



Goodbye Diane Kershaw

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of a very dear colleague and friend. Diane was a student herself at Mossley Hollins. After completing her secondary education, she then returned 3 years later to start her 39 year career with us, undertaking a number of roles including dinner lady, cleaner, science technician and finally as our technology technician. In her time at Mossley Hollins her skills were put to good use, not only in supporting the very many students who have been taught science and food technology over the years, but for her seamstress skills too. Over the years Diane was called upon so many times to repair ripped trousers, jackets etc. Nothing was too much trouble.

Diane was diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer in the summer term and even in the final few weeks was determined to get back to work, frequently checking in with Mrs Duncan to make sure everything was in place for the food lessons for students. Unfortunately, Diane lost her battle with cancer on Friday 3rd September, shortly after midday.

I had the pleasure of working with this beautiful lady directly in my first years at Mossley Hollins, when I joined as Assistant Headteacher, leading technology. Diane supported me in finding my feet, as she had done with so many staff beforehand. She was such a warm, kind and compassionate lady. Always putting others before herself. I personally will miss her incredibly and know that this will be the same for so many members of staff and students alike.



Memories and Condolences from the Students

"Mrs Kershaw, known as Diane by most, was an integral part of the Technology Faculty and her passing has drastically affected us all. Her role within our school was central for its smooth running as she helped vast amounts of students throughout their GCSEs. Her infectious smile and attitude towards Food & Nutrition often lit up the rooms and the school will simply not be the same without her. Our thoughts and prayers go to all grieving her passing and our deepest condolences to help all through this troubling time". **Zak, Freddy and Luca**

"Diane was such a memorable and admirable role model to us all and was always such a great help in the kitchen and nothing was too much trouble for her: anything she needed she was there for us. Diane will be greatly missed as lessons without her will never quite be the same. With huge sympathy our condolences go to family and friends". **Amy and Morgan**

"We wish we could have taken the time to thank Diane for all her help in Technology. I will miss how keen she was to help in our lessons – and she will be missed dearly." **Georgia**

"I would like to write to Diane and say thank you for all your hard work. You will be missed so much and I will never forget how helpful you were, you made our lessons as good as they could be." **Lewis**

Memories from the Technology Staff

Diane was the lady who was Mossley Hollins 'born and bred'. She mothered and sometimes almost 'adopted' every student as her own. More than that, she was a kind, warm-hearted and valued friend and team member who was always there for each of us, personally and professionally.

Beyond the school, her family was her world and she shared with us the lives of her daughter and her grandchildren. There was many a time when we relied on her sound advice and wisdom and there was no one better at bringing life to a story.

Diane prided herself on the fact that she always provided ingredients for every single child to cook in every practical. She used to say "we all cook here". For Diane, academic ability, background or deprivation were never going to be barriers to a student's enjoyment or success. No one was treated differently. Each student was valued equally for the personality and contribution they brought to the Food & Nutrition classrooms. She loved the subject and knew it inside out,

Diane will make her final trip down the school drive at 11am on Thursday 23rd September. Her funeral will take place on the same day at 12 noon at St Georges church, Mosely.

Open Evening

Open Evening – Tuesday 21st September – School closes early for students

We are delighted to inform you that our annual Open Evening will be taking place in school this year on Tuesday 21st September. In order to minimise the risk of Covid transmission we will be taking a number of safety precautions:

Attendees

No child or adult will attend the event if;

- they have any symptoms of COVID 19
- have tested positive in the last 10 days
- They have arrived from a red list country in the last 10 days

In addition, no adult (over the age of 18 yrs and 6 months) will attend the event if;

- they have not been double vaccinated in the UK and have been identified as a close contact of a positive case in the last 10 days
- They have not been double vaccinated in the UK and have returned from an amber list country in the last 10 days

Contact Tracing

- In order to assist and support Test and Trace a QR code will be displayed at the event

Presentations/Talks will be made available to watch online and will not be delivered live to a mass audience where possible.

If you would like to attend, please let me know (d.webster@mossleyhollins.com)

Students will finish at 1:15pm on this day to allow for the final preparations for the evening to take place.

The Governors, Staff and Students at Mossley Hollins High School are delighted to invite you to our

OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 21st September 2021

Come and discover more about our ambitious and inclusive school in the heart of our local community. Learn about our mission and values and see for yourself what Mossley Hollins High School has to offer. If you would like further information, please do just get in touch using the contact details below. Our team is here, and more than happy to help you.

Join us on Tuesday 21st September 2021 from 6.00pm – 8.45pm. Headteachers Address: 6.00pm, 6.45pm and 7.30pm. www.mossleyhollins.com/open-evening/68.html

www.mossleyhollins.com Telephone: 01457 832491 admin@mossleyhollins.com
Mossley Hollins High School, Huddersfield Road, Mossley, Ashton-Under-Lyne OL5 9DP

Floret Qui Laborat
(he or she who labours, prospers)

Character Pillars

Character Development at MHHS

Our pupils have been working hard over the summer to develop their character.

Year 7 were set a Summer Challenge to learn a new skill. See the video challenge [here](#)



Freya Goodwin developed a skill of upcycling!

“Over the summer I have learnt a new skill: how to upcycle.

We had an old vegetable rack that my parents were getting rid of, so I decided to see if I could re-use it in any way. The best new use of this item, I thought, was a portable make up stand. To learn how to do this I researched the internet and watched some YouTube videos of people upcycling similar things. I made a list of the items that I needed to buy or use from my Dad's workshop. The items I needed were:

- Sandpaper
- Washing up bowl
- Sugar soap -to remove the grease
- Water
- Cloths for washing and drying
- A protective mat to protect the patio
- Paint - I chose rose gold spray paint that I bought from Amazon.



To upcycle it, I carried out the following steps:

- Thoroughly washed it to remove any grease or dust, because I have learnt that this would affect the new paint.
- Next, I sanded it lightly so that the new paint had a rough surface to stick to.
- Then, I wiped it down really well to remove any dust caused by the sanding, as this too would affect the finish and could make my paint look grainy.
- Finally, I spray painted it carefully in light sweeping strokes, from a distance of 30cm (I had to read the instructions carefully and was supervised). After the first coat, I repeated the process again to get the best finish.



I really enjoyed upcycling and feel good that I have been able to save an item from going to landfill and I now have a shiny new make-up stand! I am now looking for my next upcycling project!”

Well done, Freya! Great independent learning. What new skill are you working on for your Learning badge? Don't forget to fill in the online form and add photos [here](#).

Please see Mrs Ryan with any questions.

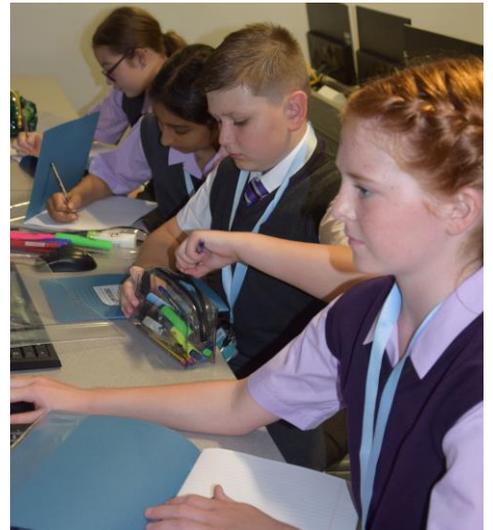


Rehearsals for Legally Blonde:
Monday 3- 5pm- Whole Cast
Thursday 3- 5pm- Principal Characters
Friday lunchtimes - Principal Characters
Year 7 pupils are welcome to come and join us.



Back to School

Welcome back to all of our students and a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students, some of whom are pictured below. It has been fantastic to see our students back learning!



Regular Features

Life Skills

Please see below the timetable for Life Skills during form time:

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Topic w/c Monday 13th September</u>
Year 7	Starting at Mossley Hollins High School	<i>Life at a new school</i>
Year 8	Peer Influence	<i>Negative Role Models</i>
Year 9	Coping Strategies	<i>Unhealthy Coping Strategies</i>
Year 10	Extremism, radicalisation and cults	<i>Extremism</i>
Year 11	Planning for Life after Mossley Hollins	<i>Options Post 16</i>

If you have any queries regarding our Life Skills curriculum or our Pastoral Programme please contact Miss R Hodgkins at r.hodgkins@mossleyhollins.com

Whole School Information

Macmillan Cake Sale

We are holding a MacMillan cake sale on Friday 24th September in the drum area of school. This year, Macmillan is very special to us all at Mossley Hollins as we remember our lovely, kind, caring colleague Diane Kershaw, who recently passed away from cancer. If you would like to contribute towards our cake sale by baking for us, or sending in shop bought cakes, this would be appreciated greatly.



Setting at KS3

With the elimination of bubbles, we have reverted back to our original year halves of x and y. Each year half are identical in terms of numbers and the range of abilities. The codes used for the classes on student timetables do not refer to the ability of the class or the set. In fact, in many subjects, there is no setting this year, with students being taught in mixed ability classes. In English, all students are taught in mixed ability groups. In Science and Maths, we have retained set 1 and the remaining groups are all mixed ability. We apologise if this has caused any worry for any of our students who may have looked at the code on the timetable and assumed they had been 'moved down'. This is not the case. Please contact the relevant Faculty Leader if you have any further questions regarding the teaching in their subjects.

Nut allergy update.

Due to some of our students having a severe nut allergy, can we please request that students do not bring any nuts, or products containing nuts in to school. This will help limit the risk of any allergic reactions in our school community. We realise that many food products are labelled as having 'traces of nuts' or 'cannot guarantee nut free' and it can sometimes be difficult to identify products containing nuts.

However, if we all work together as much as we possibly can to avoid bringing these in to school, along with educating children in relation to the implications surrounding allergies, this will help to keep our school community safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lateral Flow – Home Testing

You may be aware of the very high transmission rates of Covid-19 in Tameside. Transmission rates are the highest in Greater Manchester and overall, we are the 6th highest area in the country. Rates have been increasing at 15% per week and continue to rise each week. It is essential that we all continue to do what we can in our communities to help reduce the rates of transmission. Testing remains tremendously important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school and local community. Continuing to take regular rapid tests will help us identify infections early and also help to reduce the risk of transmission in school and therefore will help to protect ourselves and those around us.

We are strongly encouraging staff and students to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow tests. A reminder will be sent from school on Sunday and Wednesday each week and we ask that you carry out your tests on these evenings. It is very important that following the test, the results are registered with our school system and the NHS website. You can find the links for both on our website:- <https://www.mossleyhollins.com/student--lateral-flow-testing/62061.html> All students will be issued with a home testing kit tomorrow which will provide them with their next 7 home tests. These will then be issued every few weeks in school.

Thank you for your continued support. To find out more, visit www.gov.uk/backtoschool

Faraday College (Year 11)

Year 11: Lesson 7

We are delighted with the positive start our year 11 students have made with their lesson 7 learning this week – their attitude and application to their learning has been impressive. We know that they appreciate the opportunity that their teachers are giving them to ensure that they can perform at their very best in their subjects. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have supported their children and the school in this.

College Open Days and Evenings

Ashton Sixth Form College

Open Evening: Tuesday 28th September 2021 from 5-8PM

Open Day: Saturday 16th October 2021, from 10AM-1PM

Should you wish to learn more about Oldham Sixth Form College, please visit their website: <https://www.asfc.ac.uk/>



Oldham Sixth Form College

Oldham Sixth Form College will be holding open days at the following times:

- Saturday 9 October, 10am-2pm
- Monday 18 October, 5-8pm



Should you wish to learn more about Oldham Sixth Form College, please visit their website: <https://www.osfc.ac.uk/>

Tameside College

- Monday 4th October, 5pm – 8pm
- Saturday 16th October, 10am – 2pm



Tameside College currently have a range of virtual events for students to access. These are available through the following link: <https://open.tameside.ac.uk/>

Clarendon Sixth Form College

- Wednesday 29th September, 5pm – 8pm
- Saturday 16th October, 10am – 2pm

Clarendon Sixth Form College currently have a range of virtual events for students to access. These are available through the following link: <https://open.clarendon.ac.uk/>



Turing College (Year 10)

Congratulations to Ella

Ella Whitwam plays for the under 15s Manchester Thunder Netball Team which is an achievement in itself but this year she also managed achieve the award of coaches player of the year. Ella also plays for Kingsway Power netball club who managed to beat Oldham Premier Team in the National finals under 15s competition.



Nightingale College (Year 9)



A big well done to Christopher Pomfett Knott who has achieved student of the month in August at his kick boxing. Christopher has also achieved the grading for his blue belt.

Music News

Instrumental Lessons

Guitar lessons started this week. Piano, drums, singing, woodwind, strings and brass lessons begin next week.

All parents/carers will receive an email with the time of the lessons – please ensure your child writes their lesson time in their planner.

Pop Choir

The first meeting of the pop choir is at lunchtime in the music room on Friday 17th September. We hope as many students as possible from all year groups will come along.

Please encourage your child to take part, especially if they are in Year 7!

Year 7 Lessons

We aim to get many Year 7 students starting to learn an instrument. Please encourage your child to ask about lessons and take a letter home.

All information is being given to students in their first music lesson.

School Band

We rehearse every Thursday from 3.00pm – 4.30pm for the full MHHS Band. The year 7 Brass Band will rehearse from 3.00-4.10pm every Wednesday.

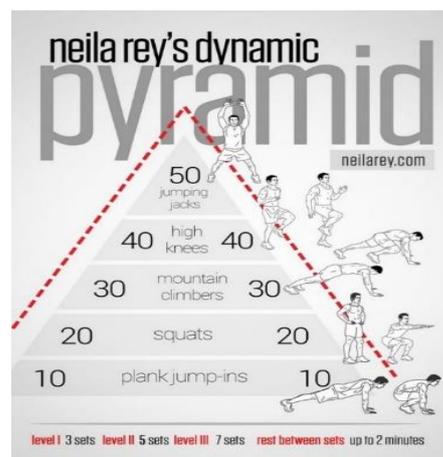
PE News

Fitness Challenge at home

This week's fitness challenge to complete at home is the 'Pyramid Challenge'. Try to complete the challenge every day next week at home with your family or do it on your own.

To complete the challenge, you need to complete the 5 different exercises starting with 10 plank jump ins and finishing with 50 jumping jacks.

Good luck everyone!



Outstanding achievement in Football – Year 8 – Connor Brough

Connor in Year 8 plays football outside of school for Saddleworth Strikers. At the end of season award ceremony, which took place over the summer, Connor received the Parents Player of the Season trophy. Connor received the award for his outstanding performances throughout the season.

Congratulations and well done to Connor.



Outstanding achievement in Football – Year 8 – Henry Wood and Ace Norton

Henry Wood and Ace Norton in Year 8 both play for Manchester Corinthians. In August they competed in the Aces National Tournament against the best under 13 teams across the country.

They managed to beat Loughborough in the final 2-1 to become the first team from Manchester to win the competition with Ace Norton scoring the winning goal in the last minute. Congratulations and well done to Henry, Ace and their team mates, an outstanding achievement.



Outstanding achievement – Year 10 – Amy Starkey



Amy Starkey in Year 10 competed in a number of Athletics competitions over the summer break. Her biggest achievement came at the County Championships where she competed in the Javelin. She threw a distance of 24m 44cm to finish in 3rd place and receive the bronze medal to finish in the top 100 athletes in the UK. Amy is now in the top 100 in all 3 throwing events; Javelin, shot put and discus. Congratulations and well done to Amy.

Former Year 11 pupils make their debuts for Mossley AFC.

Last year a number of our former Year 11 pupils played for Mossley AFC. The team managed to go the full season unbeaten and they were crowned the 2020-21 Champions of the East Manchester Junior Football league. Finley Lee, Jaymi Lawson and Joe Winterbottom were all rewarded for their outstanding performances throughout the season by being called up to play for Mossley AFC. They all made their debut for the senior team in a 3-0 win in a friendly against Cheadle Heath Nomads.



This is an outstanding achievement! We would like to wish all the Year 11 pupils who play for Mossley AFC the best of luck with their football careers.

Request from the PE department

The PE department would love to find out what fitness activities or sports activities the pupils of Mossley Hollins are taking part in outside of school at the moment. We would like all pupils to send/email photos of them taking part in their exercises or sports with information about their achievements to Mr Doodson or Mrs Dodd on a.doodson@mossleyhollins.com or v.dodd@mossleyhollins.com.

Thank you to those pupils who have contacted the PE department since the start of the year with information, this is much appreciated.

SPORTS AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS (Half term 1)		
DAY	LUNCH TIME	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	Year 9 – Football (Astro) ADo and JBT Year 9 – Netball (Sports Hall) - VDo Year 11 Dance (Dance Studio) – GWa	Year 7 Netball - VDo Year 7 and 8 Basketball – ADo and JMi Year 7-11 Dance – Legally Blonde rehearsal
TUESDAY	Year 8 – Football (Astro) ADo and JMi Year 8 – Netball (Sports Hall) - VDo Year 10 Dance (Dance Studio) – GWa	Netball fixtures – VDo and GWa BTEC (Lesson 7)
WEDNESDAY	Year 11 (Exam PE BTEC group) – ADo and JMi Badminton and Volleyball	Fixtures and competitions
THURSDAY	Year 11 (Exam PE GCSE group) Trampolining Volleyball and Table Tennis – Vdo, ADo and JMi Year 9 Dance (Dance Studio) - GWa	Year 10 (GCSE and BTEC PE groups) – ADo and JMi Badminton and Volleyball Year 7 and 8 Dance (Dance Studio) – GWa
FRIDAY	Year 7 – Football (Astro) – ADo ALL Year Badminton by invite only.	GCSE (Lesson 7) – ADo and VDo

Any Other Information (Job Vacancies/Community Events etc)

General Administration Assistant

Salary: Grade B (Point 3-4)

Actual salary at Grade B, Point 3 - £6,907

16 hours per week (worked over 3 days)

Term-time only

Permanent

Start date – As soon as possible

The Governors are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and talented individual to join our school. As a General Administration Assistant, you will become a key member of the team, providing a range of clerical and administrative support in the main school office.

You must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, be self-motivated, organised and well presented with strong ICT/keyboard skills.

You will be required to perform a wide range of administrative tasks, for which you will be given full training and support. Working alongside experienced staff you will build up knowledge and develop many transferable skills.

A commitment to the education of young people and high standards are essential attributes.

Closing date for completed applications – Friday, 24th September 2021 - 12pm noon

Application forms and further details from the school website

www.mossleyhollins.com/vacancies

Casual Invigilators for School Examinations

Grade B – Point 3

£9.88 per hour

Casual hours

We are looking for invigilators to supervise our students during exams at certain times during the course of the school year.

The main external examination period takes place during May and June with **occasional** pre-public exams scheduled at various other times in the Autumn and Spring terms.

Training will be provided and you will work under the supervision of a Senior Invigilator.

Closing date for completed applications – Monday 20th September 2021 (12 noon)

Application forms and further details from the school website

www.mossleyhollins.com/vacancies

Staffing shortage in Learning Support

Prior to the summer holidays we advertised for 2 new teaching assistants to work with the increased number of students who require support with their learning. On both occasions that we interviewed for these posts we were unable to find any candidates who were suitable to work with our students. We then tried to source some staff from an agency, however we were unable again to find any suitable staff.

We have now been able to fill these positions temporarily using agency staff. Adverts have been placed again to seek the right candidates to fill these positions. I apologise that despite our best efforts we have not been able to get these vacancies filled permanently.

Our learning support staff will continue to work hard to support our most vulnerable learners, please bear with us whilst we do everything we can to fill these posts permanently.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (Level 4) MFL

10 hours per week (term time only)

Permanent

Salary – Grade F (Point 17 – 22)

Actual Salary at Point 17 - £5,696.03

Required – As soon as possible

The Governors are seeking to appoint a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (Level 4) to tutor students in MFL (in class or in small groups) to ensure they make accelerated and sustained progress and are able to access the full curriculum, joining a team in Learning Support and the MFL Faculty.

Education to degree level in the relevant curriculum area or spoken Spanish to native speaker is essential.

The posts carry responsibility for planning, tutoring, marking and assessing the learning and progress of students.

Closing date for completed applications – Monday 27th September 2021 2021 – 12 noon

Application forms and further details from the school website

www.mossleyhollins.com/vacancies

Teaching Assistant (Identified Student)

27 hrs per week (worked over 4 days)

Term time only

Salary – Grade E (Point 11-16)

Actual Salary at Grade E, Point 11 – £13,656.79

Fixed Term in the first instance (until 31.8.22)

(subject to further funding thereafter)

Required – as soon as possible

The Governors are seeking to appoint a well organised and committed individual to join the Learning Support Faculty. The post carries some responsibility for an identified student with Special Educational Needs and you will be expected to provide some cover supervision.

You will provide support with school display and undertake exam amanuensis support at key points in the school calendar. You will also receive training to become a school first aider.

We will be interested in you if you: work well with adults and young people; have appropriate literacy and numeracy levels; have strong communication skills in speech and in writing; and if you are able to ensure positive discipline.

Qualifications & experience in working with children/youth will be considered an advantage.

Closing date for completed applications – Monday, 27th September 2021 – 12 noon

Teaching Assistant (Numeracy+)

Permanent

30 hrs. per week (term time only)

Salary – Grade E (Point 11 – 16)

Actual Salary at Point 11 - £15,174.21

Required – As soon as possible

The Governors are seeking to appoint a Teaching Assistant (Level 3) to tutor students in Mathematics (in class or in small groups) and other lessons, to ensure they make accelerated and sustained progress and are able to access the full curriculum, joining a team in Learning Support and the Mathematics Faculty.

Education to degree level in the relevant curriculum area would be an advantage but, not essential.

The posts carry responsibility for planning, tutoring, marking and assessing the learning and progress of students.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide some cover supervision for absent colleagues and to be trained as a school first aider. In addition to this, you will be required to provide amanuensis support during busy exam periods and support your faculty area with ensuring pupil displays are current.

Closing date for completed applications – Monday, 27th September 2021 – 12 noon

Parent Governor Vacancies

I am writing to inform you of three vacancies for the role of parent governor on our governing board.

The role of the governing board

The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you will work with the board to ensure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You will also play a vital role in ensuring that the board is connected with, and is aware of, the views of parents and the local community. Anyone with parental responsibilities for a child i.e. step-parent or full time carer may apply for the role of parent governor.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- The specific skills required to ensure the governing board delivers effective governance

The governing board is keen for some candidates to have skills in the following (although they are not essential):

- Finance
- Human Resources

Expectations of governors

As a parent governor the expectation is that you will be able to:

- Attend full governing body meetings (one per month Thursday, 18-30 until 21-00)
- Maintain confidentiality
- Commit to training
- Occasionally take part in staff interviews (normally during the day)
- Occasionally be a member of various discipline panels which could either involve staff or pupils.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for the role, please contact reception for the application form and return it to Miss K. Martin, Headteacher's PA **by midday on Friday 17th September 2021**. The form can be brought into school and left at reception, posted to school, or emailed to Miss Martin on k.martin@mossleyhollins.com.

If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot of parent/carers will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this.

It is a legal requirement that a full DBS (Disclosure and Baring Service) check will be carried out on joining the governors. Please also find attached a Declaration of Eligibility document for your information.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact myself John Denton through Miss Martin.

Yours sincerely,

John Denton

Chair of Governors

Mossley Hollins High School

School Expectations

Equipment

Students who wish to succeed at our school always bring the right equipment for the right lessons each day. Students do not need to bring all of their books but should select the right ones the previous evening. Students must bring to school: pencil case; the 2ps and 2Rs (pen, pencil, ruler & rubber); their planner, DEAR-reader; the books and folders for that day; their PE kit when they have PE and a scientific calculator.

School Shoes

We would like to remind parents and students of the footwear, which will be deemed acceptable and unacceptable. Footwear must not resemble trainers and shoes manufactured by sportswear companies will not be allowed. Canvas or leather converse/vans style pumps will not be allowed, nor will any footwear that covers the ankle. Please be aware that some companies market shoes as school shoes but in fact, they are not acceptable as they have logos and/or trainer like soles. Other shops, such as Clarks have also begun to design their school shoes to look like trainers. Shoes must be all black including the stitching, sole and trim. Logos of any kind are not acceptable, including Kickers. If students arrive in school with inappropriate shoes, they will not be permitted into lessons. Please help to avoid any issues by ensuring that the uniform policy is adhered to.

Suitable School Shoes



Unsuitable School Shoes



Uniform

Perfect Uniform

UNIFORM RULES

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students and anyone arriving at school without a perfect uniform or shoes may expect to be sent home to get changed, be detained and/ or be isolated from the other students. Students will also receive a sanction for failing to wear the correct uniform.

Grey or Purple Blazer

Trutex trouser in grey (charcoal grey is not allowed)

Lite: Blouse or White Shirt & Purple Striped Tie

Grey or Purple Slip-Over Tank Top

Year Group Coloured lanyard & Good Manners Card *

BAGS: Dark rucksack/messenger style bag.
No handbags.

SHOES: Formal black school shoes.
Boots, pumps, canvas shoes or trainers are not allowed.
No logos, flashes, stripes or colours.

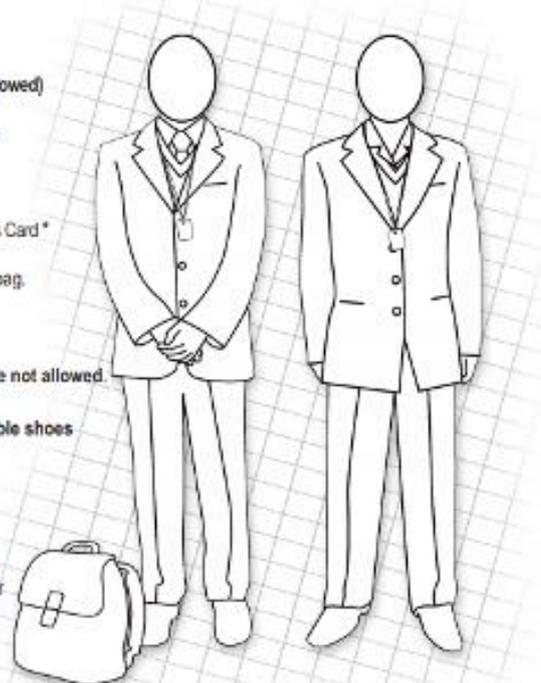
Please see list of acceptable/unacceptable shoes on our school website.

SOCKS: Black.

HAIRSTYLES: school will not accept students with shaven heads or emblematic patterns in their hair. No un-natural hair colour will be accepted. No extreme hair colour will be accepted i.e. a colour that is not a natural shade.

NO MAKE UP, JEWELLERY OR NAIL VARNISH.

No hair accessories apart from purple/black bands and clips.



* These will be supplied by MHHS

Uniform can be purchased from Simply Schoolwear & Top Marks

PE UNIFORM RULES

MHHS Kit must be worn

PE top, shorts & sports socks

Optional: MHHS branded tracksuit bottoms & outdoor sports top

There is a reward for showing this good learning habit and an immediate sanction for not doing so.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



What Parents and Carers Need to Know About...

ROCKET LEAGUE

Age Restriction
PEGI 3

Rocket League is a free-to-play multiplayer vehicle football game. It was developed by Psyonix, now part of the Epic Games Family (which also includes Fortnite and Gears of War). Rocket League is essentially a football game where, instead of running, the players drive rocket-powered cars. The game was a surprise hit that took the world by storm when it first released in 2015. Rocket League is available for the Xbox One, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4 & PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch, Windows PC, MacOS and Linux.

Fiercely Competitive Community

Competitive gaming isn't necessarily bad. However, playing purely to win (as opposed to simply having fun) can result in aggressive behaviour among some players if they're not successful in the game. Certain people can become hostile or 'toxic' towards other players. Continually seeing this behaviour can cause children to think it is acceptable and lead to anger issues while playing.

Grinding and Increased Screen-time

Features like the Rocket Pass and the ranking system can make Rocket League a grinding-focused game. This means players need to spend a lot of time on the game to progress through levels and collect rewards. Grinding encourages regular long gaming sessions for players seeking to climb the rankings (meaning increased screen time) but it doesn't always result in making much headway.

In-App Purchasing

Free-to-play games (so called because they don't cost anything to download) like this depend on players making in-game purchases to turn a profit. Rocket League's in-game currency, called credits, are used to buy items in the game. Credits can be earned by playing the game or can be bought with real money – which could prove expensive if a child lets their love of the game and desire to progress get the better of them.

Unsuitable Online Interactions

18+

A video game's age rating cannot take player-generated elements into account. Rocket League is rated PEGI 3, but its online features mean that appropriateness can't be guaranteed. Audio and text chat, player usernames, player-to-player trades and other user-created content may not be suitable for young players. The game is moderated, but catching everything can be difficult.

Scams and Bad Trades

Player-to-player trading is common in Rocket League. The game has lots of cosmetic items to collect, and some can be very valuable. Players can trade items among themselves, but younger gamers are not always the best judges of what constitutes a fair deal. This can lead to them being swindled in trades – or to children signing up to illegitimate trading websites, where they then get scammed.

Advice For Parents & Carers

Use Parental Controls

Psyonix has added some safety measures into the game. The text and voice chat can be disabled, for example, limiting contact from strangers. However, it's not currently possible to block contact from other players about trades. It's a good idea, then, to talk with your child about the possibility of scams and bad trades either before they download the game or early in their Rocket League 'career'.

Stay Aware of Spending

Free-to-play games can become money sinks without children realising. For peace of mind, make sure you don't have any payment methods attached to your child's gaming account to avoid accidental purchases. Rocket League credits can be earned through gameplay or bought with real money; encourage your child to use their earned credits first before they ask you to top them up.

Monitor Gaming Time

It's impractical to sit and watch your child every time they play Rocket League. Keeping an eye on their gaming hours is crucial, however; it's easy to lose track of time while playing (even for adults), so 'one more game' can soon turn into ten more games. Helping your child to balance their gaming time with their homework, chores and other activities is a life lesson in time management.

Encourage Regular Breaks

Sitting in the same position all day while gaming isn't healthy, but it is an easy habit to fall into. A short break every hour or half hour is important. It allows players to rest their eyes, brains, hands and arms. Learning the value of an occasional break from any activity is good practice for the future. Encouraging your child to rehydrate regularly can also help to lower any rising competitive tempers!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books. With experience in esports and content creation, Clare has seen the benefits and drawbacks of all aspects of gaming.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360015613074>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360053542814-Parental-Controls>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360039907693-How-can-I-protect-my-child-from-online-interactions>, <https://theglobalgaming.com/rocket-league/credit-system-free/>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.09.2021