



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL  
*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

As we bring 2024 to a close, I would like to reflect on the achievements of our students at Henley in Arden School. There are too many to refer to, and many were celebrated at our brilliant Awards Evening last month - but none of them are possible without the hard work of our staff, parents and community.

I hope this holiday you manage to get some rest and enjoy time with your families. We have battled through snow and wind this term, but our students have continued to demonstrate how charitable and kind they are through visits to care homes, food banks and charity fund raising.

I wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mr Roper**  
Associate Headteacher

## Teaching and Learning

This term, we have been further developing our application of Assessment for Learning (AfL), a proven approach to ensuring every student and their teacher knows how they are doing, what they need to do next, and how to get there.

### What is Assessment for Learning?

AfL is a powerful strategy that shifts the focus from simply testing students at the end of a unit of work to using ongoing assessment techniques throughout lessons. This ongoing assessment provides teachers and students with real-time feedback, helping to shape learning in the moment. In practical terms, it means:

- Students clearly understand their learning objectives and how their work will be assessed.
- Teachers use questioning, discussions, live marking, mini-plenaries and work reviews to identify where students are doing well and where they may need additional support.
- Students actively reflect on their progress and articulate what they are learning, how they can improve, and what their next steps should be.

In student voice this term, students have really demonstrated their understanding of the

feedback they've had from their teachers, what their next steps are and how to take them. We are really proud of how well students are taking ownership of their learning and focusing their efforts in this way to make sure they can make great progress.

### Partnering with Parents

At home, you can support this focus by asking questions such as:

- What progress have you made today in your lessons?
- What feedback did your teacher give you, and how are you using it to improve?
- What are your next steps for reaching your goals?

By encouraging this reflection at home, you reinforce the skills we are nurturing in the classroom.

### Looking Ahead: Next Steps for Teaching and Learning.

As we plan for the next term, we are excited to build on this foundation with three key priorities:

1. Increasing Learning Energy: We want every lesson to feel dynamic and engaging, with students actively participating and taking ownership of their learning. We will be focusing on strategies to keep every child motivated and fully engaged from start to

## HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 19th December 2024

**Forthcoming dates**  
[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)

Thursday 19th December  
Term ends 3.15pm

Monday 6th January 2025  
School re-opens

Thursday 6th February  
Yr11 Parents Evening—4pm-7pm (Invite only)

Monday 10th February  
Parents Forum 5:30pm-6:30pm



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finish.

2. Eliminating Passivity: We aim to ensure that no student is ever a passive observer. Every child will be encouraged to contribute, question, and explore actively in every lesson.  
3. Closing the Gap: Misconceptions can be a major barrier to progress. We are refining our methods to quickly identify and address misunderstandings before they become embedded. This approach will help students make faster, more confident progress and develop the skills they need for future success.

### **Together for Success**

We are deeply committed to creating a culture of high expectations and meaningful support for every child. As always, your involvement is crucial. By fostering conversations about learning at home, celebrating successes, and encouraging perseverance, you are an essential part of your child's educational journey. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Lunn**

**Assistant Manager Teaching & Learning**

### **Christmas Lights Switch On**

Saturday 30th November was the Henley social event of the year: the annual Christmas Lights Switch On.

This event is meticulously planned by the committee and encompasses all of the Henley community, and the community show their appreciation by attending and completely filling the high street.

This year, Isabelle Jones and Lily Foster gave up their evening to volunteer to help, and Grace Lessard was one of the competition winners who had the privilege of turning the lights on for their community.

Such a lovely festive evening that even Santa made an early appearance, as did the snow!

**Miss Betts**

**Head of Year 9**

### **Kindness Week**

During Kindness Week, our thermometer soared with acts of kindness across the school. As well as our Kindness Tickets (which are already filling our thermometer). We attempted a Kindness Relay where a baton was passed from pupil to pupil when genuine acts of kindness were witnessed.

On Kindness Day, staff and students engaged with a Kindness Scratch Card where there were 15 prizes on offer when staff observed genuine kindness. (Thanks to the kindness ambassadors for making them!).

There was a lovely buzz across the school as our culture of kindness develops.

### **Dungeons and Dragons**

D&D club is a new club at Henley-in-Arden School. Taking place on a Friday afterschool, D&D club offers students the chance to play Dungeons & Dragons developing literacy, numeracy, oracy and social skills. D&D club is a welcoming and inclusive environment for students to create characters, go on adventures and create stories together that will last a lifetime.

**Mr Thacker**

For any urgent safeguarding concerns where a child's welfare and safety is at risk, please email [safeguardingconcern@henleyschool.com](mailto:safeguardingconcern@henleyschool.com)

May we wish you a very Happy and peaceful Christmas break



# Head of Year Reports

## Head of Year 7 Report

The Christmas break is upon us and the first term of the first year at Henley is in the (gift) bag!

Year 7 have continued to impress their staff at Henley and the most recent assembly brought them more praise from Mr. Roper on their smart uniform and etiquette on entering the hall.

I know that Miss Hemming has been really impressed with the Geography models that came precariously into school in recent weeks, scale models of all sorts of landmarks and topographical features. If you remember Blue Peter this was yoghurt pot and sticky tape 2024, and all the more amazing for it. Well done to all involved.

The Christmas Showcase sang, danced and acted its way onto stage this week with lots of enthusiasm and participation from Year 7 in the event, so a big bravo and thank you for showing, once again, that Henley has talent.

Muddy kits and aromatic socks aside, its great to also see the Year 7 sports stars carrying on through the inclement weather and form that resilience and team spirit that sports offer.

The pupils learning is always a joy to see, in my own, and others' classrooms. Year 7 are almost always an engaged and engaging class to have in front of you as a member of staff, and I hear fantastic things from teachers and it's lovely to hear the mutual enjoyment of learning and teaching.

**Mr Eagles**

**Head of Year 7**

**seagles@henleyschool.com**

## Head of Year 8 Report

Pupils in Year 8 have continued to thrive at Henley. Collectively they have achieved just short of 85,000 praise points since the start of the year, which is an amazing achievement.

This week has seen the launch of our charity fundraising challenge with each form group across the school starting to plan events to help raise money for 5 different charities, all of whom have helped the school in amazing ways over the last years. In Year 8, plans include a football

game, a raffle, guess the number of sweets in the jar and something to do with a vast quantity of baked beans - watch this space for more details in the new year!!

A small group of Year 8 pupils have been the first group to help out in our partnership with Bupa. They visited a care home in Stratford, chatting with residents and helping to decorate their Christmas tree. They also visited the foodbank in Stratford and dropped off the school's latest donations.

I would like to thank all parents for their continued support this year and look forward to continuing to work together in 2025.

**Mrs Campton**

**Head of Year 8**

**scampton@henleyschool.com**

## Head of Year 9 Report

As we make our way into dark December, it is lovely to celebrate the success of Year 9.

Several members of the year group have become kindness ambassadors to help Mr Lowdon spread kindness throughout our school community and I am very proud of their efforts and pro-active attitude.

This half term, we celebrate the success of Brwyn achieving his Chief Scout Gold Award; this is the highest achievement a Scout can achieve and consists of a lot of hard-work, effort and independence.

We also celebrate the success of Jacob J for achieving a distinction in his grade 3 drums.

Congratulations also go to the phenomenal athletic success of Tobias at the Notts Opens; Tobias' achievements including 3 silver medals, 4 gold medals plus the highest score of the afternoon! And, as this is going to press, Tobias has also achieved another 6 gold medals at the West Midlands Regional Men's Artistic championships.

The School's formal Awards Evening last month also celebrated the success and achievements of several Year 9 students highlighting their efforts and achievements last



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year and I am extremely proud; I hope for even more of our cohort to shine and be acknowledged next year!

As a year group, we have been very fortunate to be offered the opportunity to travel on expedition to Kenya with Camps International to work with them on their community project work, and to enjoy the adventure and cultural immersion.

In addition, we have already launched the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and look forward to continuing this in the spring term.

**Miss Betts**

**Head of Year 9**

**[ebetts@henleyschool.com](mailto:ebetts@henleyschool.com)**

### **Head of Year 10 Report**

Year 10 students have been working incredibly hard in their studies, especially in their options subjects, and their dedication is truly commendable.

As we approach the second half of the academic year, it's important for students to start thinking ahead towards their mock exams. These assessments are a key milestone in their educational journey and will help to highlight areas for further development. To support them in their preparations, I will be putting additional support in place over the coming months, including tailored revision sessions and guidance. However, students should speak to Mrs Pearsall and I if they need any further support before then.

Let's continue to build on this momentum and ensure that everyone feels confident and well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you back in the new year!

**Miss Fish**

**Head of year 10**

**[gfish@henleyschool.com](mailto:gfish@henleyschool.com)**

### **Head of Year 11 Report**

As the autumn term draws to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 11 students at Henley-in-Arden School. This term has been a challenging one, with students balancing their studies and preparing for their mock exams, but they have risen to the occasion admirably.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and determination, and we hope that all their hard work will pay off. Mock exams are an important milestone, providing valuable experience for the challenges ahead, and we have been impressed by the resilience and focus our students have displayed.

As we approach the holiday season, we wish all our Year 11 students a restful and well-deserved break. Taking time to recharge is vital, and we encourage everyone to enjoy time and come back refreshed and ready for the new year.

The spring term will mark the start of their final full term with us at Henley-in-Arden, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue their journey towards their GCSEs and their future aspirations.

Well done, Year 11, and have a wonderful holiday!

**Mr Pittaway**

**Head of Year 11**

**[jpittaway@henleyschool.com](mailto:jpittaway@henleyschool.com)**

### **Music Lessons 2025**

Tuition is available for

Vocal

Piano

Woodwind

Guitar

Violin

Drums

Please contact [slewis@henleyschool.com](mailto:slewis@henleyschool.com) for more information.



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## Performing Arts

### Acting

It has been a busy half term for Drama with Year 11 BTEC actors demonstrating their talents in a disturbing dystopia showcase. This was a very intense and immersive evening for the actors and the audience as the Drama studio became Room 101. The production saw not only some of our most talented, accomplished and experienced actors create some of their best work, but also those newer to performance achieve excellence on stage.

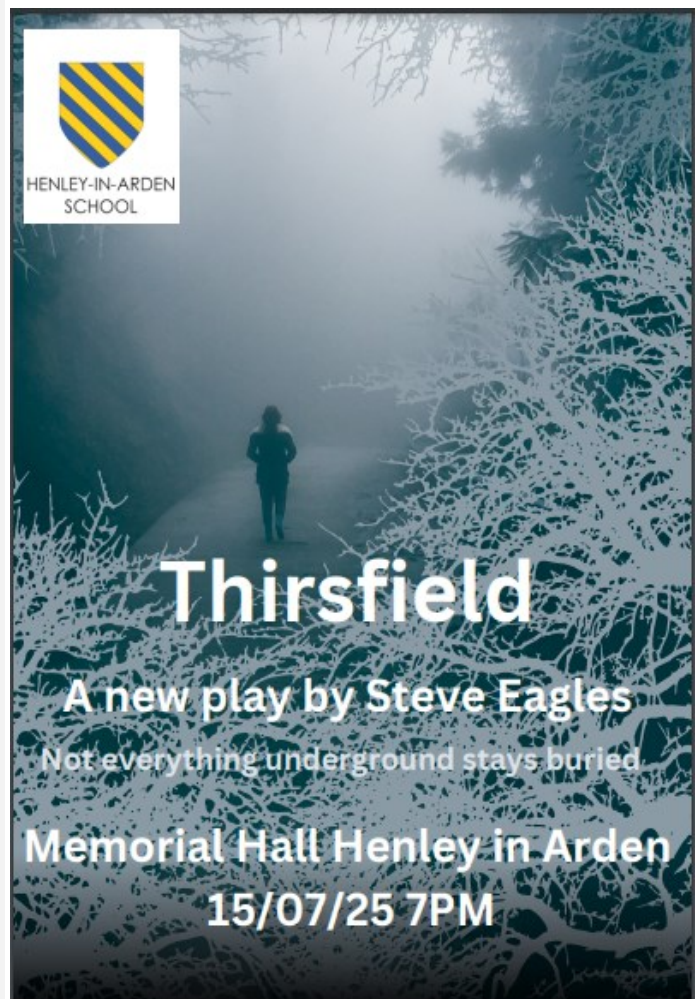


A huge well done to Belle Gisbourne and Charlotte Regan for writing and directing the play for the Christmas Concert. 'The World's Worst Directors' might have been a comically negative title, but the effort of these two Year 10's is nothing but positive, they are inspirational young leaders and of the Henley Performing Arts Faculty. The cast have been an energetic bunch that has made me wonder what was in school lunches sometimes during Wednesday dinner time rehearsals! But they have talent and comedy verve to spare, and they 'sleighed' the audience on the night!

King Lear is also in rehearsal at present, adding a Mafia twist on Shakespeare's classic Tragedy. A cast from across the year groups is rising to the challenges this text presents with a dynamic energy.

The new year will bring new opportunities of the whole school show, The Shakespeare Schools production in March, Year 11 BTEC Actors evening of new devised work, and news of the school's play for The Henley in Arden Arts4All production (see poster below), so lots to look forward to.

**Mr Eagles**  
**Head of Acting**



## Y10 Inter-Trust Maths Relay

At the start of November, eight of our Year 10 students competed in our first Inter-Trust Maths Relay at Lode Heath School, alongside students from Lode Heath, Arden and Park Hall, answering logic and problem-solving questions.

The questions were difficult, but our students approached them with a great mindset and managed to work their way through the problems.

It was a very tight competition and our two teams came second and third with 16 and 14 points; the top place having scored a close 18.

Well done Annabel, Ethan, Finley, Taylor, Matthew, Millie, Saffey and Sophie!



**Mr Walton**  
**Second in Charge in Mathematics**

## Year 7 Times Table Rockstars England Rocks Competition

Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November, our Year 7 students took part in the England Rocks competition on Times Tables Rockstars against other schools within England. Well done to all our students who participated.

The top three students in Year 7 as well as the top three students for each Maths class have all been awarded certificates.

Well done to Harriet, Bethany, Lyla, Isabelle, Reed, Jessica, Camilla, Anai, Scarlett, Callum, Erin, Roman, Rosetta, Annabel and Alexander.

We look forward to awarding more students in the next TTRS competition!

**Mrs Jones**  
**Maths Department**

## Geography

Members of Miss Hemming's Geography Club have been making earthquake proof buildings with marshmallows and spaghetti!

Well done to Hywel Bond for making the best structure!



**Miss Hemming**  
**Geography Department**

## Library News

This half term has seen the return of Creative Writing club on Fridays after school. We have a good mix of pupils that attend from Year 7 to Year 10. The students have already entered one creative writing competition called Fright Club. This involved submitting ghost stories of up to 250 words. If selected, the students will see their stories published in a compilation of entries.

We are already working on our next competition called Fight or Flight. This has a word limit of 100 so is more challenging.

The book containing last term's entries has now been published and includes work from Belle Gisbourne and Sophie Jones with their copies of Mission Chaos containing their stories.



Ewan Sparrow found out that WHSmiths were offering a buy back system via a third party for old books, so we trawled through our withdrawn books in the Library to find treasure.

Sadly, the majority were not worth anything, but we did manage to earn £14 in book tokens to spend at Smiths.

**Mrs Daneshyar**  
**Librarian**

## Library News

### St John's Church

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of November, I took Brwyn Bond and Isabelle Jones to St. John's Church in Henley to decorate a Christmas tree for the School, kindly donated by our Chair of Governors, Mrs Westmacott. This formed part of a Christmas tree festival at the church.



### Waterstones Bookshop

On 29<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Robbins and I took 13 students to Waterstones in Birmingham to buy books for the library. Six student librarians were part of the group, the rest of the group was made up of students who had earned a reward for their work on the literacy programme, Lexia.

The pupils were allowed to make their own choices, and we also had a wish list from the student survey that Ewan had organised. After everyone had chosen, the books were collected and then followed a lively discussion to see which books would make the cut.

Below you can see the group under the Christmas tree with our haul of books, a selection of the new titles and the students enjoying a well-earned drink and cake after shopping.

**Mrs Daneshyar**  
Librarian



# REWARDS

Waterstones Trip



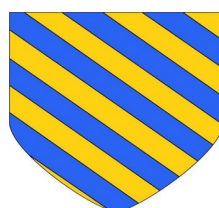
As Christmas approaches, we have been decorating the library to get us into the festive mood. Isabelle Millar created a tree from books whilst Joshua Fear, Lily Foster and Matthew Neighbour made an advent calendar using Christmas book covers.

We have also been making good use of withdrawn books, turning them into wreaths and a tree. It is all looking very festive and we have a great selection of Christmas titles to choose from.



We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas from the Library.

**Mrs Daneshyar**  
Librarian



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## Special Mentions



A special thank you to Alice who laid this year's memorial day wreath from the School at St John's Church in Henley.

We collected £67.00 for the annual poppy appeal.

Thank you to all of you who kindly donated.

We are delighted to pass on the news that Brwyn Bond has received the Chief Scout Gold Award at Scouts. This is the highest badge award that can be awarded in the Scout section and completes the set so far for Brwyn (Bronze in Beavers, Silver in Cubs... you get the idea). To gain the award, Brwyn has completed all nine of the Scout Challenge Badge Awards and at least six Activity badges during his time in the Scouts. He's really pleased to have finally received the award: he is coming towards the end of his time in Scouts and will move up to Explorers in the coming months.

We are very proud to share Ava G's success at her recent gymnastics competition as she will be too modest to do so herself.

Ava won her competition to become the West Midlands regional champion in the age 12-13 category. All of those Friday afternoon training sessions really paid off.



Yasmin Cooper, Year 8, is part of the PQA (Pauline Quirke Academy) and they have just

performed their Christmas Cinderella panto in Wqrwick last weekend.



## Former Pupil Success

Amelia Cook began dancing Ballet at the age of seven and continued during her time at Henley school. After GCSE's she went on to study at the prestigious Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham and danced with The Birmingham Royal Ballet.

She has now won a coveted apprenticeship at the Ballet de Barcelona in Spain.



## Community News

### Bupa Canning Court

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, a group of Year 8 students visited Bupa Canning Court; our main task was to help put the Christmas decorations up. With 15 eager and enthusiastic young people, the decorations were completed in record time! Students then enjoyed conversation with the patients, there was even a bit of singing! We were taken on a tour of the home to see the various areas and their purposes, as well as being introduced to more residents. They were elated to see our young people, even if our arrival was a little overwhelming and broke the silence. It was a heart-warming experience. The students and Mr Brough have big plans for some sporting events whilst the students and myself have plans for reading Christmas books!



**Miss Betts**  
**Head of Year 9**



## PE Department

### Come on England!

45 girls from Henley recently travelled to Wembley to watch the Lionesses v USA, all in aid of promoting girl's sport.



### Meet some of our very talented Footballers

The girls recently competed in the South Warwickshire Football Tournament. They went from strength to strength; each match saw them growing more confident, communicating well, and building on their teamwork.



More Year 7's were in action winning their first football match against St Benedict's, winning 11-1 on aggregate.

Well done Team Henley!



At the Year 7's first Rugby match, they played incredibly well. They were all very excited to play as you can see!

Well done boys!



Some of our Year 7 students played in their first South Warwickshire Netball Tournament. They played extremely well and had lots of fun.

Well done Team Henley!



Our Year 10 Netballers played against schools in the South Warwickshire Tournament and absolutely smashed it, unbeaten for all of their games!



**Mrs Smith**  
**Head of PE**

## Notices

### Chocolate tubs

As we all indulge over the festive period, I am sure there will be a few tubs of chocolate emptied! Can we help you dispose of them by asking you to bring them to school so we can support 'We can' in Solihull with their 'Hunger Games-Inspired Charity Event.

Thank you.

### Donations

If anyone has any surplus stocking fillers or toiletries, please can you consider donating them so that we can re-gift throughout the year on our kindness mission, or to support with our charity fundraising. Please send to Miss Betts in Pastoral.

### Uniform swap

As the year comes to an end, and we have completed our first term, we are sure that some of our young people have now outgrown their current autumn uniform; we have a large stock of donated uniform that is available to swap for this outgrown uniform (where possible).

Email [ebetts@henleyschool.com](mailto:ebetts@henleyschool.com) if you are interested.

### Reporting an absence

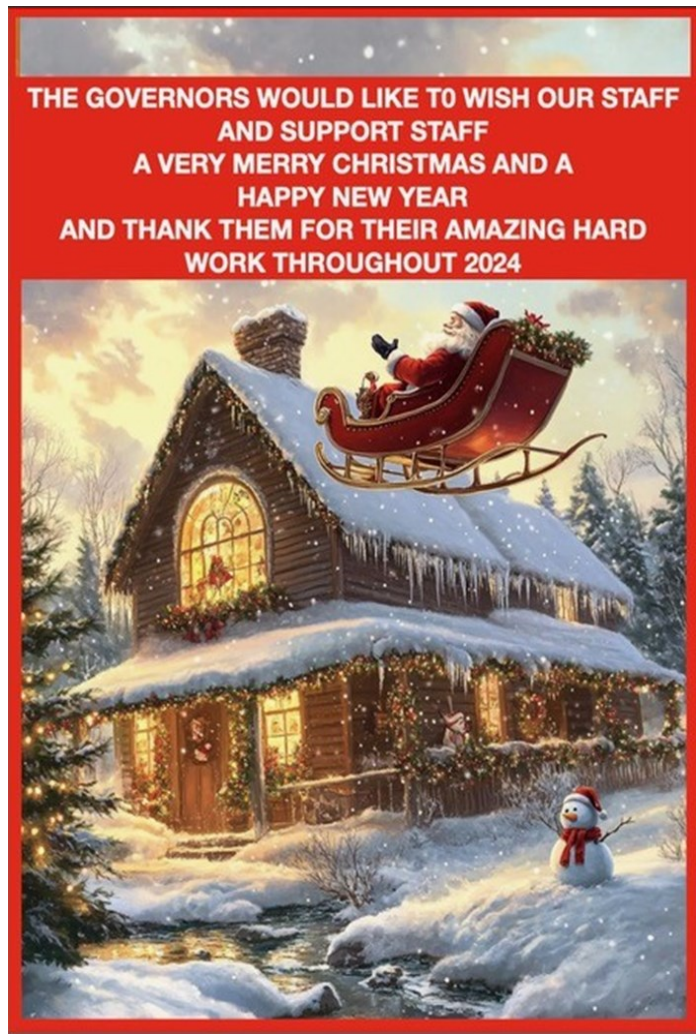
If you need to report your child's absence please either send a message via Schoolcomms system or please call the school attendance line on 01564 792364 option 1.

### After School Clubs

Please note that, due to darker evenings fast approaching, all pupils staying for after school clubs will leave from exits at the front of school. Please arrange to collect from this point.

### Pauline Quirke Academy

PQA is a weekend Performing Arts Academy at Henley providing tuition for children and young people from 4-18 years. Students spend three hours, rotating through hour-long sessions in Comedy & Drama, Musical Theatre and Film & Television. Groups are formed according to age and are taught by specialist expert teachers.



### Child Exploitation Awareness for Parents 2024/25

Barnardos Warwickshire Base are running a series of virtual webinars for Parents to raise awareness of the many forms of exploitation including County Lines, CSE and Online Exploitation.

Have you heard of CSE? Do you know about County Lines? How to spot the signs and where to get help? Barnardos BASE Service are bringing you a 60 minute virtual guide to Child Exploitation. This is a perfect opportunity to increase your awareness, ask experienced professionals any burning questions and learn more about the support that is available in your area.

**SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...**

#### Child Exploitation Awareness for Parents via MS Teams

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 7pm – 8pm

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

To book your **free** place please email [Rebecca.hill@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.hill@barnardos.org.uk) or [Natalie.turner@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Natalie.turner@barnardos.org.uk) and we will complete your booking

Child exploitation is happening in Warwickshire... don't ignore it #STOPCE

For regular updates on our service and events please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages:

[www.facebook.com/warwickshirece](https://www.facebook.com/warwickshirece) @warksce