

## School Updates

A brief overview of key notices and school information

## Year 11 Leavers Event

The day in photos - a glimpse at the celebrations on the year 11 leavers day.

## Humanities Trips

See photos and descriptions of some of the wonderful things students have been up to in the Humanities Department

## Sports Day

The highly anticipated Annual Sports day. Despite the heat, the students were thoroughly brilliant!

## New Prefect Team



## Safeguarding & Careers

Newly introduced segments on safeguarding and careers which parents should find helpful

## Feedback Corner

My favourite section is our feedback corner, where I spotlight feedback from students and parents and members of the community



## A NOTE FROM MS CARROLL Tiny Duck!

I'm not sure what the kids these days call these tiny little ducks, but I've noticed that they are a bit of a trend with our younger students. This is why I felt so privileged to have been gifted one of these at the end of my very last Maths lesson as Head of School. Sometimes, as a teacher, we have moments of pure joy - and receiving this tiny duck from Lola was one of those moments for me. It has been an absolute privilege to lead Ramsey this term and I want to thank every single student who has welcomed me so warmly to the Academy.

## A NOTE FROM MISS MEAD



I was very pleased to confirm the successful appointment of our new Head of School, Christian Appleford, and our new Deputy Headteacher, Stefan Mallard, who will start with us in September. They have both visited the school several times over the past few weeks to get to know the staff and students and I am confident that, along with our current senior team, the school will continue to go from strength to strength under their leadership. I know they look forward to meeting with you. Wishing you all a well-deserved Summer break!



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### Message from Mr Bailey - Chair of Governors What is the role of Ramsey Academy Local Governing Body?

Ramsey is part of the Bridge Academy Trust, which comprises of eleven schools across Essex; 4 secondary and 7 primary.

We are effectively a committee of the Bridge's board of trustees where powers have been delegated to us to oversee and monitor the performance of the school. You can find further information about the roles and responsibilities of our Governing Body on the school website.

The Governing Body meets formally four times each academic year (twice in the Autumn and one each during the Spring and Summer terms). We have a programme of visits to the school, linked to the Academy development plan which includes meeting with subject leads and members of the senior leadership team.

Over the last year our fantastic staff have continued to build on their good work, and we would like to thank our new Executive Head, Julia Mead and Interim Head of School, Sandra Carroll, for their support and dedication over the Summer term. Both will continue to play an extremely important role in the running of the school. Our thanks also go to Charlotte Sterland who moved on at the end of the Spring term, for her enthusiasm and passion over the number of years that she worked in the school.

The life of a school moves so quickly and there are exciting events and challenges to look forward to over the coming months. This includes a number of senior staff changes which have been announced for the start of the Autumn term. We all look forward to welcoming Christian Appleford as our Head of School and Stefan Mallard, as a new Deputy Head and wish them every success in their new roles.

In the meantime, we wish our pupils, parents and everyone associated with the school a very enjoyable summer break.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY September

Date	Event
<b>Monday 1st September</b>	Non-pupil day
<b>Tuesday 2nd September</b>	Year 7 and Year 11 students only
<b>Wednesday 3rd September</b>	All students return
<b>Thursday 11th September</b>	Year 11 Key to Success Evening - 5pm
<b>Monday 22nd September</b>	Year 11 Settling In Reviews (invite only)
<b>Thursday 25th September</b>	Open Evening



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## YEAR 11 LEAVERS EVENT

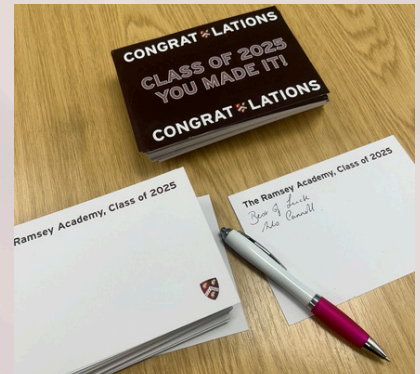
On 13<sup>th</sup> June we said a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 11 students, after they successfully navigated their way through their GCSE exams. It was a wonderful day of celebrating and reminiscing. Year 11 tutors shared messages and memories from the past 5 years and students took part in the age-old tradition of signing shirts.

I really enjoyed spending time with Year 11 throughout the day, watching the videos and photos of their time from Year 7 to 11. I really loved the artistic creativity displayed on so many of the shirts. They were a huge credit to themselves, to their parents and to the school. We are very proud of them! - **Ms Carroll**



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## MURDER MYSTERY IN YEAR 7 AND 8 ENGLISH LESSONS



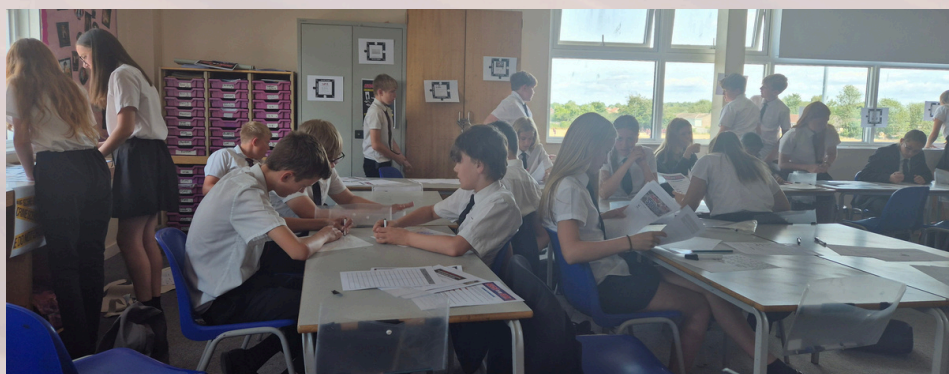
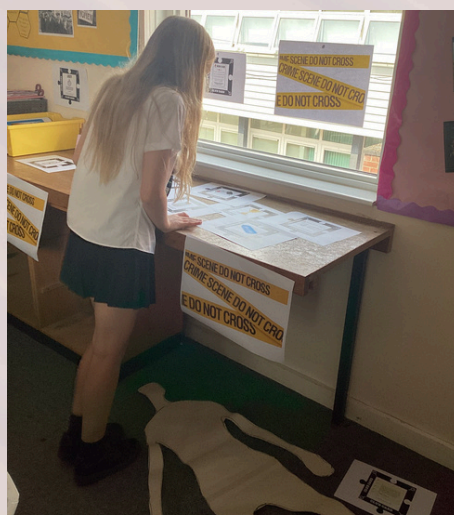
Ramsey students have been solving a murder mystery! Our KS3 students have been working through a file of evidence packed with clues, red herrings, and conflicting accounts.



It's all part of our "Murder by the Book" challenge — testing their reading, writing, summarising and inference skills.



They've sifted through the facts, weighed up the evidence, and used critical thinking to uncover the truth. Who committed the crime? Only the best readers will know...



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## STUDENT TRIPS IN HUMANITIES



On 7th July, a group of Year 7s visited St. Andrew's Church. The visit was a chance to learn more about the key features of a Christian church and to find out more about the forms of worship which are hosted there.



On 1st July, Year 10 Geography students completed their year 10 field work by visiting Danbury common for their physical geography case study and Chelmsford City for their human geography work.



On 3rd July, Year 10 History students visited Hedingham Castle to develop a more secure understanding of site study. This provides a tangible connection to the past, allowing students to experience the scale and grandeur of historical structures firsthand.



This can enhance their understanding of historical contexts, architectural styles, and the lives of people who lived in castles. Furthermore, it can make learning more engaging and memorable by offering interactive and immersive experiences beyond the classroom.



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## SPORTS DAY



## Ramsey academy sports day 2025



	Aspiration	Endeavour	Diversity
Year 7	1613	1977	1906
Year 8	1500	1442	2006
Year 9	1390	1893	1778
Year 10	1285	1086	1503
Total	6538	7298	7843

A huge congratulations to team Diversity who were the winners of Sports Day 2025. I would like to congratulate team Endeavour for being the Year 7 and Year 9 winners. On such a very hot day, it was a pleasure to see the maturity and determination of all students in the academy. Students were responsible outside, sitting in the shade, ensuring they were well-hydrated and using the indoor space when they felt that they needed to cool down. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of!



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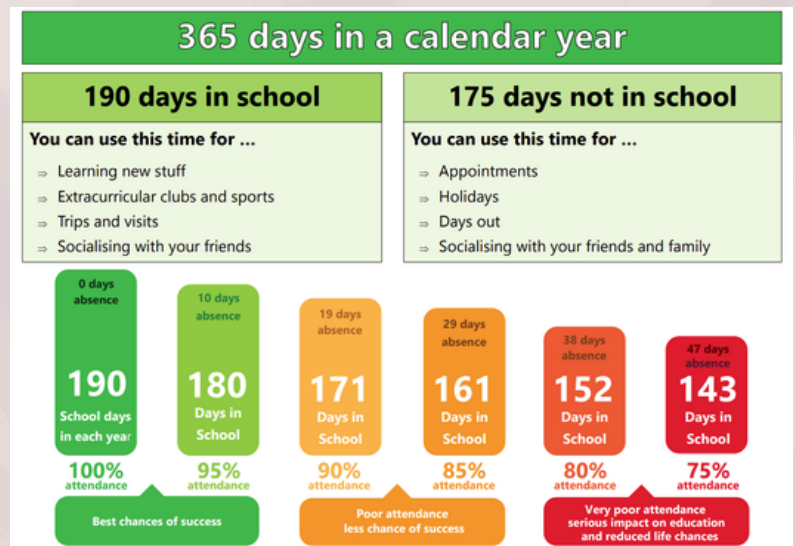
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## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **9R4** for the highest percentage attendance over the last week at 96.9%. A reward is coming your way!

**Attendance is critical!** There is a direct link between those with good attendance (95%+) and improved GCSE/A Level grades.



## OUR NEW HEAD PREFECTS



Congratulations to our new Head and Deputy Head Prefects Max, Neha, Ava, Brody (and absent from photo Ruby), pictured with Ms Carroll, Head of School. We are looking forward to working with you to lead Ramsey over the next academic year. A list of the full prefect team will be published in September.



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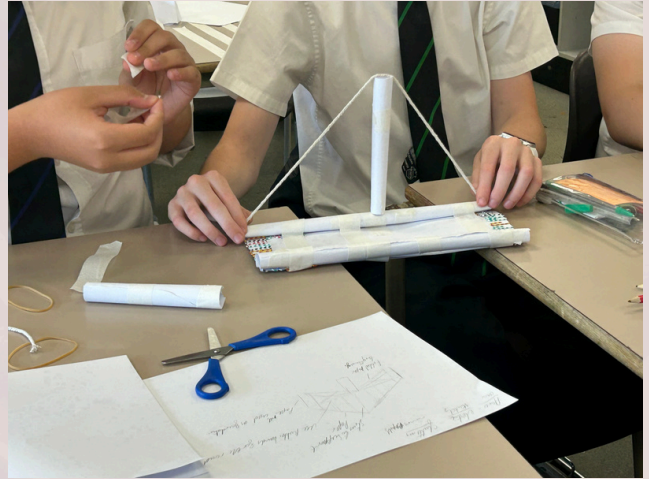
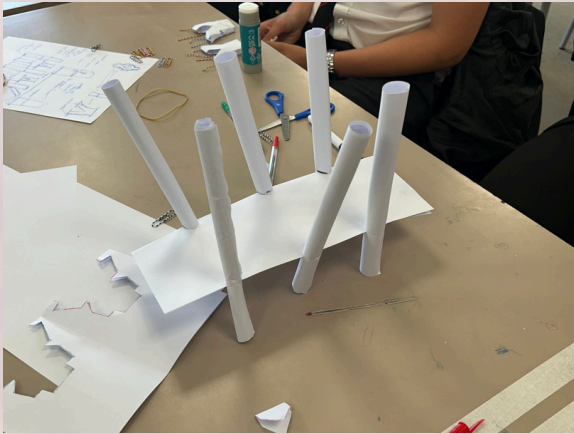
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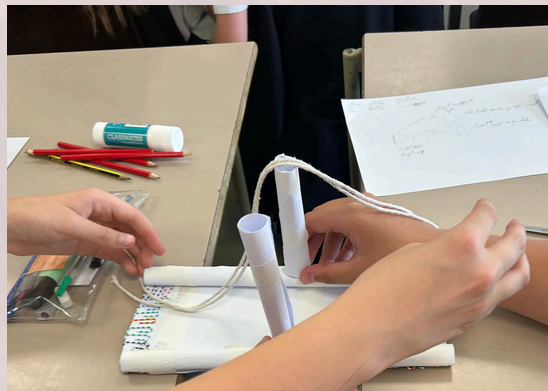
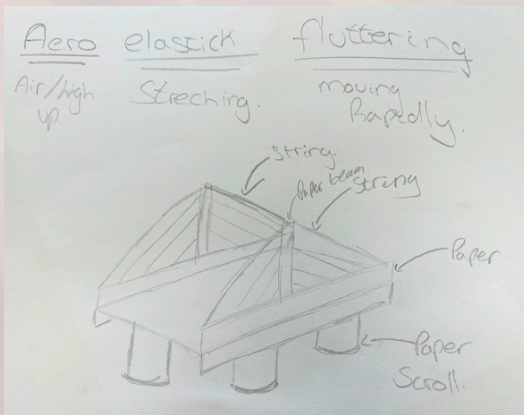
# ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE

## YEAR 9 - BRIDGE DESIGN

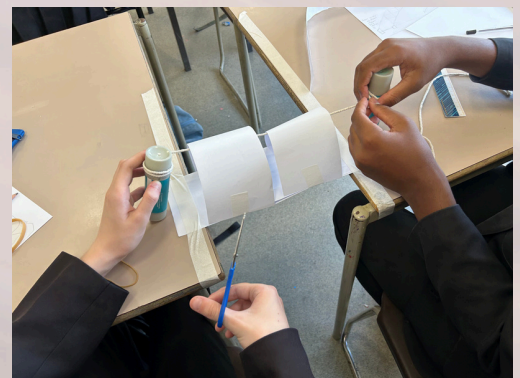
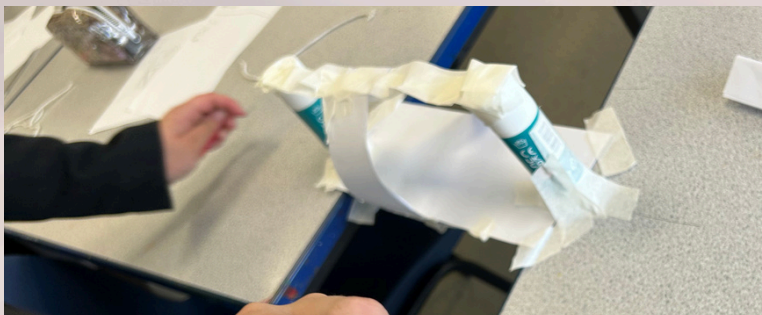
I was privileged to join Year 9 students recently in a DT lesson, where students were developing an understanding of some of the engineering principles of building bridges.



They learned some of the steps that engineers use to design bridges by conducting their own hands on associated activity to prototype their own structure.



Students started by sketching their own designs on paper, followed by using problem solving skills to try to prototype their models using only paper, twine, paper clips and glue sticks.



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# BRIDGE ACADEMY TRUST BOOK AWARDS

## Ceremony Day

We had a fantastic day on Tuesday 25th June where we hosted the finale of this year's BAT Book Awards in the library. We welcomed students from Notley High School and Moulsham High School to participate in a day full of exciting activities. Students had to crack the code to solve a 'Murder in the Library' – the culprit turned out to be our Head of English, Mr Dare! – as well as take part in a book covers quiz. Lots of brand-new books and bookmarks were given out as prizes.



Students could also submit pieces of work to be in with a chance of winning the top prize for each category – Creative Writing, Book Review, and Artwork. A big well done to Aubrey from Ramsey who took first place in the Book Review category.



We also revealed that the winning book (as voted for by the participants) was Bite Risk by S.J. Wills – earlier this year we had a visit from the author, so it looks like she was a big inspiration to our students.

All in all it was a fantastic day of book-related joy! We are very much looking forward to next year's awards, this time hosted by Moulsham High School.

Happy reading!

**Mrs Owen-Westwood and Mrs Gilbert**  
Librarians



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# Parent Feedback

I just want to say from the bottom of my heart a big thank-you to Mr Farrelly ,not only has he been a god send to my son, but today he came home enthusiastic and happy that he had such a brilliant lesson with him. He said he learned so much today because of him.

Also my other son said he had such a brilliant day when they played football, again organised by Mr Farrelly, and said it was just what they needed after endless revision and stressful exams. I watched a big group of the Year 11s, leave there, smiling, happy and being kids, it was lovely to watch.

So, thanks again Mr Farrelly for making my boys happy 😊, you're a star!!!



**Response from Mr Farrelly:** Year 11 underwent their annual year 11 X vs Y leavers match on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. It was very good to see them have fun on their last week among the hard work they have been putting in with their GCSE exams. 11X won the game 2-1, with the Ys winning the penalty shootout. Well done to Harry for organising.

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I just wanted to write to say thank you for recognising my child as Head Prefect.

They are excited and grateful to be chosen. I also wanted to write and say how lovely your emails to parents are. It's made a real difference reading the messages which show how much you believe in the school.

Really looking forward to hearing more about my child's new role with the school.

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for your support with my daughter, her options and the wider issue of anxiety.

Knowing that my daughter is being supported means a great deal to us. Facilitating the option change at GCSE was probably more significant for her than you can appreciate and it's important to me that you know how grateful we are.



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# Community Corner

## Civic Event at Braintree Town Hall



On Friday 27th June 10 of 9Y1 participated in a civic event at Braintree Town Hall to mark Armed Forces Day. The group listened to talks from several guest speakers including Sir James Cleverly MP, Ross Stewart from Wethersfield Museum and Deputy Lieutenant Lt. Col. Jackie Allan TD who had completed 43 years of service with the army!

After the talks representatives from the MOD delivered a presentation in the courtyard alongside an army vehicle; a Bowman Land Rover which students were able to explore and learn about. The pupils discovered how the vehicle played a significant role in establishing communications in war zones. Pupils then had time to explore some artefacts from the Wethersfield Airbase.

Over refreshments, which included a very tasty selection of cakes, the pupils chatted to a variety of guests about careers in the Armed Forces and the guests personal experiences. Sir James Cleverly was very surprised that the group were only in Year 9 as they conducted themselves in such a mature manner. The group were fantastic ambassadors for the school and really showed the embodied the Ramsey Learner qualities we have been focused on this term. - **Mrs Perrins**

## AFC Sudbury



Are you a keen footballer looking for a new team to play with? If so, reach out to AFC Sudbury for a trial. Sport and exercise is so important for our mental health, especially for those of you approaching GCSE exams.





## COMMUNITY CORNER

### T.A.P.s

## HELP FUNDING YOUR TRAVEL EXPENSES to and from MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

For patients aged 0-18 years

There is no restriction as to the hospitals' location in England nor the medical/clinical purpose of the child's visit. Funding is available for 1 child accompanied by up to 2 adults per visit. Applications can be accepted from residents of Halstead town and the villages north of Halstead. The complete list of these villages, application forms and further information about the T.A.P.S scheme is available at: [TAPSHalstead@hotmail.com](mailto:TAPSHalstead@hotmail.com)



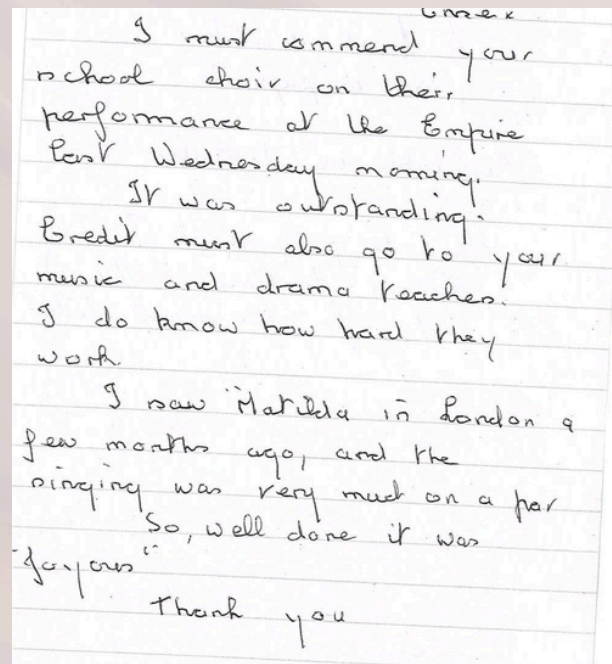
## Choir at The Empire Theatre

On Wednesday 11th June the Performing Arts group performed alongside the Halstead Dementia Friendly Choir at the Empire Theatre. Kim Richardson of Care UK runs this fantastic community choir that meets every Wednesday. Kim, along with Claire Jaques from the Rotary Club invited us to come and sing with them and perform some of the songs we've been working on.

The students in our Performing Arts group performed some excerpts from shows such as Matilda. There was also some communal singing with both groups singing together, a range of songs from stage and screen. Our students really threw themselves into this with enthusiasm and energy and a great time was had by all!

Our students' behaviour was exemplary. Some even helped hand out the tea and biscuits and interacted really well with the older people there. We received lots of kind words of appreciation from everyone and forged some great links with the Dementia Friendly Choir and the Rotary Club.

If you want to get involved in music, drama and performing arts at the school, come and speak to Mr Most, Mrs Walker or Mr Rayner. There's loads of fantastic opportunities so go for it and have some fun!



***Thank you to Mr Clapham for his kind words of feedback on our students' performance.***



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## COMMUNITY CORNER

### HALSTEAD MARATHON RAISES MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

The Halstead Marathon took place in May and was once again a huge success. We had an incredible day. Thanks to the amazing efforts of runners, volunteers, supporters, and our wider community, we're proud to announce that £5,000 from the marathon's proceeds has been shared between local organisations and schools.

The funds have been distributed to five local schools, including The Ramsey Academy as well as other community organisations and charities. We're proud that the Halstead Marathon continues to support our local community in such a meaningful way. It was a fantastic day of community spirit, teamwork, and giving back. Thank you to everyone who played a part – your support truly made a difference and thank you to Mr. Rayner for representing The Ramsey Academy at the presentation evening.



### WELL DONE LYDIA

Congratulations and well done to Lydia in Year 7 for representing Essex in District Sports. Lydia also successfully progressed to District Sports Finals, for Ramsey. We are very proud of you!



### YEAR 5 COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, we were delighted to welcome parents of Year 5 students from a number of primary schools within the area. They had an opportunity to tour the school, listen to a presentation from Miss Mead, Ms Carroll & Ms Riddleston and enjoy some tea/coffee and pastries whilst having an informal Q&A session with our staff. We look forward to re-introducing Year 5 taster days and Year 5 morning tours next academic year.



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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