



Decorations in aid of the Food Bank

Over the last few weeks, students in Miss Heapey's and Mr Chalmers' classes have been collaborating to design, make, promote and sell Christmas decorations to help raise money for Mossley Food Bank.

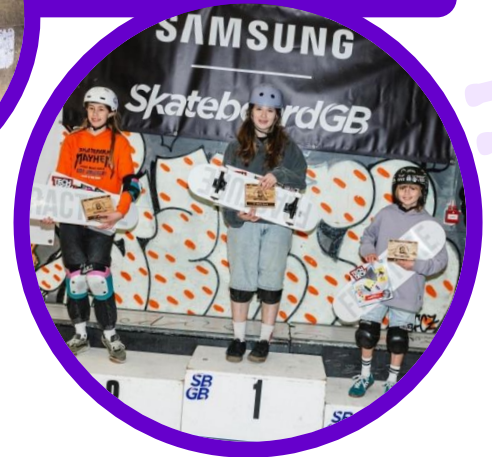
Congratulations to Ruby D, Ava H, Finley H, Logan M and Oliver L for their winning posters to promote the Christmas sale. Congratulations to Corey W, Rosa L, Zuzanna W, Nathan H and Sophie W for winning the annual Christmas charity decoration competition.

Decorations are on sale Monday 4th until Friday 8th December in the Drum at lunch time. All decorations are 50 pence.



1st Place for Holly in Skateboarding

Holly D in Year 11 entered a skateboarding U16's park competition at the weekend in Nottingham. To her delight for all of her hard work – she showed off her skills and ability and came in first position! A huge congratulations Holly!



School Direct Class of 2022/2023 Graduation

Congratulations to the School Direct class of 2022/2023 (including Mr Irving and Miss Lea) who graduated with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Carlisle Cathedral.

The graduation was well attended and was well deserved – well done Mr Irving and Miss Lea!

Information & Contacts

Our purple Newsflash celebrates the recent successes of our students both in and out of school. If you would like to access the blue monthly Information & Contacts, visit our website for the November edition.

Christmas Charities

Christmas jumper day on Tuesday 12th December

We are asking all staff and students to bring in a £1 donation or a requested item for Mossley Food Bank on the 12th. Requested items are: non-perishable items / toiletries / washing powder / pet food.

You may choose to wear a Christmas jumper, Christmas T-shirt, Christmas socks or a Santa hat on this day (or a combination of these items). If you don't have any of these items, you may decorate a plain unbranded T-shirt, jumper, sweatshirt or socks, with tinsel.

Please note: Branded hoodies, sweatshirts, football tops etc will be NOT be allowed.

If you're wearing a Christmas Jumper, your blazer will be optional, you will still need to wear your school trousers and school shoes.

In addition, we are running a collection for Emmaus who are a local homeless charity. They are appealing for items including sleeping bags, warm clothing, coats, gloves, scarves, flasks, water bottles and toiletries. We would love to support their appeal so if you are able to donate any items, please drop them off at Reception anytime until the end of term.

Thank you for your support.



Off to Miami!

Next week, Lexi-Rae P and Isla J are heading off to Miami with 25 other dance team mates from Kirsten's Dance Academy to be part of a 200-strong dance group from the UK.

They will be dancing with the Miami Dolphin cheerleaders on the pitch at half time during the Miami Dolphins v Tennessee Titans NFL game on Monday 11th December. They've worked really hard for this and we want to wish them good luck for this experience!

Year 7 Cookery Club

Well done to Dylan L and Isaac H for leading this week's Cookery club again, and teaching the year 7 students how to make the perfect Short-crust pastry.

Congratulations to technical expert Owami K and Star Baker of the perfect Jam tart Sophia W.

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Want to be featured?

If you have some news to share and would like to be considered for a future edition of the NewsFlash, email us at: newsflash@mossleyhollins.com

It's Beginning to look A Lot Like Christmas

In The Library

What are you up to on Thursday 7th December?

Why not join us at 1.30pm in the Library for a lunchtime of festive cheer! The Library will be holding a Christmas read along with some special Christmas treats.... What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than read a Christmas themed book? Immerse yourself in a festive read, with new Christmas books arriving daily including 'The Very Merry Murder Club,' 'The Toy Maker' and 'So, This Is Christmas.' And if you don't celebrate Christmas, we have lots of new Horror, fantasy and Romance Books arriving too!

12 Days of Christmas Draw

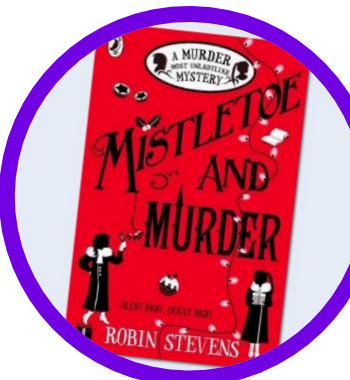
Every student who has checked a book out in November will be allocated a number and will be entered into the 12 days of Christmas Advent Draw.

A number will be selected every day for 12 days from a number generator and the winner will win a new book, including Five Nights at Freddy's and the New Heartstopper 5 that releases on the 7th December.

Have a worry? Is your mental wellness concerning you?

Kooth is a free, anonymous, online mental health service. Who offer 1-to-1 text-based counselling, pre-moderated peer support forums, activities, tools and resources to support young people. In partnership with the NHS, they provide immediate access to safe and effective mental wellbeing support – no costs, no barriers, no thresholds.

In their safely moderated community, everyone is welcome. No problem is too big or too small – all young people deserve a space in which they feel safe.



Recommended by the Librarian

You Better Watch Out

Dark, moreish and chilling - the countdown to Christmas is on ... and time is running out.

Every day in December, a gift is left for Eleri in the abandoned tower block opposite her flat.

At first, she can't help but be flattered, hoping that her Secret Santa is enigmatic Ras - a boy she has history with.

But with each day that passes, the gifts get darker and more dangerous. Is this a harmless bit of festive fun? Or does this have something to do with Nina's disappearance last year? If so ... will Eleri be next?

Mistletoe and Murder

The fabulously festive fifth Murder Most Unladylike mystery.

It's Christmas and the snow is falling in Cambridge, where the detective duo Daisy and Hazel are.

But Hazel's hopes of relaxing amongst the beautiful spires, cosy libraries and inviting tea-rooms are dashed by the danger lurking in the dark stairwells of Maudlin College.

Two days before Christmas, there is a terrible accident. At least, it appears to be an accident - until the Detective Society look a little closer, and realise a murder has taken place.

Faced with several irritating grown-ups and fierce competition from a rival agency, they must use all their cunning and courage to find the killer (in time for Christmas Day, of course).

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools –

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramadan is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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