



Principals Newsletter

BOWER PARK ACADEMY

Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the shorter week due to the bank holiday, exam season is finally upon us! This is a crucial time in any student's life, as the grades they achieve paths the way for their future.

Year 11

Well done to Year 11 students for beginning your written examinations this week. You have shown maturity and commitment to ensuring every success in your GCSE's. You have the skills and knowledge to do your best so this is your time to shine! Please can all Year 11 students ensure that they bring a clear bottle of water to their exams, especially in the warmer weather. This week Year 11 students received the revision schedule to support them through their examination journey. Should you require support for exam stress and anxiety, the NHS website is a useful source for tips and advice [Tips on preparing for exams - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) Please ensure that full uniform is worn during these public examinations. Should you require an item of uniform, you will be able to borrow this from Reflections.

Jack Petchey

Congratulations to all of our students who attended the Jack Petchey Annual awards presentation evening at Queens Theatre last night. All students were recognised for their individual success and got to celebrate their fantastic achievements. Congratulations also to Mrs Anderson for receiving her Outstanding Leader award for all her work for Erasmus. I am immensely proud of our students and staff involved. My thanks to Mrs Mann for coordinating this amazing event.



Year 10 Progress evening

On Wednesday 15th May, we look forward to meeting Parents/ Carers for the Year 10 Progress evening. This will be a great opportunity to discuss your child progress and gain an insight to their Mock exam grades. Appointments are still available to book, if you haven't managed to do so already.

Medical and Mobile phones

From Monday, students who require medical attention will be required to hand over their phone to the Office Team whilst in the Medical room. This is due to an increase in the use of mobile phones. Failure to hand over their phone upon entry, may result in the Office Team refusing medical attention and sending students back to lessons.

St James Coffee Morning

On Thursday 16th May at 9:15am, there will be a Coffee morning at St James Church, Chase Cross, RM5 3YR, for Parents/ Carers to attend with Myself, Mr Morris, Ms Scott and Ms Varyah. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to raise any questions, suggest ideas and learn more as to how the Academy might support your family.

As a Trust we have access to a range of support services including parenting advice, foodbank and a range of counselling services for parents and children and we are keen to offer such services to our families as required. We hope that these meetings will become regular and we look forward to meeting you then.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week, Mental Health Awareness week will take place from 13th to 19th May. To support students, we will be running a stall on Thursday lunchtime with information on how they can improve their mental health, reduce stress and boost self-esteem. If you would like more information, the Mental Health Foundation website is a useful source- [A-Z Topics | Mental Health Foundation](#)

Yours faithfully,



Mr E Aylett
Principal

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



Friends of Bower
Park PTA present



BACK AT THE ART DEPARTMENT

Wednesday 22nd May

Break & Lunchtime

MAKE SURE YOU BRING CASH

All money raised goes back into
the school





WHEN?

THURSDAY

TIME?

5:30-7:30PM



GRL ACADEMY

YOUTH CLUB

GIRLS ONLY SPACE



WHERE?

MYPLACE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE
343 Dagnam Park Dr, Romford RM3 9EN

INTERESTED?

📞 01708 434709



YOUTHSERVICE@HAVERING.GOV.UK



Haverling
LONDON BOROUGH



Child Safety Week

3rd to 7th June 2024



- What Haverling Safeguarding Partnership offer:**
- LADO Awareness - In person
MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024 (10:00 - 15:00)
 - Basic Safer Sleep - Virtual
Tuesday 4 June 2024 (11:00 - 13:30)
 - SUDI and Safer Sleep for Babies- Virtual
Tuesday 4 June 2024 (14:00 - 16:30)
 - Drug and Substance Misuse Awareness - Virtual
WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2024 (10:00 - 11:30)
 - Perinatal Mental Health Workshop - In person
THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2024 (13:30 - 16:30)
- Head over to <https://training.safeguardinghaverling.org.uk/> to join the above training courses.

PAN-LONDON TALK PANTS PROFESSIONAL LAUNCH

- NSPCC WILL BE HOSTING A PROFESSIONAL ROLL OUT EVENT ON WED 5TH JUNE 2024
- THEY WILL BE RUNNING INFORMATION SESSIONS ON THE TALK PANTS PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES.
- THESE INFORMATION SESSIONS WILL PREPARE PROFESSIONALS FOR OUR UPCOMING PAN LONDON TALK PANTS WEEK FOR SCHOOLS IN OCTOBER.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE.](#)

CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION TRUST :

Families should feel confident that, with one small change, they can stop a serious accident. And be clear what they need to do to keep their children safe.

That's why, for Child Safety Week 2024, our theme is **Safety. Sorted!**

our free handouts highlight small, easy-to-make changes in family life.

And we've pulled all our free resources together in one place, so that you can get **Safety. Sorted!**





SEND CAKE....

Are you a parent, family member or carer of a SEND child (0 to 25) living in Havering? (No diagnosis needed)

Come and have a chat, bring a friend or meet some new ones and find out what's happening in your area for SEND families.

Free cake and refreshments.

MyPlace
343 Dagnam Park Drive
Harold Hill
RM3 9EN

10.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday
19.06.24



Any questions contact us on:
info@haveringsendfamilyvoice.org



P.s did we tell you there's free cake?