Woldgate School
Of great merit, character & value

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Wonder Learning Partnership
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ISSUE 450

Newsletter

Of great merit, character & value



Anti-Bullying Week: Celebrating Kindness, Respect and Courage

At Woldgate school, we believe that every child deserves to feel safe, valued and respected. As we look ahead to Anti-Bullying Week, we are incredibly proud of the commitment and leadership shown by our pupil voice representatives, who have been working hard to ensure this important message reaches every member of our school community.

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92 Kilnwick Road, Pocklington, York, YO42 2LL

Over the past four weeks, 25 student ambassadors, representing form classes across the school, have been delivering key anti-bullying messages to their peers. Through discussions, activities and conversations in form time, they have encouraged students to think about the impact of their words and actions and the difference that kindness can make.

One of the most important messages they have been sharing is that bullying should never be ignored. Whether it happens in person or online, it takes courage to speak up, but calling out bullying and reporting concerns can make a huge difference. We want all of our pupils to know that they have the power to support one another and help create a community where everyone feels included and respected.

To mark the week, we will be taking part in **Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November.** This wonderful event celebrates individuality and reminds us that our differences are something to be proud of. We encourage all pupils, students and parents to wear odd socks and join us in celebrating what makes each of us unique.



If you are able to support this cause, we would be grateful for a £1 donation, either through Arbor or by bringing cash into school. Every contribution helps to support the ongoing work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance and its mission to create safer environments for young people.

Our student representatives have invested a great deal of time, energy and enthusiasm into preparing for Anti-Bullying Week. They will be sharing their messages and learning through assemblies and form-time presentations, and we know they will represent the school brilliantly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together as pupils, staff and families, we can reinforce the values of kindness, empathy and respect, and ensure that every young person knows they belong.

Together, let's celebrate our differences, stand up to bullying, and make kindness the norm.

Anti-bullying Week Parent Pack

To find out more about this campaign please follow this link:

https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2026/anti-bullying-week-2026



Supporting People's Pantry This Christmas

As the festive season approaches, many of us are looking forward to spending time with family and friends. However, we recognise that Christmas can be a difficult time for some families in our local community. This year, Woldgate School is once again coming together to support The People's Pantry in Pocklington, helping to ensure that those who need a little extra support know that they are not alone.

The People's Pantry is a local registered charity serving Pocklington, Market Weighton and the surrounding areas. Its mission, "Fighting Food Poverty & Food Waste," reflects a commitment to supporting local people whilst reducing unnecessary food waste within our communities.

At Woldgate, we believe that education is about more than academic success. It is also about developing young people who show **respect, responsibility and care for others.** Supporting The People's Pantry provides our pupils and students with a meaningful opportunity to put these values into practice. By helping people in our own towns and villages, pupils can see how small acts of generosity can have a lasting impact on the lives of others.

One of Woldgate's greatest strengths is its connection to the local community. Many of the families supported by The People's Pantry live in the same communities as our pupils and staff. This collection is therefore not simply about donating food and household essentials; it is about neighbours helping neighbours and demonstrating that, as a community, we look after one another when times are difficult. Through this initiative, our pupils learn that community is built on kindness, compassion and a willingness to support those around us.

Over the coming weeks, form groups will be collecting donations in school, with all contributions being delivered to The People's Pantry during the **first week of December.** We would be incredibly grateful for any donations that families are able to provide. Every item, no matter how small, can make a real difference.

Suggested donations:

- Tinned food
- Pasta, rice and cereal
- Tea, coffee and long-life milk
- Toiletries and hygiene products
- Household essentials
- Festive treats

What makes this initiative particularly special is the enthusiasm shown by our pupils. More than **20 members of our Pupil Voice Charity Ambassadors** team have been working hard to promote the collection across the school, encouraging their peers to get involved and highlighting the importance of supporting others. Their leadership demonstrates the very best of Woldgate's values and shows how young people can make a positive contribution to society.

As a school, we are incredibly proud to be part of such a supportive and generous area. Together, we can help ensure that local families receive practical support during the winter months and remind everyone that they are valued members of our community. By working alongside The People's Pantry, we are strengthening the bonds that connect our school to the people and places we proudly serve.

If you would like to learn more about the work of The People's Pantry, please visit www.thepeoplespantry.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. We look forward to delivering the donations in December and helping our pupils make a meaningful difference in the lives of people across our local community this Christmas.



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SIXTH FORM

Open Evening

Thursday 12 November | 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Be Compassionate
Be Courageous
Be Curious

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BOOK HERE

T: 01759 302 395 | **E:** office@woldgate.net
92 Kilnwick Road, Pocklington, York, YO42 2LL



Headteacher's Welcome

Sixth Form Open Evening and Taster Day

As our Year 11 pupils begin to consider their next steps, we are delighted to invite prospective students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 12 November 2026, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. An online booking form is now available on the Woldgate Sixth Form page.

At Woldgate Sixth Form, we are committed to helping our students develop our core values of courage, compassion, and curiosity within a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment. It is this strong sense of community and belonging, together with our extensive range of extracurricular and enrichment opportunities, that defines the Sixth Form experience at Woldgate.

Our academic results, the strongest in the local area, reflect the dedication and hard work of our students, supported by exceptional teaching. Last year, a quarter of students achieved grades A to A*, while over half secured grades A* to B within their A Level examinations. The average A Level grade achieved was a B.

WOLDGATE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE OPEN EVENING BOOKING FORM

We offer a wide range of qualifications that provide excellent pathways for future success, and we continue to expand our curriculum offer. What truly sets Woldgate Sixth Form apart, however, is the quality of the relationships built between students and our tutors, teachers, and support staff. By knowing every young person as an individual, we are able to provide a highly supportive transition into Sixth Form and onwards to university, apprenticeships, or employment.

This is an exciting time for our school community. Our new school building is now open, with the state-of-the-art Sports Centre soon to follow. The wider campus is also being transformed, creating inspiring learning environments and attractive communal spaces where students can relax, socialise, and enjoy our unique location on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds.

Most importantly, Woldgate Sixth Form allows students to continue building on the strong relationships they have developed with friends and colleagues throughout their school journey. Over the final two years of their formal education, they will develop the independence, resilience, and confidence needed for adulthood and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Evening and supporting our students through the next stage of their educational journey.

With regards,

Jonathan Britton
Headteacher (Interim)



Woldgate pupils complete Mile for MND

Last half term, in support of Kevin Sinfields MND fundraising challenge, every pupil took part in our Mile for MND and completed the distance during their PE lesson. Pupils ran, jogged or walked the mile, many wearing their favourite sports tops.

The event was a great success, with pupils supporting one another and raising money for the MND Association. Our top fundraiser was Rori, who raised an incredible £200.

Thank you to every pupil and family that supported this event.

Total amount raised for MND was £881.50

Key dates

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the Woldgate School Calendar.

November

10th ..... Primary Maths Challenge
12th ..... Sixth Form Open Evening
21st ..... Nativity Full Cast Rehearsal
26th ..... Year 11 Parents' Evening
27th ..... Sixth Form Taster Day
28th ..... Nativity! Band Rehearsal
29th ..... Nativity! Full Cast Rehearsal
30th Nov-11th Dec ..... Year 13 Mock Exams

December

1st ..... Y7 Learning Support Review Evening 3.40-5.30
1st, 2nd, 3rd ..... Nativity! Performances
8th ..... History of English visit to Jorvik
8th ..... Y8 and Y9 Learning Support Review Evening 3.30- 5.30
10th ..... Y10 and Y11 Learning Support Review Evening 3.30-5.30
10th ..... Y13 Parents Evening
14th ..... Y11 Spoken Language Day- English
14th & 16th ..... History of English visit to Jorvik
17th ..... Mathstravaganza
17th ..... Christmas Concert at All Saints Church 7.30-9.30
21st Dec-3th Jan ..... Christmas Holiday

January

4th ..... Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils)

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Nativity! The Musical

Book and Lyrics by
Debbie Isitt

Music by
Debbie Isitt and Nicky Ager

Orchestrations by George Dyer

Tue 1rd, Wed 2nd, Thu 3rd
December 2026 | 7:30pm
Tom Stoppard Theatre
(Pocklington School)

£11 Adults / £8 Concessions
www.woldgate.net
TICKETS ON SALE
Friday 13th Nov

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk



Safeguarding

Our recent safeguarding assemblies were around online safety. Technology and cybercrime are advancing so quickly it becomes increasingly challenging to keep safe online. Fake news and deepfakes are an increasing concern- please see attached resources for more information and advice on how to support your child. Please get in touch using the safeguarding@woldgate.net website if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Fake news

Fake news can be false information, photos or videos that are purposefully created to confuse or misinform. It could also be genuine information that has been manipulated to deceive. It's important that children learn how to distinguish between real news and fake news, so that they don't inadvertently share something which isn't true or believe something which could be misleading.

In the attached guide from the National College, you'll find tips on helping your child avoid potential risks the potential risks of fake news - such as embarrassment, harmful influences on behaviour and negative emotions.

Deepfakes

Deepfakes use AI to create convincing fake images, videos and audio recordings, making it appear that someone has said or done something they haven't. As this technology becomes increasingly accessible, young people face growing risks from online bullying, fabricated explicit images and sophisticated impersonation scams.

From bogus celebrity endorsements to cloned voices and digital blackmail, deepfakes can have serious consequences for unsuspecting victims. With children potentially becoming both targets and creators of this misleading content, understanding the dangers is essential. The attached guide from the National College explores the risks and offers practical advice on spotting deepfakes, protecting personal information and encouraging responsible AI use.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DEEPFAKES

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of $893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopelgangers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of The Guardian, The Telegraph, The i, Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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The National College®

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At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Information Series

NOS Online Information

What you need to know about ...

FAKE NEWS



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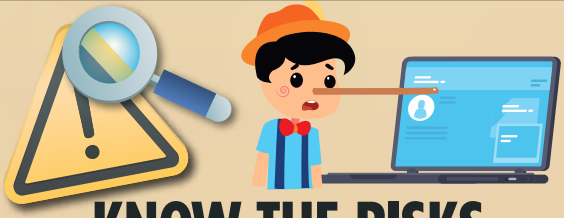
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

Parven Kaur, Kids N Clicks Founder

Fake news can be false information, photos or videos purposefully created to confuse or misinform. It can also be genuine information that has been manipulated to deceive. It is important that children learn how to distinguish between real news and fake news, so that they don't inadvertently share something which isn't true or believe something which could be misleading.





KNOW THE RISKS

SHOCK VALUE

Fake news can cause upset or shock to readers or viewers. Many fake news stories are written with appealing headlines and have content designed to create 'shock value', so the news spreads rapidly (common examples include the 'death' of a celebrity, company giveaways, news relating to supernatural events, or terror-related posts that provoke reactions).



EMBARRASSMENT

Fake news is often deliberately created to misinform people – whether for fun, out of malice or to support an ideological or political agenda. As it's often difficult to tell the difference, young people can easily believe what they see and then share something which is a hoax or a joke, leading to embarrassment or ridicule.



INFLUENCE BEHAVIOUR

Ultimately, fake news is designed to shape people's beliefs, thoughts and decisions: influencing them into believing something which has been misreported or which simply isn't true. This can shape how children think, behave or act in real life. It can especially affect their trust in the media or even in democracy itself.





HOROSCOPES
New to page 18 ...
Find out what's in your future!

SPOT THE SIGNS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Fake news stories can sometimes be identified simply because they are too ridiculous or outrageous to believe. Make sure that the website that published the story is a credible source, like a major news network or local paper which has the resources to fact-check published stories.



CHECK THE URL

Does the website address at the top of the page look real? An easy way to spot suspect stories is if they're located on a news site with an odd domain name. So check the URL. Some shady websites try to incorporate a legitimate news source into their URL (such as www.therealbbc.co.uk) or will slightly misspell a popular domain name.



VERIFY FACTS AND IMAGES

Authentic news is usually backed up by official data or surveys and previous, similar instances of the occurrence being reported. Similarly, fake news stories often include photos which have been manipulated. Perform a Google reverse image search to see if the picture has been stolen from another source and doctored.



RESEARCH THE WEBSITE

Be wary when a big story comes from a news organisation that you've never heard of. Some hoaxers will quickly set up a website just to spread fake stories and so-called 'breaking news'. Use the internet archive to research how long a site has been running – and check if the same story is being reported by more credible news outlets.





Our groundbreaking exposé on page 4 ...

FURTHER SUPPORT



REPORT THE CONTENT

Google and many social media platforms now have dedicated methods for fake news stories to be reported to them. This can range from sending a feedback message to Google via the page itself to the 'Report Post' buttons on Facebook and Twitter.



PROVIDE REASSURANCE

If your child feels as though they have been negatively impacted by a fake news story, or has suffered some form of embarrassment because of fake news, it's important to be supportive and reassuring. Discuss with them how not everything that's posted online is true.



IMPROVE THEIR DIGITAL LITERACY

If your child has been tricked by a fake news story, try to encourage them to think more rationally about what they see and hear on the internet. Advise them to question the motivation behind a story – such as why it's been written, and if it's trying to make them form a specific opinion or influence their actions.

OUR EXPERT
PARVEN KAUR



Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

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Meet our Pupil Care Team



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough
year7@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs D Ellis (Interim)
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs S Oliver
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs S Clark
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Ms R Marsden
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst
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Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien
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Attendance and Wellbeing

Mr J Marks
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Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

Mrs L Kendra
lkendra@woldgate.net

Meet our Pupil Care Team

Heads of School



Head of Lower School
Mr J Williams



Transition Coordinator
Miss K Lindsey



Head of Middle School
Mr R Askoolum



Head of Upper School
Mrs I Atkinson



Head of Sixth Form
Miss K Smith

Safeguarding



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs H Handley
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs L Cavanagh
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss K Smith
safeguarding@woldgate.net

Stamford Bridge
Primary School

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