

Head's Blog Friday 23rd September

This week we opened our doors to prospective families at our Open Evening. Just as it was at last week's meet the tutor events the school was buzzing. As ever the best advocates for our school are our students and I was hugely impressed by the students who came back to support faculties in showcasing our school and what it means to be part of the Beckfoot Oakbank community. The student leaders who gave tours of the school were fantastic, but I must give a special mention to Faatimah (Y13) and Jess (Y10) who joined me in the hall and spoke to a full hall of people (3 times!) about their experience as students here. I was so proud to hear what they said and in awe of how they handled themselves. For any families unable to join us my presentation and more importantly what Faatimah and Jess said will be available on the website from next week. If you want to find out about us but couldn't make the open evening, please get in touch with us.

Those of you who watched the funeral of Queen Elizabeth on Monday may have noticed a familiar face amongst the Royal Navy ratings behind the coffin. Mason Myers Roberts one of our ex-students who left us last year was one of those ratings – he was part of the brake, the first row behind the coffin. A proud day for him and his family as the nation watched on.

Attendance for the week

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Year 7	94.3	94.6	94.6	93.1
Year 8	93.4	89.4	91.2	90.5
Year 9	86.6	87.9	87.2	86.6
Year 10	87.4	86.2	87	88.1
Year 11	84.9	82.3	84.1	83.6
Year 12	98	99.3	100	99.3
Year 13	85.5	94	95.8	90.3

Key

94+% (National Average 2019)	
92-93.9%	
<92%	

Well done to Year 7 and Post 16 again this week. Year 8 are not far away from where they need to be and well done to Year 10 for finishing the week stronger than they started it.

As we move to the halfway point of the first half-term, don't forget the importance of diet, exercise and sleep routines on everybody's health, because **Every day, every lesson, every minute, counts!**

Highlights of the week

Over 220 families attending our 2022 Open Evening. Thanks for all of the feedback – we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Congratulations to the Y10 boys football team representing the school in the English Schools' Cup.

Y11 News

We are on our way! I had the opportunity to speak to the whole group in assembly where I outlined the journey we had ahead of us this year which of course culminates in their GCSEs. Although undoubtedly

tough I stressed to the year group that we will be working as a team together, in a supportive way until we get to end, overcoming those inevitable obstacles together. The year group really seem up for the challenge, especially if the way they have started in the classroom is anything to go by. We will be looking forward to seeing them after school next week when their masterclass sessions start after school.

Y7 News

A great effort from Y7 in committing to keeping the school tidy, lots of students cleaning up after themselves.

Over 100 Y7 students attended after school clubs this week.

Y8 News

Summer in Year 8 has been training with her gymnastic club every Wednesday for 3 years. At the start of this year Summer received her 'Floor Level 3' proficiency award and she has just achieved her 'Floor & Beam Level 2'. She regularly competes and has a competition coming up next month. Good Luck Summer!

School received some lovely feedback about Tyler and Josh in Year 8 for helping a member of the public in Oakworth Park over the weekend. Well done boys, we are extremely proud of you.

Year 8 have received a fantastic 16,824 positive stamps so far this academic year! Keep up the good work.

Y10 News

Well done to Jess H from Year 10, who delivered an outstanding speech to over 200 families at Open Evening – a hugely impressive achievement.

And well done to the boys' football team this week, who represented us in the school's cup against some tough (and "massive", according to the lads!) opposition.

Well done to the whole year group on another very impressive week of positive points and very few students needing to be reminded about our expectations of learning behaviours, uniform, or mobile phone use – keep it up year 10!

Post 16 news

Congratulations to Megan in Y13 who has already secured a university offer from University Academy 92 for a Football Management Degree. The rest of our Y13 are on with their UCAs applications as we speak. Well done to Faatimah who spoke at open evening.

Staying safe online: age-inappropriate content

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various way – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/program/bullying/online-inappropriate-content> | <https://www.education.gov.au/education/raising-professional-professionals-learning-program/teachers/inappropriate-content-fact-sheet> | <https://www.wednesday.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/children-media-take-year-7.pdf>



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