even animations!

The deadline is 15th December, so make so you complete it and bring it in for the deadline date (though not before that way we know it's completely safe until then).



Over the last few weeks, Mrs
Smith and The Sharples Radio
Team have been researching,
recording and editing their first
podcast. To find out about this
new school radio adventure
check out the podcast on the
school website.



TONGUE TWISTERS

Year 7, 8, & 9 had fun trying out a tongue twisters for International Tongue Twister Day. If you missed out - here's one to try!

Penny painted pretty pink petals on a picturesque purple porcelain plate.



WHAT ELSE IS ON?



Mock Trials - Year 9 and 10 have been given roles like barristers, solicitors and witnesses to prepare for a trip to Bolton Coroners Court.



Anime Club – Wednesday lunch in U15



Optional Maths Homework Careers Challenge Year 8



- Design a poster showcasing a career that uses mathematics
 - Deadline Friday 9th January
 - Reward Points Available!
 - Speak to Mrs Helm in U27 if you have any questions

Optional Maths Homework Challenge Year 7 Wiggly Tessellations Reward Points Available!

"An international team of mathematicians has discovered a new class of shapes capable of tiling with a minimal amount of sharp corners, which they define as "soft cells." It's not so much a discovery, however, as it is a revelation—nature has been using soft cells in organisms for far longer than humans have been aware of them.."



- Create a "soft cell" tessellation, using a shape and colours of your choice.
- Instructions can be found on student portal or speak to Mrs Helm in U27.
- Hand in to your teacher by Friday 9th January.



So you want to be a

Youth MP

What is a Youth MP?

A Youth MP is an elected person aged between 11 and 18 who represents young people in their area. They will find out the concerns, interests and needs of young people and discuss these on a local, regional and national level.

What will I do as a Youth MP?

- Represent the voice of young people in Bolton and make positive differences by running campaigns, organising events and holding consultations
- Meet with councillors, elected members and other decision makers to influence the changes in policy that impact young people's lives
- Develop key life skills such as confidence, public speaking, teamwork, negotiation and leadership
- Gain a greater knowledge of policy and current affairs
- Attend events, conferences and residentials, including a chance to debate at the House of Commons
- Work alongside and attend meetings with Bolton Youth Council.

Interested?

Find out more about becoming a Youth MP by attending one of our information evenings held at:

Castle Hill Young Peoples Centre, Castleton St, Bolton, BL2 2JW 11th November OR 18th November 2025 7pm until 8pm.

Contact us...

To register your attendance to attend an information evening or to ask any further questions, contact Grace Crosby on **07747648294** or email

grace.crosby@bolton.gov.uk









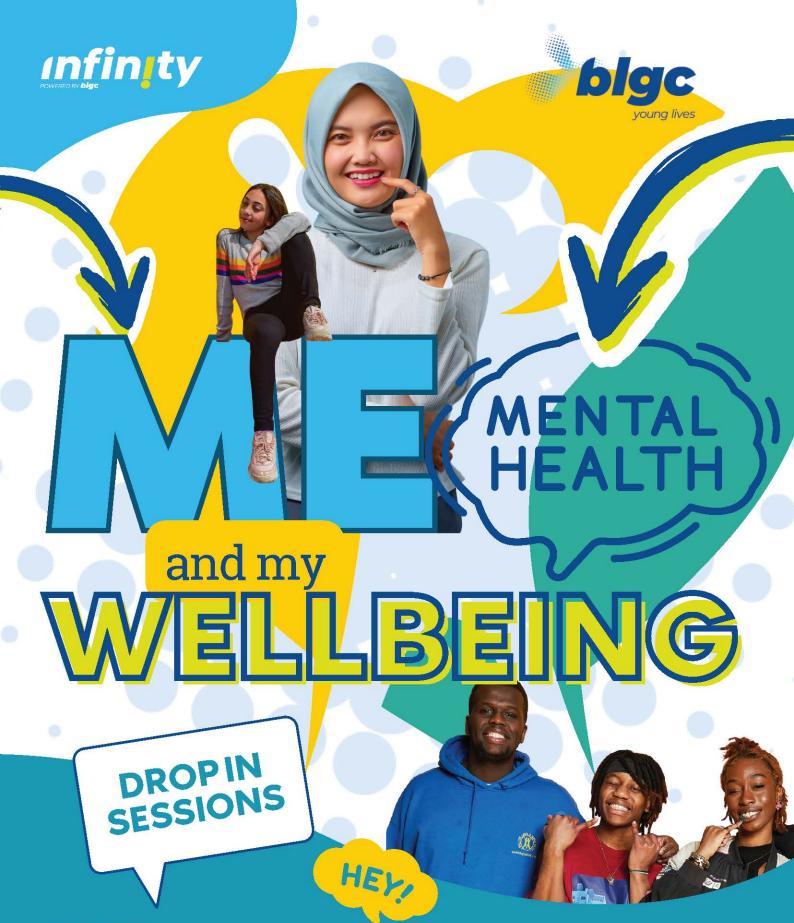
Unlock the Mystery! The school is transforming for A Fantastic Evening of magic, sci-fi, and fun for Y7-9s. Come dressed as your favourite fantasy character for a chance to win prizes!

The Upside Down Escape Room

- Fantasy Scavenger Hunt (Relic Hunting!)
- Science Lab (Explosive Fun!)
- Build Your Own World Zone
- Dual Screenings: Wicked / Stranger Things
- Food Available!

£15 per ticket 5-10pm

See Miss Patel for tickets/letters



FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

From 5-7pm

Take control of YOUR WELLBEING!

Are you waiting for support? Do you need a check in to get you back on track? Or simply, would you just like to connect and learn about what works for your wellbeing? Come down and join the listening lounge every Tuesday at Infinity.

For more information please contact wellbeingprojects@blgc.co.uk



Infinity 18 Spa Road Bolton



PARENTAL CONTROLS

PRIVACY 6
Android Phone



The settings on an Android device allow you to set certain rules to help safeguard your child's privacy when they are using it. For example, you can turn off location services to keep their whereabouts private; prevent third-party apps and sites from viewing their information; and stop apps from accessing other functions of the phone (like the camera or microphone, for example). We've produced step-by-step guides on how to tighten up an Android phone's privacy settings.





location services third-party apps a

OFF

Select your child's account

On the 'Settings' card, tap 'Manage'

Tap 'Location'

On the card with the correct device's name, tap 'Settings'

Tap 'Location Settings'

Turn 'Device location' to off

To reactivate location services in future, repeat these steps and turn 'Device location' back on

Source: https://families.go.ogle.com/familylink/



Sign in to your Google Families account

Under 'Members', select your child's name

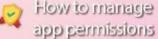
Select 'Account info' and then 'More'

Select 'Third-party apps with account access'

Turn 'Allow third-party apps to access XX account' to off by toggling the switch



www.nationalonlinesalety.com



Open the Google Family Link app

Select your child's account

On the 'Device' card, tap 'Settings

Tap 'App permissions' then choose a permission

Below your child's device, switch the permission off

Alternatively, you can manage permissions for inclividual apps, Repeat steps Fand 2, then ...

OFF)

OF

On the 'Apps installed' card, tap 'More'

On the 'Allowed' list, tap the app you want to change the permissions for

Tap 'App permissions'

6 Switch the permission off











How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS

PRIVACY

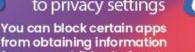
iPhone



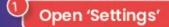
The privacy settings on your child's Apple device give you control over the information stored on it. This allows you to select which apps can access features and information on your child's device: for example, you might wish to block a social networking app from connecting to the camera reel, or specify which apps can use the device's location data.



How to make changes to privacy settings



from obtaining information from your child's device. You can also prevent your child (or anyone other than you) from altering these settings.



- Tap 'Screen Time'
- Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
- Scroll to 'Privacy'
- Choose the settings you wish to restrict
- After you've made any changes, select 'Use Screen Time Passcode to lock your changes with a PIN



https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304#set-restrictions







As applications request appear to your data, they will be

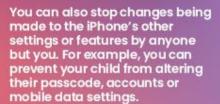
plications requires access to your social account

Motion & Fitness

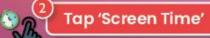
www.nationalonlinesafety.com



How to prevent changes to other settings/features



Open 'Settings'



Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'



Select 'Allow' or 'Don't Allow' on the settings for which you wish to enable or disable changes



Screen Time Passcode

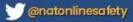
Create a possessed that will be required to allow for more time, or to make changes to Screen Time ettings.













ONLINE SHOPPING FRAUD WARNING

A MESSAGE FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

In the run up to Christmas we know that some of you maybe turning to online shopping to purchase presents.

WARNING – We are aware that fraudsters are targeting this area and want to ensure our community is protected. We are working hard to bring to justice those responsible. Please see our tips for staying safe online.

Have you been offered a highly discounted or considerably cheaper product compared to the original items worth?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

The website you are purchasing from was only launched day / weeks ago?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You're asked to pay by bank transfer instead of using the online platform's secure payment options.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

A sense of urgency is placed on ordering the product or service so that you don't miss the price / deal.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You receive a fake email receipt / invoice that appears to be from the website you've purchased from or the payment service used to make your purchase. The email address domain doesn't match that of the genuine senders.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD







Year 9 have just finished the Similarity unit and now you have the opportunity to put the skills you have learned to the test!

Can you use your skills to create a model version of a famous landmark or of your actual or dream house or bedroom?

<u>Deadline for entries is Weds 19th November</u> <u>Please hand in to your Maths teacher</u>



Prizes available for the best creations...



Y10 Competition

Use your creativity to design a way of expressing or illustrating the scale of the universe and its significance.

For example,
a poster, an animation,
a piece of artwork or a poem.
Deadline Friday 21st November