



This week we have experienced much higher levels of staff absence than we are used to. In order to keep school fully open I took the decision to send Year 11 pupils home after their mock exams on Thursday and Friday; thank you to parents and carers for your patience. I expect to run as normal next week for Year 11 as hopefully staff will be well enough to return to work.

This week has also been very challenging - there have been too many pupils without their own mask in school. We have always been able to distribute masks to pupils who forget; we are currently out of any mask supplies.

May I ask that parents and carers make sure that pupils have a mask with them everyday in school.

We are putting the final details together for testing in January and will write out to you all next week as we plan for January

Thank you for your continuing support and well done Year 11 you have been brilliant this week. I am really looking forward to our first live stream of the Christmas Concert next Thursday at 6pm.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Reeves, Headteacher**



# Work continues on QB Theatre restoration!

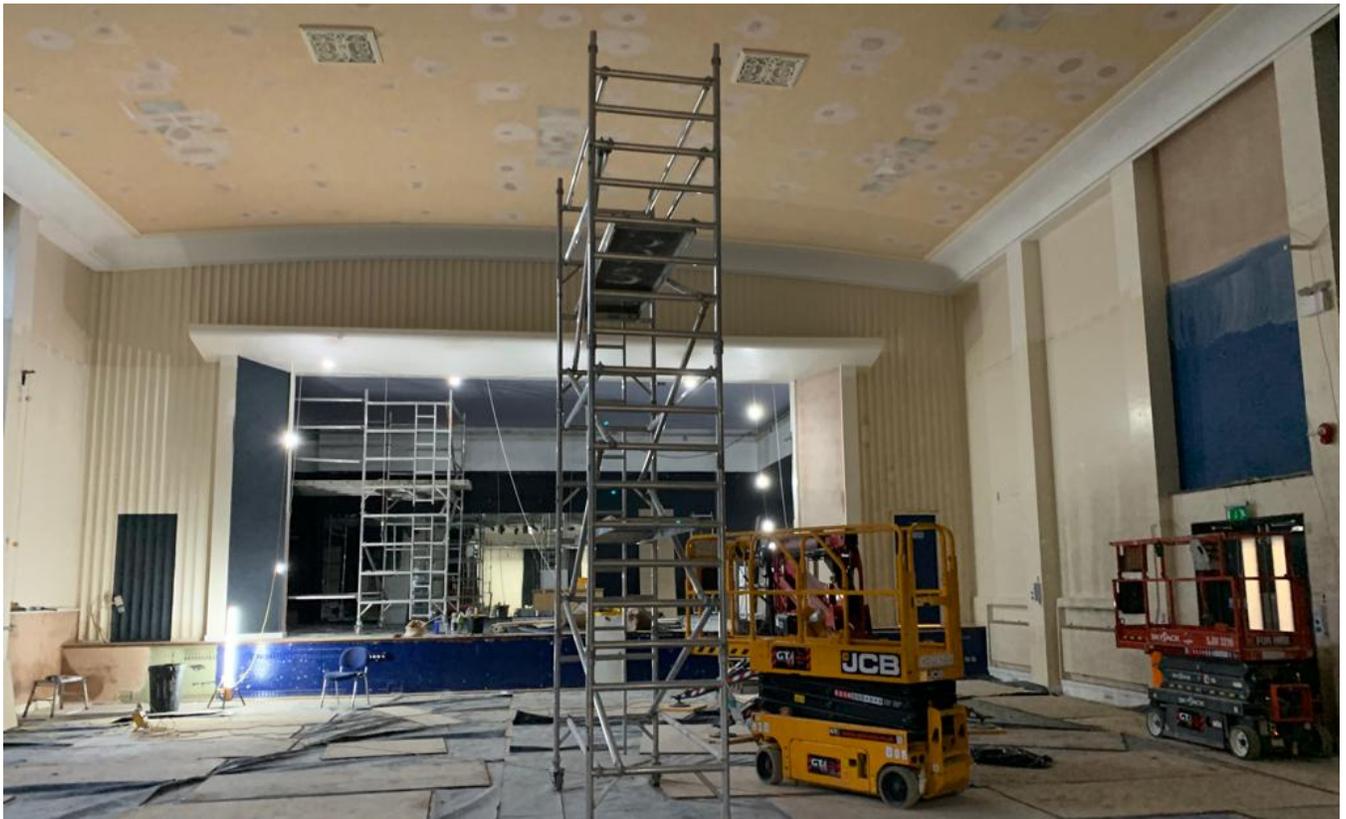
About thirty years ago I came to Queensbridge to see a home grown musical theatre production based on the life of Martin Luther King . It was called King and remains one of the most moving pieces of theatre I have ever seen . It was performed on a sort of stage , which in the intervening years disappeared to be replaced by movable seating and theatrical paraphernalia which was indeed flexible, but, for the audience meant a neck craning , frustratingly low visibility experience , and for performers a low level of theatrical assistance.

From Matilda to Dance Showcases I have sat , loving what I could hear and glimpse ,and wishing I could actually see all these wonderful young people . And now, we have it ! A beautiful new theatre space with a stage! Lights! Wings ! And whatever all else the aspiring thespian, or dancer or prize receiver might dream of to best showcase their talents . In these difficult times this is a space to lift the spirits and enable our young people to dream big .

Queensbridge has long been a Performing Arts School , an inclusive school and this wonderful new space will be used not just for dramatic performance but for innovative , imaginative use across the curriculum .

Congratulations Queensbridge! And I'm looking forward to Aladdin 9 & 10 February - and this time I won't mind a back seat ...

**Jo Klaces, Chair of Governors**



**Hidden for years behind plasterboard and a suspended ceiling, the Queensbridge hall boasts a stunning 1950s theatre, complete with domed ceiling, 'proscenium' arch and stage wings!**

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## Autumn / Spring Term 2021/22 - Dates for your diary

- **Monday 6th December - Year 11 Mock exams start.**
- **Friday 17th December - End of term.**
- **Tuesday 4th January 2022 - Pupils return to school.**
- **Wednesday 12th January 2022 - iDay**
- **Thursday 20th January 2022 -Year 11 Parents' Evening (Virtual event)**
- **Thursday 3rd February 2022 - Year 10 Parents' Evening (Virtual event)**

View all upcoming events and dates > [Calendar & Events](#)

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## Updates for parents

Basketball season begins in style!

This week saw the beginning of the Birmingham Schools Basketball teams and with the Year 7, 8 and 9 teams all coming up against Kings Norton Boys School. Year 9 began the week with a competitive game in which the team had to work hard to overcome their opposition. A couple of 3 pointers from Edgar led the team to victory and a superb start to the season. On Wednesday Year 7 and 8 travelled to Kings Norton. The Year 8 team recovered from a 14 point deficit to claim a draw with Ozias taking on a lead role in the revival. The Year 7 team unfortunately lost out to a very talented opposition meaning the week finished with a win, a

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draw and a defeat. The teams next take the court after Christmas with:

10<sup>th</sup> Jan Year 7 and 8 V's Bishop Challoner (Home)

12<sup>th</sup> Jan Year 9 V's Bishop Challoner (Away)

Well done to everyone who played!

Mr Spicer Assistant Headteacher – Head of Lower School

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## What Parents & Carers need to know about Netflix

Netflix is the most popular subscription service and it currently offers more than 500 shows and almost 2,500 films for users to choose from. Many of these, of course, are aimed at an adult audience but are nevertheless accessible to children through a parent or carer's profile unless preventative controls have been set up. This was the problem behind the recent furore around *Squid Game*, a violent South Korean drama featuring deadly playground games which caused many unsuspecting adults to mistake it for a children's programme.

National Online Safety have shared this useful guide for Parents and Carers that provides a timely reminder of the potential risks related to Netflix and suggestions for avoiding them.

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's needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

### BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection, making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

### HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite; the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time; this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

### CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's maturity rating. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.

### CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.

### SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

### SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

### CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Clare 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.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.11.2021



Kooth online sessions for parents, carers and young people :  
[Eventbrite session links \(click to register\)](#)

There are a number of resources for parents and carers available through Kooth, as well as support for young people:

[FAQ's for parents](#)

[Supporting young people with exam results](#)

[Parents and Carers Support Tips](#)

[Support brochure for parents and Carers](#)

## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS



**Your child's school has invested in the award winning resource, GCSEPod, to help your child reach their goals!**

Join the thousands of parents/carers encouraging their children to use GCSEPod to support learning, homework and revision.

- ▶ Proven to increase results
- ▶ 28+ exam mapped subjects
- ▶ Available online and offline
- ▶ Audio visual content
- ▶ Builds confidence
- ▶ Independently accessible assessments

**Want to find out how you can support your child more with GCSEPod? Then join one of our free webinars by registering here: <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/>**

"The correlation between success and failure was made almost 100% clear by the use of GCSEPod."

**Head of MFL  
at Yateley School**

"I found GCSEPod especially useful to compliment my knowledge and I'm certain it helped me secure the grades that I have been so happy to receive."

**Student**

"My daughter used GCSEPod for her GCSEs and was very successful with her results, she absolutely loved your Pods and this style of revising."

**Parent**

### Student Activation

**Please follow these instructions if your child has not yet activated their GCSEPod account**

1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click 'LOG IN'
2. Click 'New to GCSEPod? Get Started'
3. Enter your child's details and confirm the name of the school they attend
2. Create a username and password

**For more information please visit  
[www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents)**



## GCSEPOD

As you will be aware, all Year 10 and Year 11 have accounts for GCSEPOD. This is a brilliant resource for students as they revise at home, and students who use it regularly have seen the positive impact on their progress. The parent page has lots of useful information and can be

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accessed through this link: [Parent Resources - GCSEPod](#)

In supporting your child with their KS4 courses, please remind them to get into habits of using GCSEPOD effectively, including completing Check and Challenge activities after watching the pods. If students have any questions (including account details), they should speak to their tutor, Head of Year, or email Mrs. Lee.

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## Communication - Edulink One

We would like to remind pupils that moving forward, our primary method of communication between school and home will be through Edulink One. Edulink One is a web and app based application, which aims to integrate systems into one solution.

It is an instant and effective method of communication to you and allows us to attach important letters to messages. Edulink One enables an increased number of characters per message and allows us to send a more informative message to you. We also use Edulink One to share your child's successes and rewards with you. It has many other functions such as allowing you to view your child's timetable, recognition, contacts and homework.

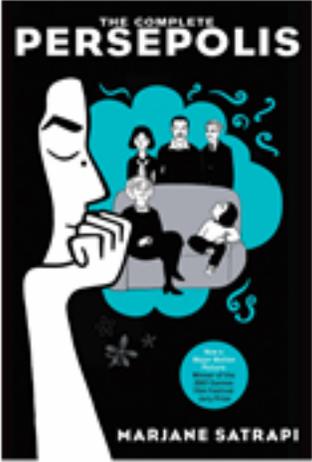
If you have not yet logged in to Edulink One please contact the school and we can provide your username and password.

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## Sora reading recommendation for parents/carers

Parent/Carer



Wise, funny, and heart-breaking, Persepolis is Marijane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marijane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

### Attendance letter:

- > [Spotlight Whole School Letter](#)

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### College Open Days / Evenings 2021-22

- [Local Colleges - Guide to Open Days & Evenings](#)
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## School Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform and have the correct equipment at all times please refer to the Uniform letter. Please note, when your child has PE they should bring their kit in their bag to school NOT wear their PE kit to school. When your child has dance they should wear their dance kit to school on that day.

Reminder: Aprons are a required part of a pupils' school equipment.

- [Uniform letter 14 07 21](#)

Further information can be found here:

- [Uniform \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)
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## School Day

- [The School Day \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)
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## Connect: Student Newsletter

Connect is our weekly pupil newsletter. It is emailed out to all pupils every Friday through their school gmail account and contains details on recognition, reading, careers, wellbeing along with any relevant notices for pupils for the forthcoming week. We would ask that you encourage your child to engage with the newsletter each week. It is a great way for pupils to stay connected to school life.

- [QB Connect \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)
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## Student Wellbeing

Signposting to free Mental Health services for young people, including how to get help in a crisis and anonymous online support.

➤ View Online: [QB Website: Student Wellbeing](#)

### Other links:

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

[Forward Thinking Birmingham | Mental Health Services](#)

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Mind - Birmingham - \(birminghammind.org\)](#)



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Stay involved in your child's online world, just as in their real world. It will help to protect them from its dangers. We know it can be difficult to know how to talk to your child about online safety and the following websites can provide you with some useful tips and guidance:

- [Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)
- [How to Keep Your Teen \(or Tween\) Safe Online | SafeWise](#)
- [National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)



## Coronavirus: Staying Safe

- [Covid Update Letter - Friday 15th October](#)
- [Covid Update Letter - Monday 11th October](#)



**You must wear a face covering on all public transport, at stations and interchanges.**



Wearing a face covering not only protects you but also protects your loved ones who may be more vulnerable.



Transport for  
West Midlands

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Next newsletter: Friday 7th January 2022