



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL

*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brilliant fully opening up the field and watching students enjoy the green spaces we have in Henley-in-Arden school. Whether playing football, basketball, reading, talking with friends or just enjoying the fresh air - our students have enjoyed some well deserved down time each lunch in our last few sunny weeks.

When we return, it is an exceptionally short half term but also a very important one. Our year 11s are starting their GCSEs, our year 10s are finalising their work experience placements and receiving their mock results back, year 9s are finalising their option choices and year 7s and 8s will be beginning to transition to the next stage of their education.

We look forward to welcoming students back on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. From this day - to enable our students get their full entitlement of assembly and form - we will be ringing out first bell at 8:37am - to ensure students have time to move to classes ready for form to begin at 8:40am. Please support us with this by ensuring your children are on site, in full uniform and suitably equipped for learning by this time. Have a fantastic Easter Break.

**Mr J Roper**  
**Associate Headteacher**

## Teaching and learning

As part of our efforts to continuously improve the support we give to students and to ensure they make exceptional progress, we have been focusing on embedding effective Assessment for Learning (AfL) strategies across our lessons. In particular, we have been implementing "hinge points" - a key moment in each lesson where all students' understanding of new knowledge and skills is assessed and any misconceptions identified and addressed.

**What Are Hinge Points?** Hinge points are carefully planned stages in lessons where teachers check all students' knowledge and skills before moving forward. This ensures that every student gets the support they need at the right time:

**Targeted Support:** Students who need additional help receive focused guidance to strengthen their understanding.

**Embedded Learning:** Those who have grasped the material move on to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

**Stretch and Challenge:** Students who have already mastered the content engage in deeper and more complex tasks to further their learning.

By using these strategies consistently, we ensure that no student is left behind while also keeping high expectations for all. We have already seen a positive impact in lessons, with student voice and learning walks indicating that students feeling more confident and engaged in their learning journey.

**Successful Peer-to-Peer Review** In addition to our work on AfL, we recently welcomed colleagues from other schools within the Arden Multi-Academy Trust (AMAT) for a peer-to-peer review of teaching and learning. This was our most successful review to date, and we are pleased with the feedback received. Reviewers were particularly impressed by:

The **high learning energy** demonstrated by our students in lessons.

The extent to which **routines are established and embedded to support all of our learners to succeed.**

The **quality of feedback** provided by teachers, both in writing and verbally, ensuring **students know how to improve.**

The **pride students take in their school** and the **support they receive** from staff and peers. This recognition reflects the hard work of our teachers and the dedication of our students,



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Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best possible education for your children. If you have any questions or would like further information about our teaching and learning strategies, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Mr N Lunn**

**Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Data**

### Head of Year 7 Report

Is that the sound of the Easter Bunny, laden down with 3 for 2 chocolate eggs I hear? As the daffodils signify spring is here, we are approaching the beginning of the end of Year 7. The final term approaches. There is much to celebrate and this will be the case as we welcome the pupils to the rewards assembly on the last day of term.

In addition to continuing to represent the Henley School values we have seen great sporting achievements on the football field, performances at the Big Dance Off and in King Lear for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Meanwhile Year 7 continue to work hard in rehearsal for the school show, Matilda, (including participation in a lunchtime Pop Up performance) and the Henley Arts for All Festival play Thirstfield.

**Mr Eagles**

**Head of Year 7**

**seagles@henleyschool.com**

### Head of Year 8 Report

Spring is here and the lighter evenings, green shoots and sunshine have inspired us all to look to the end of the year. We are looking forward to celebrating the success of Year 8 with the PRIDE event on 11<sup>th</sup> July. It is amazing to say that over 90 students in Year 8 have qualified for at least a Bronze Pride award already. This means they have collected over 100 praise points since 27<sup>th</sup> January when it was launched. They are well on the way towards a Silver (150 praises) or Gold award (200 praises) - keep up the great work Year 8 😊

I have challenged Year 8 to become a Zero Hero over the next two weeks. This means no negatives points at all - then they are eligible for a top secret super prize on the last day. Please make sure you support your child being punctual and equipped for school each day to help start the day correctly over this period and check in with them on 11<sup>th</sup> April to see what the prize was!

**Mrs S Campton**

**Head of Year 8**

**scampton@henleyschool.com**

### Head of Year 9 Report

Year 9 have had another amazing half term! Since our last newsletter we have been to Naples, started the process for Options and embarked on their DofE journey.

Our trip to Naples at half-term was an incredible opportunity. The trip was jam-packed with activities and excursions and the students were an amazing credit to the school. Year 9 were incredibly resilient and tackled everything, except some of the food choices!

As always, year 9 have been at the forefront of being proactive within the school teams, as well outside of school. Brwyn came to Naples and then spent the rest of his week on the stage with Stratford Youth Theatre, acting in 'A Monster Calls.' Logan won the Worcestershire under 18s boys order of merit at his March County Golf Presentation, and he has been selected as Worcestershire under 14s county captain this year.

In addition to Jess Tonks coming second place in her girls Karting race at Warwick earlier this year, she came first more recently!

Cannot wait to see what the rest of the academic year has to offer.

**Miss Betts**

**Head of Year 9**

**ebetts@henleyschool.com**

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

# Head of Year Reports

## Head of Year 10 Report

I am incredibly proud of our Year 10 students and the maturity they have shown in their approach to their recent mock exams. Their dedication, focus, and resilience have been truly impressive, and it's been fantastic to see so many of them taking this opportunity seriously as they prepare for the challenges of Year 11.

Beyond their academic efforts, our students are now turning their attention to work experience. This is an exciting and valuable step in their journey, giving them a chance to explore potential careers, develop key skills, and gain real-world experience. I encourage all students to make the most of this opportunity, whether by securing a placement that aligns with their future aspirations or by stepping out of their comfort zones to try something new.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing Year 10 continue to grow and excel in the months ahead.

**Miss Fish**

**Head of Year 9**

**gfish@henleyschool.com**

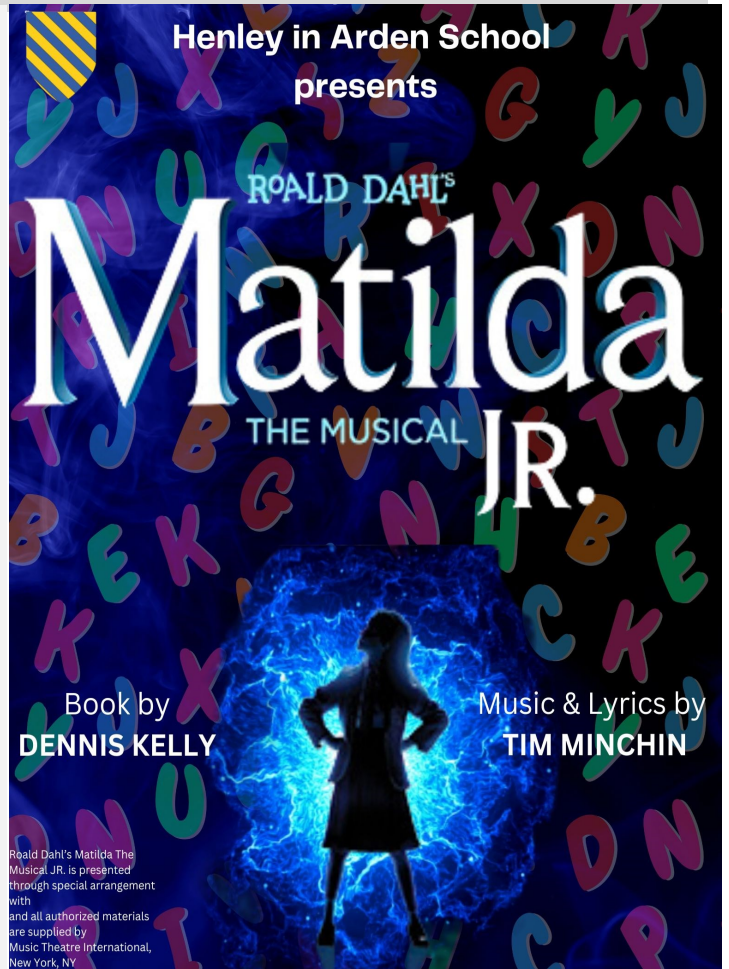
## Head of Year 11 Report

With just **four school weeks** until the exams begin, we want to take a moment to congratulate our Year 11 students on their **hard work and dedication** so far. You have all shown great commitment, and now is the time to make the most of the final weeks in school. Make sure you are **utilising every opportunity** to seek support from your teachers, refine your knowledge, and ask for advice. These weeks are crucial, so keep focused, but also take time to enjoy these moments with your year group before you each go your own ways on the next part of your journey. As we approach the Easter break, we encourage you to strike the right balance between **rest and revision**. Recharge, spend time with family and friends, but also ensure you are well-prepared for the weeks ahead. **Have a wonderful Easter!** We look forward to seeing you back, refreshed and ready for the final push!

**Mr J Pittaway**

**Head of Year 11**

**jpittaway@henleyschool.com**



**PLAYERS WANTED**  
TO JOIN OUR NEW U14S TEAM FOR  
THE 2025/26 SEASON.  
ALL POSITIONS AND PLAYERS  
WELCOME  
TRAINING TO START AFTER  
EASTER  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT SAM ON 07702800391 OR  
HENLEYFORESTFC.SN@GMAIL.COM  
ALL COACHES, ARE FULLY DBS CHECKED AND  
QUALIFIED COACHES AND FIRST AIDERS



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## Library News

It has been a busy half term in the library with World Book Day events. We had several competitions running including a classroom door decorating competition and a create a book character from a toilet roll tube competition.

The student librarians organised a 'Guess who's coming to dinner?' competition. They made place settings with clues to book characters and laid the table. Some characters were easy to guess and some very tricky.

We also held another Booknic in the hall with Mrs Westmacott kindly providing cakes for us to sell. We raised £40 for library funds so thank you to everyone that bought a tasty treat.

On the Wednesday we were visited by The Public Typist, Adam Holtom, who ran some creative writing workshops with our year 7's and 8's and then at lunchtime set up his typewriter in the library where, if you gave him a name and three random words he typed you a one page story. This was a great hit with our library regulars.

On World Book Day itself some year 7's and 8's took part in a live footy booky quiz. This had football and book based questions and was very enjoyable.

The culmination of the week was the judging of the classroom doors and the toilet roll book characters. Mrs Westmacott kindly gave up her time to be the head judge for both competitions. The standard of door decorating was high but it was Mrs Ratliff's form who came out top just edging out The Hive by one point.

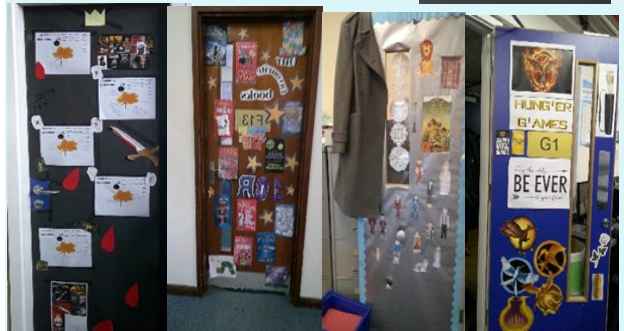


The winning Door

A close second



Some of our other entries.



We had lots of entries into our book character competition. Congratulations to Ewan Sparrow for his winning entry of Hercule Poirot. Hywel Bond took second with his X Men collection and Genevieve Stead third with Dorothy. Lucia Gregory got a special mention for the BFG.

Well done to all the entrants. It was great to see such book inspired creativity. We have all the entries on display in the library.



**Our Winners!**



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All the entries to our book character competition.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March a team of bookworms entered the National Literacy Reading Quiz regional heat. The competition was intense with seven rounds in a variety of categories. The team fought hard and were a credit to the school with their book knowledge but sadly we didn't make it through to the grand final.



Our team of quizzings:  
Toby Blundell (reserve)  
Elijah Mills, Charlotte Foss,

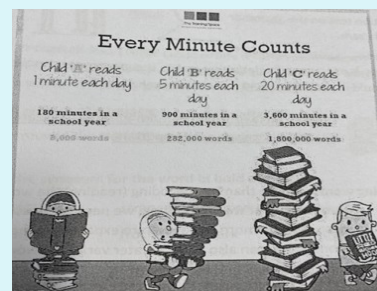
Isabelle Millar and Bella Roberts.

Several student librarians have been working hard to move up to the next award in preparation for our senior student librarian's departure.

Oscar B has set up and run a creative writing competition for his bronze award. Winners to be announced shortly.

With the weather improving and the days getting longer what better time to get stuck into a good book. The library has an extensive collection available and we continue to add to our stock, the latest editions being The Alex Rider Graphic novel collection and the thought provoking Invisible Women which exposes data

bias In a world designed by and for men. The latest in The Hunger Games saga is also here. The power of reading to transport you away from the everyday is immense. Daily reading also helps to lift grades in all subjects by expanding vocabulary and knowledge. Check out these stats if you don't believe me.



Reading is also a good way to relax and studies have proven its positive benefits on mental well-being. So grab some Easter Chocolate, find a comfy spot and settle down with a good book.

Happy Easter.

**Mrs T Daneshyar**

**Librarian**

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





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## Drama and Acting

Firstly, huge congratulations to the cast of King Lear who performed at the Shakespeare Schools Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> March. This was a trying and tiring day as we made our way to Tech and Dress the show at the Midlands Arts Centre following rehearsals in school. Challenges were overcome and a dedicated and professional last-minute effort ensured that this complex and epic story was staged with verve and intensity. I will share the official Appraisal from the Festival Director when it is received. Thanks to all involved and a few special mentions to the amazing work done by Toby Vanderson to take on and convince as the aging Mafia-Don Lear, Charlotte Regan for getting under the skin of the complex Goneril, an eye-catching (no pun intended if you know the events of the play!) debut by Year 7 Ellena Mason Collis as Cordelia, Toby Blundell's energy as the Fool. It was an ensemble approach, and each actor contributed brilliantly to the whole.

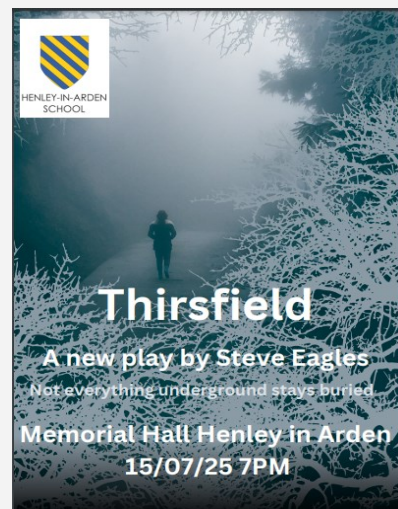
Year 11 are about to perform two brilliant and bonkers new devised pieces for their BTEC Performing Arts Acting exam. If you want to see a Scooby Doo mystery and a parody of Hollywood action epics that both meet the set theme of Joint Effort the premiere is April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Drama Studio! Huge well done to the two casts who have worked at a 6<sup>th</sup> form level across the course. I always enjoy teaching you, and - though it's only Easter I'm saying it here - I'm going to miss you guys as a Class class!

Year 10 have just completed Component 1 - a third of their overall exam, and I congratulate them on working so hard over the 12 hours of this submission.

Next term will see the blocking and staging start on the school show Matilda and the performances of both the haunting new play Thirsfield at the Henley Arts4All festival, the Ks3 Drama club production of Year 10 Belle

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/henley-school-thirsfield-tickets-1097311019799>

Thirsfield is an old house  
Thirsfield stands on old land  
Land that owns its own truth  
It's own darkness  
Land that has the spirit of fox bite  
Of hare's madness  
Land with secrets that can seep into creatures  
Or People  
When a young family moves in  
The old ways see new ways  
To surface  
Not everything underground stays buried



**Mr S Eagles**  
[seagles@henleyschool.com](mailto:seagles@henleyschool.com)

## Henley-in-Arden School Dates for your diary

Easter Break 14th April - 25th April

Monday 28th April term starts

Monday 5th May bank holiday

Tuesday 6th May GCSE's begin

Monday 19th May Parent's Forum 5:30pm-  
6:30pm

Half term break 26th May-31st May

Monday 2nd June back to school

## Dance

On Monday 24th March, 15 of our wonderful dancers in Force Dance Company took to the stage at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham as part of the Great Big Dance Off Competition. They performed a contemporary piece inspired by the Peaky Blinders, showing the story of the Birmingham gangsters. Their performance was strong and involved lots of complex choreography. The girls held their own in a tough heat within the KS4/KS5 category.

Well done to Darcey Clemons, Ellie Key, Fath Sohal-Johnson, Lily Hart, Maisie Davies, Katie Potter, Lily Syms, Ruby Wakefield-Clarke, Elizabeth Thomas, Ava Thomas, Eve Ashley, Sophia Nanni, Hannah Smith, Evie Connolly, Megan Bowser and Ava Gibson.



**Miss L Monk**

**Head of Dance**

**lamonk@henleyschool.com**

## Macbeth

On the 3rd March, Year 9 students had the incredible opportunity to attend a live performance of *Macbeth* at The Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. This exciting trip was a fantastic way to bring Shakespeare's iconic tragedy to life outside the classroom, giving students a unique insight into the play's themes of ambition, power, and fate.

The performance was a captivating experience, with impressive staging and a talented cast that truly engaged the audience. Many students found it enlightening to see the text they have been studying in class so vividly brought to life on stage. The trip sparked meaningful discussions and gave students a deeper appreciation for Shakespeare's work.

A big thank you to our teachers and all the staff involved. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!

## Mock Trial

On Saturday, 22nd March, 13 students from Year 8 and 9 took part in the highly anticipated Mock Trial competition at Coventry Magistrates' Court. The students, all members of the Debate Club who meet on Friday lunchtimes, demonstrated impressive dedication and teamwork throughout the event. Mr. Lunn, Miss Hemming, and Ms. Robbins were thoroughly impressed with the professionalism and skill displayed by our students, as were the court representatives who observed the trial.

A special congratulations to Elliot B, a Year 9 student, who received an award for Best Supporting Role as Legal Advisor. His hard work and dedication truly stood out and contributed to the success of the team.

In preparation for the competition, students had the unique opportunity to visit Coventry Magistrates' Court on 28th February with Miss Betts and Miss Hemming. This experience provided valuable insight into the workings of a real courtroom. Additionally, many thanks to Sarah Belshah, a prosecution lawyer, who conducted a workshop on Tuesday, 18th March, to help students prepare for the trial.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated, and we look forward to even more successful opportunities for the Debate Club in the future!

## Naples Trip

Over the February half term, our Year 9 Geography students had an unforgettable trip to Naples. Students explored the ancient ruins of Pompeii, where students walked through the remarkably preserved streets and gained insight into life before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. They also had the thrilling experience of hiking up Mount Vesuvius itself, taking in breathtaking views of the Bay of Naples. They were also able to explore the stunning Amalfi Coast, visiting picturesque towns like Sorrento and Positano.

To top it all off, students got hands-on with Italian cuisine, trying their hand at pizza and ice cream making with delicious results! The students were a real credit to the school, showing excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the trip. It was a brilliant mix of education and fun, leaving everyone with fantastic memories and a deeper understanding of the region's geography and history.



to everyone's delight, the hotel was close to local amenities and provided easy access to the slopes.

Over half of the students were taking to the slopes for the first time in their lives and the progress they made during the week was exceptional. The 4 groups were ably led by their ski instructors across the week and supported to improve their core skills and advanced techniques. The students quickly seemed at home on the piste and most importantly, found the joys of overcoming trepidation to slide gracefully down the mountain, gaining an appreciation for the natural beauty of their surroundings. After a hard day's skiing, they enjoyed a varied programme of après ski activities.

As the week drew to a close, we were sad to be leaving the mountains. The pupils were wonderful company throughout the week and thanks to all of the staff who made it possible.

We are now on countdown to Italy 2026.



## Ski Trip

In the first week of the February Half term, 42 students and 5 staff ventured to Andorra for the first school ski trip in recent years. The 20 hour coach journey was a dream with very comfortable seating arrangements and some 'questionable' tastes in music being shared by students to keep spirits high.

The small town of Encamp, provided a picturesque setting for the week's activities and much

## Mr Lowdon

### Deputy Headteacher



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## PE News

### Netball champions

Our Year 8 girls dominated the South Warwickshire Netball Tournament. With incredible skill, enthusiasm and determination they won every match and were crowned South Warwickshire Champions. An amazing achievement. Well done team.



### Netball runners up

Year 7 showcased their talents at the South Warwickshire Netball Tournament. They played five intense matches securing three wins, one draw and just one hard fought loss against the well-deserved tournament winners SGGS. A fantastic effort. Well done.



### Other Sporting Achievements

In September, Matthew Calitz became a member of the junior rowing squad at Warwick Boat Club. In his first rowing competition on water, he was part of a boy's squad in an open event of six teams and they won. A fantastic achievement for a newly formed squad.

Matthew has been signed up by the club for two more competitions; the Evesham Regatta on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and the Nottingham Regatta on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Well done Matthew.

Inspired by the South Warwickshire Schools indoor rowing competition, another two of our students, Charlotte Foss and Grace Lessard, have taken their passion to the next level by also joining Warwick Boat Club. They recently competed in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships and The Head of the Soar rowing race in Loughborough, an incredible achievement. In their first ever race on the water, they delivered an outstanding performance, winning the coxed quad by an impressive 38 seconds. What a fantastic start to their rowing journey.



## Notices

### Award-Winning Writers!

We are excited to share some wonderful news about a group of our talented students! These young writers have been selected for publication in *Poetry Escape - UK Voices*, a prestigious anthology celebrating creative expression in poetry. Their exceptional work will be featured in the 2025 edition of this collection, which is set to be published on June 9th, 2025.

Please join us in congratulating the following students for their outstanding contributions:

- **A Mythical World** – Lily N
- **Shiny Black Boots** – Gisele H
- **Bullying Affects All in Different Ways** – Grace Cresswell
- **Clockwork** – Isabelle T
- **Anything is Possible** – Lilly S

We couldn't be prouder of their achievements, and their poems are sure to inspire readers far and wide. A copy of *Poetry Escape - UK Voices* will be available for viewing in the library, and we will also be sending out a digital copy to all students.

Congratulations to these budding authors for their incredible work! Keep writing, dreaming, and sharing your voices!

### Uniform Swap

As Summer approaches we are sure that some of our young people have now outgrown their current 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**.

### 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

**BARNARDOS**

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)



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



The staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter break.