

Great start to 2025!

We are absolutely thrilled to bring you a burst of exciting news and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students, both in the classroom and beyond, in this month's newsletter. The energy and enthusiasm within our school community are truly inspiring, and we are delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

First and foremost, a resounding congratulations to our incredible Girls' Football Team! Their dedication, teamwork, and sheer determination throughout the season have culminated in a truly momentous achievement: they have reached the prestigious Kent Cup Final! This is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are immensely proud of each and every player. Let's show our support and cheer them on to victory at The Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone United FC, on Saturday, 22nd March, with kick-off at 1:45 pm. We encourage you to join us for what promises to be a thrilling match! Please see the next page for more information.

Beyond the sporting arena, our school is buzzing with activity and progress. We are delighted to announce that exciting building projects have commenced, which will significantly enhance our environment. Construction is underway for a stylish new canopy



in the sixth form area, creating a comfortable and contemporary space for our senior students to study, socialise, and relax. Furthermore, an expansive building is now in progress for a much-improved dining hall. This modern and spacious facility will provide a more enjoyable and efficient dining experience for all our students, fostering a stronger sense of community.

Our commitment to global education continues to flourish through the Townley Global International School Programme. This month, we had the privilege of welcoming students from both China and Italy, further enriching our school community with diverse cultures and perspectives. These exchanges provide invaluable opportunities for our students to develop intercultural understanding, build lasting friendships, and broaden their horizons. The programme's continued growth is a testament to its success in fostering global citizenship and collaboration.

We look forward to sharing more exciting updates with you in the coming months. As always, thank you for your ongoing support, which is invaluable to our continued success.

Sarina Totty
Acting Headteacher



Cup Final!

Huge congratulations to our Girls' Football Team! After a season of hard work and determination, they have reached the prestigious Kent Cup Final, which will be held at The Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone United FC, on Saturday, 22nd March, with a 13:45pm kick-off. This is an incredible milestone, and we are all so proud of their teamwork and spirit. We hope to see many of you there to cheer them on as they go for victory!

The final will be held at The Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone United FC, on Saturday 22nd March, kick-off 13.45 pm. The Kent Schools FA have set up the following online ticketing link to purchase your tickets for the final:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1247115799929?aff=oddtcreator>



The team have played the following schools to get to the final:

Wilmington Grammar -
Winning 10 - 3

Bullers Wood School for Girls -
Winning 6 - 0

Bexleyheath Academy -
Winning 4 - 1

Quarter final - Dartford Science
and Technology College -
Winning 4 - 1

Semi-final - Chislehurst School for
Girls - Winning 2 - 0



Global Friendships

January and February saw Townley embrace a global spirit as we welcomed students from both China and Italy to our international integration program. These students quickly became part of the Townley family, forging friendships and experiencing our school community first-hand. The program culminated in heart warming leaving ceremonies where our international guests received certificates commemorating their time with us. The celebrations also showcased the talents of both our international students and their Townley buddies, who delighted the audience with a variety of performances and speeches, leaving everyone with fond memories of this cultural exchange. The Partnerships Team would like to thank the Townley Buddies for making this program so special.



TOWNLEY
GLOBAL

Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Support for young people

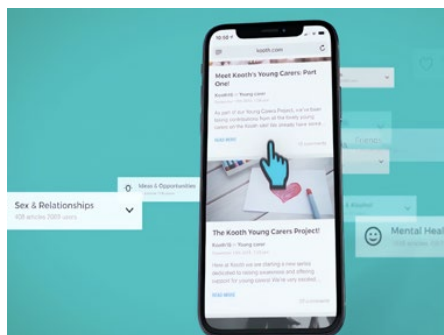


Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware of a service called Kooth. It provides early intervention mental health support to children and young people. Kooth works with schools and professionals across over 90% of the UK.

Kooth is free to access via any internet-connected tablet, computer or smartphone. There are no waiting lists or thresholds to meet and a referral from a medical professional is not needed. Your child can join Kooth anonymously simply by visiting www.kooth.com.

Kooth offers young people a range and choice of support options under one digital roof.

It has services that are accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes one to one text based sessions with experienced counsellors and wellbeing practitioners run from midday to 10pm on weekdays,



and from 6 -10pm at the weekend. Appointments can be booked in advance or accessed via a drop-in text-based chat. Kooth also provides a fully safeguarded and pre-moderated community with a library of peer and professional created articles. And there are discussion forums too. All content is pre-moderated and age appropriate.

Kooth covers many topics on the website including relationships, LGBTQIA+, exam stress, anxiety, eating difficulties, self harm, suicidal thoughts, body image, social media, bullying and family worries. All of these subjects affecting young peoples' mental health are presenting issues that Kooth and other mental health providers see from all age groups. Kooth is commissioned by the NHS and clinically approved for children from the age of 10, and is one of the few UK digital mental health providers to hold a BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) accreditation.

To find out more about Kooth visit <https://connect.kooth.com>

Or if you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, please email parents@kooth.com

Parent and Carer information session may also be useful (11 minutes):

<https://vimeo.com/915913103?share=copy>

Songwriting with ArtsTrain

Are you
interested in
songwriting,
rapping or
making beats?



Learn how to write and produce your own music and work with ArtsTrain's industry professional music leaders. The session will include ice breakers, games, an introduction to music production, lyric writing, singing and rapping.

Please note that the session will include a half hour lunch break. Lunch is not provided.

Parents and guardians will need to complete a short consent form for the young person attending this event. This will need to be completed and returned in advance of the session.

This event requires booking to attend. Tickets are free.

**To book tickets, please visit Sidcup Library or our Eventbrite page:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bexley-libraries-7939598856>**

Photos may be taken at this event and used on social media. Please alert staff if you do not want to be photographed.

Venue: Sidcup Library

Date: Tuesday 18 February, Time: 11am to 3pm

Suitable for ages 13 to 15 years.

Free 11+ preparation and KS2 learning support

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We're pleased to let you know that Townley Grammar School has partnered with Atom Learning, the leading 11+ preparation and Key Stage 2 learning website, to provide free KS2 learning and 11+ support to primary school children (both boys and girls) who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

Townley Grammar School is proud to welcome students from all backgrounds. This partnership aims to encourage even greater representation at our school while supporting under-resourced families in our community. Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year). There is a free trial available for non-pupil premium families.

What is Atom Home? Atom Learning provides Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation for ages 7–11. Their online learning platform Atom Home helps build children's confidence with KS2 learning objectives and, where relevant, familiarises them with 11+ exam questions and practice tests. Through their account, children can access questions, resources, video tutorials and mock tests.

Do you know someone who is eligible?

If you know someone whose child is preparing for the 11+, or is in need of extra Key Stage 2 learning support, please share this link with them:

<https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/townleygrammar>

After completing the form on this page, their primary school will receive a notification to verify their pupil premium eligibility. Once confirmed by their school, their Atom Home account will be created.

If you would like to find out more, please email pupilpremium@atomlearning.com

The image shows a promotional graphic for Atom Learning and Townley Grammar School. At the top left is the Atom Learning logo, and at the top right is the Townley Grammar School crest and name. Below these is a laptop displaying the Atom Learning interface. The interface includes a 'Hi Georgie!' greeting, a 'What's a monster's favourite day of the week?' question, and a 'Georgie's exam prep plan' table. The table lists subjects and their respective scores: English (4), Verbal Reasoning (3), Maths (6), and Non-verbal Reasoning (5). Surrounding the laptop are several floating cards representing different learning modules: 'Question 14/20' with geometric shapes, 'Equations Maths', 'Match to a pair Non-Verbal Reasoning', and 'Sequences Verbal Reasoning'. At the bottom of the graphic, the text reads 'Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support' and 'Townley Grammar School & Atom Learning'. A Trustpilot logo with five stars is also visible.

Free 11+ preparation and KS2 support
Townley Grammar School & Atom Learning

Trustpilot ★★★★★

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

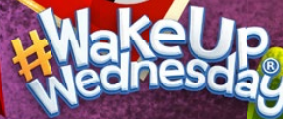
Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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