

Headteacher's Half Term Round-Up

Miss Concannon

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights and to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made this term such a success.

This term alone has seen us host a hugely successful Eco Day, where pupils engaged in thoughtful and creative ways to care for our planet, and our Sports Day was once again a fantastic celebration of teamwork, resilience, and school spirit. It's always a joy to see our students giving their best and cheering each other on.

We have also begun welcoming our new Year 6 pupils, soon to be our next cohort of Year 7s. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity, and we look forward to supporting them as they begin their journey with us in September.

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we are excited to be introducing the Thrive Approach as part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing the wellbeing of all our pupils. This will further enhance our therapeutic approach to supporting students, helping us to meet their social and emotional needs so they can thrive both in and out of the classroom.

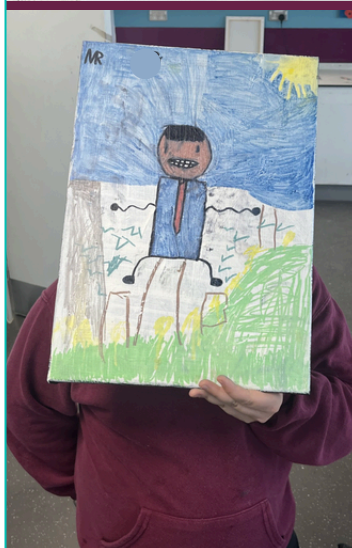
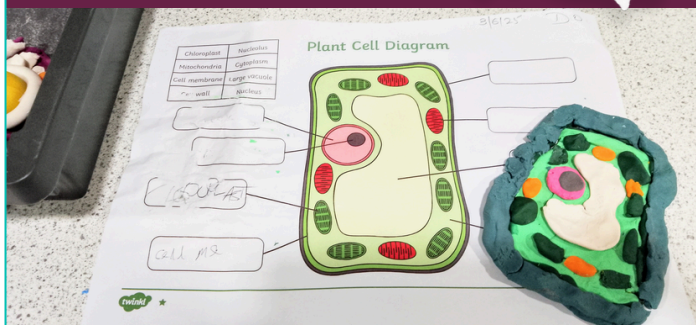
As we prepare for the year ahead, we also say goodbye to four valued members of our school community: Dr Corfield, Mrs Lawson-Smith, Miss Millward, and Miss Mitchell.

A special thank you goes to Dr Corfield for her outstanding work as Deputy Head and SENCO. Over the past four years, she has worked tirelessly to support the school on its journey of improvement, always going above and beyond to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils. Her dedication, insight, and leadership will be greatly missed.

We are also deeply grateful to Mrs Lawson-Smith, Miss Millward and Miss Mitchell for the passion and commitment they have brought to their roles. Each of them has made a lasting impact on our school, and while we are sad to see them go, we are excited for all that lies ahead for them. On behalf of everyone here, I'd like to wish them every success and happiness in their new ventures.

Thank you once again to our staff, students, and families for your ongoing support. I wish you all a restful, safe, and sunny summer break.

- IN THIS ISSUE
- Curriculum Updates
 - School Events
 - School Updates & Reminders
 - Support Events & Services
 - Online Safety, Mental Health & Wellbeing
 - Dates for Your Diary



Enrichment

Miss Millward

This half term, students have done really well with collecting their points. Because of our new class charts system, points are put on electronically for students instead of them taking their snapshot point sheets to every lesson. We have seen many more students getting lots of positive points and engaging with seeing who is top!



The top enrichment option this half term has been fishing. Students have loved this previously and enjoy the healthy competition of who catches the most fish. Other options have been sport, creative, and outdoor ed and Mr Woolford has also started to introduce card games with warhammer, both during enrichment and at lunch times.

Careers

Mr Versace

With exams finishing in early June, our Yr11 students began their move into life after Hamilton, with some taking up offers of additional college visits to help with their transition. Whilst it will be sad to see them leave, it is exciting to hear what the next step in life holds for them all and we wish them the very best for the future!

This half-term has also seen a visit from the Apprenticeship, Support, Knowledge (ASK) representative who delivered a drop-in session for all students to discuss what apprenticeships are and how to go about getting one. Some students were shocked to find out that there was an option for learning and getting paid to work at the same time! Mrs Reeves, the ASK representative, also shared that there are over 700 possibilities for apprenticeships in a vast range of career fields. It will certainly give the students something to think about for the future.

As always, we encourage students and their families to have these discussions about post-16 pathways and what they would like it to look like. We would encourage them to hold high aspirations for their future, and we look forward to supporting them to reach their goals.

From the Careers team, we wish you all a healthy, safe and relaxing summer holiday period and we look forward to working with you again in the new academic year!

Life Skills

Miss Holmes

In Life Skills this term, pupils have been learning about real-world topics such as organisation, social etiquette, and personal safety. Lessons are designed to promote independence, build confidence, and prepare students for adulthood. Through discussion and practical tasks, the boys are developing communication skills, teamwork, and self-awareness. We're proud of how engaged they've been!

Food Technology

Mr Bartenbach

It's been a delicious few weeks in the kitchen, and our young chefs have truly outdone themselves! From flipping smash burgers and seasoning up loaded fries to crafting gooey brookies and irresistible rocky road, our cooking sessions have been packed with flavour and fun.

We've explored savoury and sweet alike—assembling spicy buffalo chicken sliders, layering a classic Victoria sponge, and getting creative with taco boats that were as fun to build as they were to eat.

Each lesson has been a hands-on adventure in learning, teamwork, and (of course) taste-testing. We can't wait to see what's cooking next!



Meet Mr Russell, our Outdoor Education Lead at Hamilton School.



"As my second year in the role of Outdoor Education Lead draws to a close, I cannot help but smile at the incredible journeys that our students have been on. Before taking on the role here at Hamilton, I worked as a Play Ranger for Reading Borough Council for 14 years, during which time I worked with SEMH students both in and out of mainstream and special education. When I came in to support a student at Hamilton as part of that role, I knew that this was a school and team that I wanted to be a part of, and it has not disappointed. We have some incredible staff and students and a fantastic school community which I feel very lucky to be a part of."

What a half term we've had in Outdoor Ed! We've been busy constructing our own shelter made up from parts of a kindly donated shed, making a wooden chair, table, rake, bird house, wooden bin, shelves and numerous other wood-based projects, all whilst building stronger peer relationships. We've dabbled in a bit more cooking and put up a swing, with students growing increasingly accepting, respectful, and supportive of each other. We've seen a steady increase in creative initiative, with students clearly taking well desired pride in what they achieve. As we look to next year, we have so many exciting new chapters to explore, with the new, giant parachute shelter that will keep us dry throughout the year, opportunities for older students to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, with the outdoor skills they've learnt playing a big role in that, more construction projects and a host of other exciting opportunities!



Physical Education

Mrs Burford

Sports Day this term was fantastic! Most students participated very well in all sports including rounders, ultimate frisbee, tag rugby and dodgeball. The Green team won!

In lessons, some year groups have been playing capture the flag and working on teamwork and tactics. Some students also participated in discus and shot put events in Athletics.

Year 7 students also attended an Inter-Trust sports day held at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School. Competing against other Trust Schools, students participated in soft archery, football, multi games, ultimate frisbee, golf and bowls. A great day was had by all and our students behaved impeccably.



Personal Development

Ms Biddiss

This term, all year groups have been focusing on the topic of 'Changing Me', in preparation for the next phase of their learning in September. This has involved looking at the importance of change and adaptability.

Years 8 and 9 have been studying change in relation to puberty, and years 10 and 11 have been focusing on next steps in their educational journey, looking at local colleges and employability skills.

With the summer holidays ahead, all year groups have also taken part in sessions on road, water and rail safety. Students have produced some very impressive work and have had great discussions.

English

Ms Ejike

This half-term has been marked by engaging discussions and valuable learning moments centred on significant themes, including fatherhood, masculinity, family, injustice, bullying, racism and gender stereotypes. Our analysis of the texts **Boys Don't Cry** and **Ghost Boys** has spurred thought-provoking conversations that have helped deepen our understanding of these complex issues. Throughout the term, students have made notable strides in their reading, comprehension, inference, and analytical skills. Various activities have allowed them to practise the techniques employed by authors to engage their readers effectively.

Our Year 9 and 10 students have particularly focused on understanding the methods writers use, exploring a range of language devices, including imagery, such as similes, metaphors, personification, and hyperbole. They also gained insights into how writers structure their works using techniques like flashforwards, flashbacks, and repetition. They learned how to identify different parts of speech and varied sentence types. One highlight of the term has been the introduction of a 10-minute grammar workbook, which has proven to be a valuable tool in enhancing literacy and writing skills.

The Year 8 students wrapped up their studies on **Coraline** and have transitioned seamlessly into a new topic: 'Introduction to Shakespeare'. This exploration has allowed them to learn about Shakespeare's life, the origins of his works, popular quotes and words that have become staples in the English language today and the historical context of plays performed at the Globe Theatre in London. We incorporated various videos and documentaries to enrich the students' understanding of these themes and historical contexts.

It has been a pleasure to witness the students' enthusiasm, engagement, and curiosity throughout this term.

Science

Mrs Burford (KS3) and Mrs Anchan (KS4)

The highlight of the half term for **Year 7** science has to be the trip to **Mercedes-Benz World**.



All students engaged incredibly well with the tour guide. They listened, asked questions and answered questions. Students had good fun walking around and learning about the history of Mercedes-Benz, seeing some very old cars and seeing Lewis Hamilton's previous Formula 1 car! They also played in the simulators and all had a great day.

Back in school, students have continued their learning about the science of Formula 1, including aerodynamics of the cars and the science behind choosing the correct tyre for the weather conditions.

Year 8s began their **GCSE Science** adventure by exploring Newton's Laws of Motion through creative, hands-on activities bringing physics to life as they modelled all three laws in action.

Year 9 students have immersed themselves in the world of **Cell Biology and Diffusion**, examining the intricacies of human and plant biology, while others have been working with great determination to complete their **BTEC Applied Science** course. Their focus has included preparing core unit progression plans, researching future careers, and practising for mock interviews.



Year 10 students have been diving deep into the fascinating world of **Genetics and DNA**, building models, examining human DNA, and understanding evolution.

Across all year groups, students have shown remarkable dedication and enthusiasm, making this a term full of discovery, practical learning, and academic growth.

Year 7 Transition

Ms Whalley

The Year 7s have been absolute superstars this term during the first part of their transition into Year 8. It's hard to believe that almost a year has passed since they started at Hamilton – where has the time gone?!

The students have settled into their new routines well, getting to know their tutors, Mrs Ejike and Mrs Anchan, and moving around school for all of their lessons. It has been really nice to catch up with them around school and chat about how things are going, and I have been lucky enough to still teach them all in my other role as IT teacher.

We are wishing all these Year 7s a lovely summer break, and know they will be excellent role models for the Year 7s we will welcome in September.

Art

Miss Holmes

This term in Art, our students have worked hard on student-guided creative projects designed to build their confidence, imagination, and fine motor skills.

We've practiced drawing, made 3D models out of cardboard, and sculpted clay, with many pupils showing pride in their finished pieces.

Lessons have focused on resilience and independent thinking – key skills for life beyond the classroom. Students have been encouraged to try new ideas, reflect on their work, and celebrate their progress. It's been wonderful to see their personalities shine through their art!

We look forward to welcoming our new art teacher, Mrs Harris, in September, and can't wait to see what our students make next.

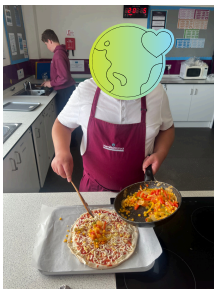
Eco Day!

On 2 July, students were divided into groups and followed a programme of activities:

- Preparing a Gardening Area
- An ECO food activity
- Bug Hotel Building
- Recycled Art Challenge
- Making Seed Bombs and Bird Feeders



It was a fantastic day and the teamwork and camaraderie between the students was evident. Prizes were given for the most engaged student, best team player and best work produced during each session.



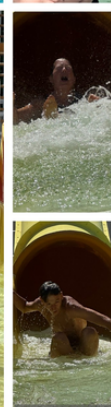
SPORTS DAY

On 4 July, we held our whole school Sports Day. It was a fantastic event, with teams taking part in Rounders, Ultimate Frisbee, Dodgeball, Tag Rugby, and Capture the Flag. The students did really well, especially in the heat - the ice-cream van was a very welcome sight at the end of the events!



Aldershot Lido

Our whole school trip on 16 July was a huge success. Our students had a fantastic time swimming, splashing, racing down the water slides, playing games and eating well deserved ice-cream! It was so lovely to see our students and staff 'let their hair down' and embrace some down time with one another. A great day had by all!



Mental Health

Mrs Nemeth

We've received a selection of mental health leaflets from the charity Mind, including resources specifically designed for young people. These cover topics like anxiety, self-care, and where to get help. If any parents would like copies to support their child's wellbeing, please get in touch and we'll be happy to share them.



Attendance

Mrs Lawson-Smith

Here at Hamilton, we are working hard to reduce absenteeism and increase our overall attendance which currently stands at **57.8%***. I am pleased to say that a number of students have improved on their individual attendance figures and received prizes off the back of the rewards program.

Full attendance will enhance all students' chances of excelling through their final years, building up skill sets and developing long term positive relationships with peers by increasing social skills. Please ensure if you are calling school directly before 9am if your young person will be absent.

If you need to let us know a child is unwell you can do so by calling 01189375524 or you can email hamadmin@maidenerleghtrust.org before 9am.

**Figures as of 20 July 2025, Years 7-10*

Behaviour

Mrs Lawson-Smith

We are seeing lots more positive choices being made this term and I am pleased to see a big pile of positive cards going out every week. There has been a positive increase in communication with staff, following instructions and lesson attendance and I look forward to all students keeping this up.

I would like all students to remember that we are a hands-off school and play fighting is not allowed on the premises. All our staff work hard to encourage and promote positive behaviours throughout the school day, and this is shown in how successful our students are in obtaining points every day and the large number of students being able to take part in our excellent enrichment and rewards program.

SEN Updates

Mrs Nemeth

This term, several of our students have been enjoying weekly sessions with Make Sense Theatre, a specialist company working with neurodivergent young people. These drama sessions nurture communication, confidence, creativity, and social skills in a fully inclusive and trauma-informed setting. We've been delighted to have this support from Make Sense as they help our students to express themselves, connect with peers, and grow in confidence.



School Uniform

A reminder that all students must arrive at school in full and correct uniform:

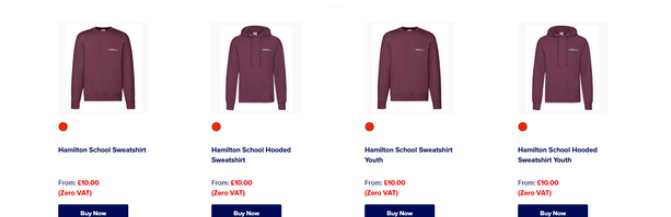
- **Plain black trousers or shorts, or knee-length skorts (no skirts)**
- **White polo shirt (with collar)**
- **Black shoes or trainers**
- **Hamilton School sweatshirt/hoodie**

With the exception of school logo sweatshirts, (which may be purchased from our supplier, **Oliver Embroidery**), no other items require logos or branding so may be purchased widely, including second hand. If you require any advice about where to purchase these items, please contact the school office.

Other items:

- **Hijab**, if worn, should be a dark colour, ideally black or grey.
- **Hairstyles** should not be attention-seeking. Only natural hair colours are permitted and long hair should be tied back.
- **Jewellery** is not permitted except watches and studs earrings (no more than one per ear). Facial piercings are not permitted.
- **Make-up** (including fingernails) should be natural and inconspicuous.

If your child needs a new jumper or hoodie, please ensure these are purchased in time for the new school year, These are available at a heavily subsidised rate of **£10** per item, including delivery directly to school.



Staffing Updates

Miss Ward

As we near the end of term, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to three valued members of staff who will be leaving us.

We say goodbye to **Dr Jill Corfield**, our Deputy Headteacher and SENCo, who has played a pivotal role in shaping the inclusive and supportive ethos of our school. Her leadership, compassion, and tireless advocacy for students with additional needs have made a lasting impact on the lives of many young people and their families. She will be deeply missed by staff and students alike.

We also bid farewell to Miss Millward and Mrs Lawson-Smith, who have been dedicated members of our Behaviour Support Team, and Miss Mitchell, one of our TAs. All have worked with empathy, patience and unwavering commitment to support our students' wellbeing and personal development. Their efforts have helped many young people to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Looking ahead to September, there are few role changes for our staff. Mr Versace will be taking on the role of SENCO; Mr Woolford, Deputy Head; and Ms Biddiss, Assistant Head. Miss Archer will be taking on the role of Team Leader for our Thrive Support team. Miss Garvey and Mr Richards will transition from their Teaching Assistant roles to support Miss Archer as Inclusion Support Workers. Additionally, we warmly welcome Miss Balogun, who will also be joining the team as an Inclusion Support Worker.

We are also delighted to welcome several new staff members. Mrs Harris will be joining us as our new Art teacher, and Mr Olu will be taking on the role of Cover Supervisor. We are also pleased to introduce four new Teaching Assistants: Miss Blackmore, Miss Munro, Miss John, and Miss Lamond.

Please join us in giving them all a warm welcome – we're excited for the year ahead and confident that they will bring great energy and commitment to our school.



Teen PPP

Positive parenting programme

 **Thurs 18 September - Thurs 20 November 2025**  **9.30-11.30am**
 **Civic Offices, Bridge St, Reading RG1 2LU**

- ★ Is your child aged 11-19 years old?
- ★ Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour?
- ★ Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?

Join our evidence-based flexible parenting programme.

The group aims to strengthen your relationship with your teenager, promote your teen's development and equip you to help them recognise and avoid risky situations.

The programme is delivered in nine two-hour weekly group sessions on Thursdays, term-time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact:
parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
or call **0118 937 4858**



© Brighter Futures for Children 2025



Issue 38, June 2025

A newsletter for families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Reading

The Summer Issue



Inside

- SEND news
- What's on in Reading
- SEND short breaks
- Counselling for young people
- Preparation for adulthood
- Family support
- And more...

www.readingsendlocaloffer.org

*It's here! The Summer edition of the new look **SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2025**. It's packed with lots of information including:*

- **Blogs**
- **News items** - events available throughout the Summer Holidays
- **Early Years** - updates from the sector
- **What's on** - events and workshops
- **Preparing for adulthood** - 16-25 updates
- **Mental health and wellbeing** support
- **National organisations** supporting SEND
- **Short breaks**, support services and much more...

Please remember, this is just a snapshot of the wealth of information that can be found on the www.readingsendlocaloffer.org



General Holiday Activities can be found on the following search list: [Activities in Reading Summer 2025](#)

Childcare: for parent carers who need information on childcare, holiday clubs, childminders etc for the school holiday – www.readingfis.org/childcare

Early Help: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/early-help/>

Short Breaks for the Summer Holiday: [Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks \(all ability activities\)](#)

SEND Local Offer 16+ Guide: [SEND Local Offer 16+ Guide | Reading Services Guide](#)



*A new type of
Food Bank
in your area!*

When you become a member of a Pantry, in exchange for a small weekly subscription (£6) you will have access to food that you choose, including fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and store cupboard favourites.

Proof of address and benefits/income is required to become a member. For a Pantry in your area, please click on the areas below:

[Reading Coley Park](#)

[Reading Norcot](#)

[Reading Pavilion](#)

[Reading Hexham](#)

[Reading Southcote](#)

[Reading Wesley](#)

[Reading Whitley Wood](#)

[Reading St. Barnabas](#)



**SEND support group
for parent-carers and
families of children
with additional needs**

No diagnosis, EHCP or documents needed.
No age, gender, religious, sexuality or
disability restrictions



www.fifisvision.co.uk



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

BEEFEATER

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main

BILLS

Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July – 29th Sept

BREWERS FAYRE

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

BREWDOG

2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July – 31st August

BURGER KING

From 28th July – 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)

CHQUITO

Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids Eat Free from 14th July – 31st August 2025

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER

Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TESCO

Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TOBY CARVERY

Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI

Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



**Helping Young People Stay Out of
Harm's Way**

We're not here to tell you how to parent.

Information for parents/carers and
young people aged 11-17

Stay True to You has been developed by Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership. Designed to help you have better conversations, they provide free practical materials to help start meaningful conversations with your child about safety. Please click on the below link to access some of the support on offer:

The Insights behind Stay True to You

All of this starts with what young people and youth workers told us. Start here to dive into the core principles of our approach, understand how young people feel about their safety, and consider how we can best communicate with them.

[Download](#)
PDF, 308.41 KB

Free online training

Two short videos which together make up a package which aims to raise your awareness of the risks facing your children, the signs and symptoms to look out for, what can help protect them, and practical tips in having difficult conversations that help them to make their own more positive choices to keep them safe.

[Access the training](#)

Parent/Carer Information booklet

A free booklet with advice for parents/carers on how to help keep your child safe.

[Download](#)
PDF, 2.68 MB



Develop Self-Discipline

Learn Boxing Techniques

Build Self-Confidence

Healthy Physical Activity

Free Boxing Camp

info@n3wangle.com

-  11:00am - 1:00pm
1:00pm - 3:00pm
-  July: 28, 30;
August: 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29
-  Ages 11 - 18
-  MBMT, Bridgewater Close, Reading RG30 1JT

Our free camp offers age-based boxing sessions that develop technique, fitness, and resilience. Each day includes mentoring to support both physical and mental well-being, with light refreshments provided. We aim to create a safe, positive space where young people from different areas of the community can come together, connect, and grow - and we're pleased to welcome more girls with female coaching support now part of our team.

Session:

Boxing Skills & Drills: Technique, footwork, pad work, and controlled sparring

What to bring:

Appropriate clothing and footwear, headguard, gumshield and gloves (if owned), drinks bottle and water

All coaches are:

Child Safeguarding and Emergency Aid certified, Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checked, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insured

Fitness & Conditioning: Bag work, circuits, core training, strength and stamina-building

Funded by the Thames Valley PCC
Scan the QR Code Below to Book Now!



Sport In Mind

Sport in Mind® is an award winning mental health charity... with a simple mission:

"To improve the lives of people experiencing mental health problems through sport and physical activity"

To view **Sport in Mind's** monthly programmes for all areas, please click [here](#) for youth, and [here](#) for adults.



**WOKINGHAM, READING
&
BRACKNELL
ROCKS™**

For details of summer events taking place in and around your area, please take a look at the '**ROCKS**' sites below.

Wokingham: www.wokinghamrocks.co.uk

Reading: www.reading-rocks.co.uk

Bracknell: www.bracknellrocks.co.uk

Windsor: www.windsorrocks.co.uk

**Many of these events are
FREE!**



THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS
WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT! TRAIL
DIGI FUN TRAIL
SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CART

THURSDAY 24 JULY
BUG CLUB: THE CREEPY CRAWLY CREW
FORBURY GARDENS
All ages, Families, 1-hour sessions starting at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm

SATURDAY 26 JULY
FAMILY DIGI WORKSHOPS DAY
Ages 8-11, 11am & 2pm

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY
READING MUSEUM'S TEDDY BEARS RHYMETIME PICNIC AND CRAFT FORBURY GARDENS
All ages, Families, 10am - 3pm

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST
VICTORIAN SCHOOLROOM EXPERIENCE IN THE GATEWAY
Ages 5+, Families, 11am & 2pm



Don't miss Rhymetime every Wednesday, object handling on Wednesdays & Fridays and Museums, My Way every Saturday!

www.readingmuseum.org.uk

TUESDAY 5 AUGUST
EVERYBODY'S WELCOME MAKE & TAKE CRAFT SESSIONS: CLAY FOREST CREATURES
Ages 5+, Families, half hour sessions 10am - 3pm

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST
FAMILY DIGI WORKSHOP: ECOCODE EARTH OBSERVATION COSMIC RAYS
Ages 8-11, 10am, 11.30am, 2pm

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST
EVERYBODY'S WELCOME MAKE & TAKE CRAFT SESSIONS: BUGS!
Ages 5+, Families, half hour sessions 10am - 3pm

MONDAY 25 AUGUST
MUSEUMS MY WAY CRAFT SESSIONS
Families, 1 hour sessions 10am & 11.15am

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST
FAMILY DIGI WORKSHOP: YOUR VOICE IS POWER
Ages 14+, 10am, 11.30am, 2pm



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍷 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🦫) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🍷🦫 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	🥰 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement	🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Mood) Stone-faced, unbothered	👎 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Dates for Next Half Term:

Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 September	Inset days - school closed to all students
Wednesday 3 September	Parent Tutor Meetings for all students
Thursday 4 September	Year 7 and Year 11 students return to school
Friday 5 September	All students return to school
Thursday 15 to Thursday 18 September	Year 10 & 11 Work Experience Interviews
Thursday 25 September	Year 10 Parents - Exploring the World of Careers in KS4 - Online Parent Q&A Session with Ann Finlason, Trust Careers Advisor - 6:30pm-7:30pm
Friday 3 October	Year 11 - Trust Higher & Further Education Fair, Maiden Erlegh School
Thursday 16 October	Reward Trips
Wednesday 22 October	Inset Day - school closed to all students
Thursday 23 October - Friday 31 October	Half Term - school closed to all students
Monday 3 November	All students return to school



Our News Feed: [Latest News](#)

Term Dates: [Hamilton School Term Dates](#)

School Timings: [Our School Day](#)

Parent Help & Support: [Information](#)

Class Timetables: [Timetables](#)

Letters for Parents: [Letters](#)

Maiden Erlegh Trust Vacancies: [Vacancies](#)

About Hamilton School: [About Us](#)

We would love to hear your views on Hamilton School. Please click below to highlight anything you feel our school has done particularly well recently, or areas you feel we need to improve, as well as a chance to nominate a member of staff you feel has exceeded your expectations. Click on the links below to submit your feedback:

