

Parent Bulletin



21st - 25th March 2022

Week 1

Lordswood Girls' School
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Upcoming dates

Date	Event
Week beginning Monday 21st March	Year 13 Mock Examinations
Thursday 24th March	Whole school PSHE Day
Friday 25th March	Year 11 Results
Thursday 31st March	Year 10 & 11 Drama Trip
Friday 8th April	INSET Day - school closed to students

Uniform update

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the uniform consultation that was distributed in January. We were overjoyed to have received nearly 700 responses.

We analysed the results and read all the associated comments. This information was then used to shape a proposal that was posed to governors earlier this month. We are delighted to announce that they have approved the following uniform for introduction from 1st September 2022:

- Day Uniform Guide.docx.pdf
- PE Uniform Guide.docx.pdf

To reduce costs we have:

- Changed as few items as possible (blazer and jumper are the only changes in the day uniform)

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- Secured funding from King Edward VI Foundation to purchase 1 new blazer for all students in Y7-Y11. This will be a one off subsidy which will support parents during the transition period.
 - Opted for a cheaper blazer to keep costs as low as possible in future years.
 - Ensured a 1 year phased introduction of the new jumper so parents/carer can purchase a new jumper when required.
 - Ensured a 2 year phased introduction of new PE kit as we are aware that students often utilise the same PE kit for more than one year.
 - Removed the need for school logo on a number of items (tracksuit bottoms, skorts, shorts, day jumper)
 - Ensured that a number of key items can be purchased from a range of retailers e.g. shirts, jumper, skirt, trousers, headscarf, tracksuit bottoms, socks

After undertaking a tendering process, Clive Mark has been selected as our sole supplier for any branded uniform. The reason for selecting a sole supplier is linked to their commitment to ensure uniform is kept 'in stock' - an issue that I know has proven frustrating during the last 12 months (since our previous 'sole supplier' contract ended).

We will allow a transition period from Easter until the Summer where students will be allowed to wear plain navy blue woolen V-neck school jumpers if they grow out of their current Lordswood jumpers. If this is the case, parents should write a letter to their daughters' review tutor who will issue a Uniform pass for the rest of the term.

Emergency Closure of the School

In response to the emergency closure that was required on Monday 7th March, we are reviewing our internal processes to ensure that if a similar situation arose again, a more streamlined process would be in place.

If the school had to close in future we would contact all parents via text message.

Parents have two options of what would happen in this situation:

- The student remains in school until collected
- The student is given permission to leave school and return home independently

Any students leaving the school site independently would be given the opportunity to contact parents before leaving school to ensure that parents had received the text message.

To ensure this process is as smooth as possible please can all parents/carers complete the information using the link below to indicate what their preferences would be in this situation:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeq8PnXzZibH1-3jUyUpOhYDa7Y1FpU7HzNX6xCO-5WfzLiQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

If you change your mind at a later date, please contact reception so that we can keep records up to date.

If you do not have access to google forms, please contact Miss Pearce at l.pearce@lordswoodtrust.co.uk

Free School Meals Survey

I work in the Finance Team at Lordswood Girls' School and am currently working towards a Masters in Public Health. As part of my dissertation study, I would be really interested to talk to any parents who received free school meals during the Covid19 pandemic.

I am looking to do a small group discussion and some interviews to help understand what families experienced and hopefully this will help to improve things in the future.

If you would be happy to talk to me about your experience, please email me at phstudy@lordswoodtrust.co.uk to set up a convenient time.

Thanks very much for your help with this, Emily Machin

PSHE

The next PSHE day takes place on Thursday 24th March.

Year 7 will be completing sessions on emotional literacy and self-awareness, risks and consequences, yoga and mindfulness, LGBT+ and protected characteristics and a careers session looking into key interests and personality profiles.

Year 8 will be completing sessions on social media addiction, honour based violence, thinking traps, key moments in life and a session on careers.

Year 9 will take part in a session from the charity Diversity Role Models, a session called 'what is cancer', a session on harmful online content, a session on money management and a session about FGM led by our SRE specialist Rebecca Jennings.

Year 10 will complete a careers and skills talk with the Army, elite skills training with the Army, a session on gambling, a follow up session on contraception and a session on sleep.

Year 11 will complete a session on diversity, a session on abuse in relationships, a session on first aid, a session on team building and a careers session looking at post 16 options.

Year 12 will complete a session with speakers from Aston University, a session called stop and search run by west midlands police, and sessions on careers, team building and drugs.

For more information please refer to letters sent out via parentmail.

Clothing on non-uniform days

We would like to remind parents to ensure that students do not wear inappropriate clothing on non-uniform days. Students must not wear clothing that is in any way revealing, i.e. crop tops or low cut tops, and shoes must not create a health and safety issue, i.e. they should not have a high heel.

Self Defense

There are only three weeks left of self defense and Judo class. There are still spaces available should your daughter wish to join, please encourage your child to attend if they would like to as numbers need to stay high for this great opportunity to continue after Easter. There needs to be a parent/carer signature in your daughter's planner for them to attend the club which takes place on Tuesdays between 3 and 4pm in the sports hall.

Self-Harm

The following report from the Samaritans identifies a link between the COVID pandemic and an increased prevalence of self-harm in the UK:

<https://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/coronavirus-and-suicide/on-e-year-on-data-on-covid-19/coronavirus-young-people-and-self-harm/>

This is certainly something that greatly concerns us at Lordswood Girls' School especially given the statistics relating to the prevalence of self harm in females. When we contact parents about self-harm, they are often unaware of the signs to look for, or how to help when identified. The following website offers a wealth of information on self harm which parents might find useful:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/self-harm/about-self-harm/>

As a school, we are not trained mental health experts, but we are always here to listen and signpost to appropriate support services where required.

InvestIn STEM & Medicine Summer Experiences

[STEM & Medicine Summer](#)

Social Media Platform - YUBO

We have been asked to make parents aware of the dangers of a new social media platform called YUBO. This platform is gaining popularity amongst youngsters but has weak security features which might make it unsuitable for young people. These include:

Poor Age Restrictions/Privacy Settings: Although the terms and conditions state that Yubo is strictly for users above 13, there is no credible age-gate that can prevent a young child from joining the platform. Young people have been observed connecting with adults or mature teens on the app to chat with or even ask to be 'rated'. There is a growing concern that the app could be used for grooming. Adult predators have been known to create fake profiles displaying a teenager's persona to lure unsuspecting kids into conversations. It is almost impossible to verify the true identity of a Yubo user.

Livestream: The livestream feature is the most worrying. Children can initiate live video streams of their day, in their bedrooms or any other location. Any number of strangers can view the stream and can send questions or interact via live text chat. These are not restricted to friends alone and are often open to strangers; users are then encouraged to add unknown

attendees/viewers as friends during the stream. In addition, questions from strangers on livestream may result in teenagers giving away personal information and the most disturbing part of this feature is that anyone can record a livestream.

The following poster provides more information which you might find useful:

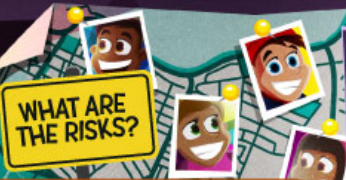
What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



YUBO



Yubo is a social networking platform where users can chat and livestream with up to 10 friends at once. People can connect with others based on location, with a Tinder-style 'swiping' mechanism to accept or reject someone based on their profile pictures. The app has approximately 50 million users worldwide – but despite its popularity, Yubo has not been free from controversy. While the app claims to monitor inappropriate content, a newspaper investigation in early 2022 found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism, bullying and conversations with adult themes.



FLimsy AGE GATES

Yubo states it is only for over 13s, but there is no credible age-gate to prevent an even younger child joining the platform. An undercover journalist investigating dangerous content reported spending 10 days posing as a 15-year-old on the app without any age verification. This flaw, and the fact that it's impossible to verify a user's true identity on Yubo, raises serious concerns over potential grooming.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Yubo has experienced problems with inappropriate content being displayed to children and teens. Although the app's developers claim to monitor profiles and messages for adult-themed or unsuitable material, a *Sunday Times* investigation found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism and bullying, with many chats referencing self-harm, suicide and drug use.

LIVESTREAM RISKS

Due to Yubo's lax age verification, children are able to launch live video streams which strangers can then view and interact with via real-time text chat. Not only is the thought of strangers watching children's livestreams extremely worrying (they could also use these as a means to establish the child's location) but text chats might result in a young person disclosing personal information.



ON AIR

BULLYING POTENTIAL

Yubo users 'swipe' to accept or decline the chance to talk with each other. These decisions are entirely based on someone's profile picture, raising the potential for children to be left with low self-esteem if declined repeatedly. Negative feedback about their appearance can seriously damage a child's emotional wellbeing, causing a loss of confidence in how they look or how interesting they are.

EXTENSIVE ACCESS

Users of Yubo, no matter what their age, are required to grant access to their device's microphone and GPS. This means they are potentially revealing highly sensitive information, including their exact location. In addition, new users of the app are asked to provide personal details such as their name, date of birth and phone number, which – in the case of young people – represents a clear risk.

'GATEWAY' EFFECT

Yubo's swiping system (right for 'yes'; left for 'no') works much like Tinder and various other dating apps. This could lead to children exploring similarly designed apps that aren't intended for a young audience. Users can also link their Yubo account to social media such as Snapchat and Instagram, making it easier for a stranger to track them down on various platforms.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCOURAGE USE

We don't often advise totally avoiding an app, but due to the concerns that Yubo has generated of late (the February 2022 *Sunday Times* exposé and a recent abduction case in which the alleged perpetrator met a teenage girl through the app) and the fact that inappropriate content has been proved to be circulating on the platform, you may decide that the safest option is to dissuade your child from downloading it altogether.

DISCUSS IN ADVANCE

If your child is absolutely determined to join Yubo (perhaps their friends all use the platform, for instance), then it's essential to talk to them about the dangers of this type of app *before* they install it. It's vital they understand not to disclose personal information to people they don't know, for example, and that they're warned about the type of mature content they may be exposed to on the app.

STAY AWARE

It's important to stay attuned to how your child is using social media. If they only access Yubo in private, for example, you might reasonably question what they're potentially using it for. It's also important to watch for warning signs that they may be over-using the app: prioritising it over everyday routines like meals and homework, for instance, or showing signs of irritability and a lack of concentration.

ALTER THE SETTINGS

After the recent high-profile controversies surrounding the app, Yubo's developers have increased its security controls. Users can now choose to block profiles, screen out nudity in live streams and keep their location private. There's also an option to report inappropriate content, so make sure your child knows that they can now flag up anything they find disturbing via the app's Safety Centre.

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.



LOCATIONS



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Holocaust Educational Trust Book Club Recommendations

A Wondering Jew – John Fieldsend

John Fieldsend was one of the Kindertransport children rescued from Nazi tyranny by Nicholas Winton. Born in Czechoslovakia and brought up in Germany during Hitler's rise to power, early pressures forced his family back to Vitkov in their native land- but there was to be no respite. Following the failure of the Evian-les-Bains conference in July 1938 to offer increased help for Jewish refugees, Nazi confidence and aggression grew. Before long, John was on his way to England. Here, a long and eventually fruitful life started to take shape: education, marriage, ordination and ministry, especially in the area of Jewish-Christian relations where John was often a pioneering force.

The Story of Bodri – Hedi Fried

Hédi spends her days playing with her dog Bodri in the park, but her quiet world starts to crumble the day she hears Adolf Hitler on the radio. Germany's leader hates her and her family, just because they are Jewish. And Hitler doesn't even know them--it doesn't make any sense. Soon Nazi Germany invades Hédi's country, and her life changes forever.