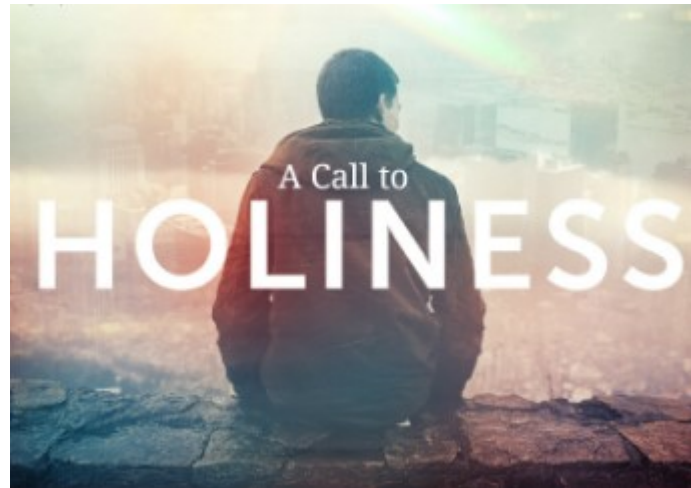


INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

24th October 2025



Well, we've made it to the end of the first half term - the longest half term of the school year! I am grateful to all the members of the community for their hard work over these 8 weeks - members of staff and students, who have helped our school to move forward and enriched the daily experience of all. We end this half term with the theme of the week: Called to holiness. That is the expectation of the Church for all Catholics, and is the aspiration no matter what an individual's vocation. In terms of building up that body of practising membership, how are things in 2025? In his homily last Sunday the Assistant Parish Priest at my church painted a gloomy picture. Looking at Mass attendance figures - as they do regularly - compared with pre-Covid numbers, the average Sunday Mass attendance at my church is down by 400 people. A similar picture is seen across the Diocese. He went on to inform us that there are now only two seminaries serving the whole of the UK and that, of the 10 seminarians who started the course with him, he was the only one who ended up ordained. The future of the Church very much depends on vocations to the priesthood as well as the commitment of others to religious life, but the majority of the body of the Church is made up of ordinary people, like those of us in our school community who are baptised Catholics. And we have the responsibility to be active in our faith and draw others in by our example - it's called evangelisation. As for how things are progressing at JFK, we have our Mission Statement to guide us. At this point in the school year I invite our students to reflect: how would their teachers assess their commitment to their studies in lessons? What does their Class Charts profile show? How do their conduct cards look, comparing valued behaviour with detrimental behaviour? How involved are they in extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities? In short, are they **inspiring** in their behaviour and commitment to being role models? Are they **achieving** their best - in lessons and outside? Are they showing a commitment to being of **service** to the community? Time to celebrate positive outcomes or to commit to improvement in the second half of the term.

I wish you and your family an enjoyable half term week.



SOLOMON THEATRE

Solomon Theatre Company Delivers Powerful “Skin Deep” Performance to Students



As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting students’ personal development and raising awareness of important social issues, we were delighted to welcome Solomon Theatre Company to our school on Friday 17th October. Throughout the day, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in a compelling performance and interactive workshop titled “Skin Deep.”

This powerful and thought-provoking drama explored a range of real and relevant themes, including:

Knife crime and youth violence

Gang culture, grooming and exploitation

Racism and discrimination

The impact of drug misuse

The performance followed the story of Denny, a young person who becomes involved with a gang and faces the very real consequences of those choices. Based on true events, the drama used engaging dialogue, music, and realistic scenarios to help students understand the dangers and long-term impact of these issues.

Following the performance, Hertfordshire Constabulary spoke to students about their campaign “Lives Not Knives.” They explained the important work they do in the community and outlined the steps young people can take if they have concerns about any of the issues raised during the performance.

We are proud of how maturely our students engaged with the themes and discussions throughout the day.

Please remind your son/daughter that if they have any questions or concerns following the performance, **any member of staff in school is a trusted adult and available for support**. Students can also email staysafe@jfk.herts.sch.uk for confidential help. If you would like to find out more about Solomon Theatre Company and their educational work, please visit their website: www.solomontheatre.co.uk.

Mrs Mckenzie - Assistant Headteacher



FOOD SCIENCE

Year 7 - Fruit Crumble

Fabulous fruit crumble making this week from the Year 7's. We had a variety of fruit flavours including delicious apples picked from the trees on our school site.

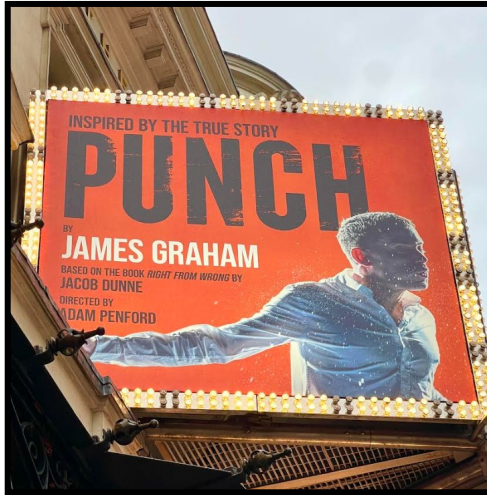


Mrs Parker - Technology Department



DRAMA

Punch Performance at the Apollo



On Thursday 23rd October a group of GCSE and A Level Drama students went to see Punch at the Apollo Theatre. The play is based on a true story that happened in Nottingham in 2011 where Jacob Dunne impulsively punched James Hodgkinson. This “one punch” led to James' life ending and Jacob's life changing forever.

The actors multi-rolled as different characters and knew the space they were working in. You could tell that they had really looked into the emotions of their characters, which they showed through their tone of voice and actions.

With the actors you could tell that they had researched their characters and told the story in depth. Watching the play, you could feel a proper connection with what was happening and you could feel a lot of empathy for the real people this story happened to.

With the stage they were all spaced out and using the stage correctly. The stage had different levels which worked perfectly with the scenes. Overall this was a 10/10 and we highly recommend it.

By Charlotte Grist 10F, Lana Manley 10J and Mollie-Mai Halden 10J.



Miss Horton - Drama Department



LIBRARY



This term the Library Ambassadors have been volunteering during lunch times and they have been doing a fantastic job! They get involved with issuing and returning books, choosing books which they know fellow students will enjoy, making bookmarks and posters and re-shelving returned books. Students from Years 8 - 11 can be Ambassadors and I'm glad to say that more students want to get involved, so I hope to advertise again after Christmas.

Many students have been boosting their House Points by borrowing non fiction then relaying facts to me based on what they have read. I have learnt a lot about different countries, inventions and historical leaders! Several students were awarded for the amount of books they borrowed and the facts that were relayed to me with top scores from Harrison Baker, Sidd Chawla, Emma David, Riley Minas, Emma Paun and Amelia Sowa from Year 7 and Tia Rufu and Victoria Lukasik from Year 8.

These are the activities we've enjoyed this half term and some that we're looking forward to continuing or starting next half term:

- **Mr Palumbo reads - The Horse and His Boy , Tuesday lunch times**
- **Mr Sibbald reads - Lord of the Flies , Friday lunch times**
- **Peaceful reading sessions**
- **Brand new craft club led by Mrs Cole**
- **Chess Club**

So there's plenty to keep everyone occupied during the colder months!

Mrs Powell - Librarian



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

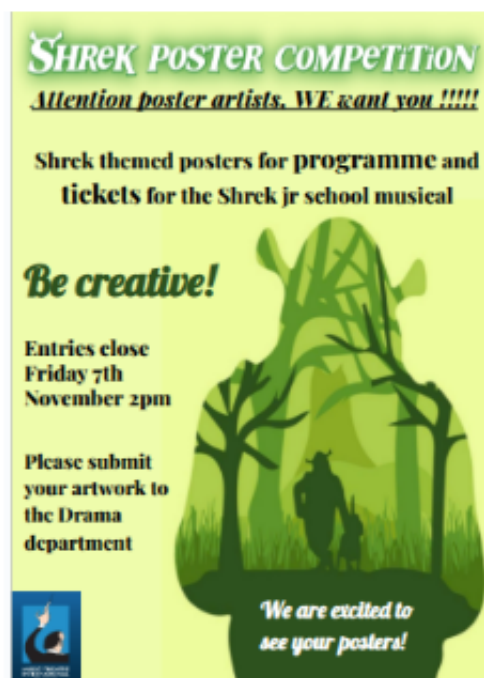
SHREK IS COMING**Attention artists!!!**

To develop our best production to date, we would like help from our talented artists across all year groups to take part in our competition to make a Shrek themed poster, promoting our upcoming show.

The selected winners will have their poster showcased around the school site, published in the programme and printed on tickets. Prizes are available and we would love to see as many students enter as possible !

Any entry will significantly help showcase what our school has to offer and a chance to reflect our values here at JFK.

- Entries close **Friday 7th November at 2pm**
- Please submit these to the **Drama department**
- Be creative but within the Shrek theme.



Year 12 BTEC Business Students



THE KITCHEN

Please see our new Autumn and Winter 2025 menu [here](#)

BONFIRE
NIGHT

TODAY'S SPECIALS
6th November

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bang Bang chicken wings | Chocolate coated apple sticks |
| Bang Bang cauliflower wings | S'mores brownie |

by **culinera**



PE

Gym and Dance Show 2025



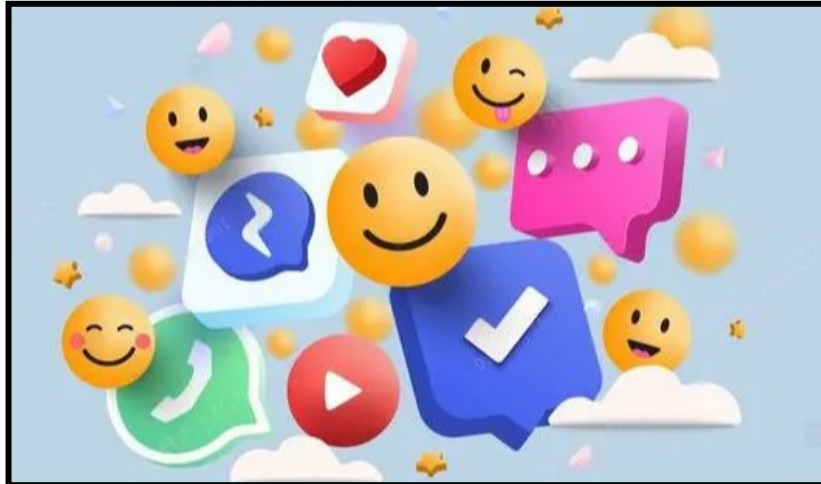
Evening Performance -
Wednesday 12th November 2025
7.00pm

Evening Performance -
Thursday 13th November 2025
7.00pm

Miss Perry – PE Department



DIGITAL SAFETY



In today's digital world, apps are part of everyday life for secondary-age children. They offer creativity, entertainment, and social connection. However, alongside the positives come risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

Understanding the risks

Many apps collect large amounts of personal data, from location details to contacts, often without children realising the implications. Others expose young people to inappropriate or harmful content, whether through unfiltered videos, anonymous chats, or user-generated posts. Bullying and harassment can also take place within these platforms, sometimes hidden from parents and carers' view.

Another concern is the presence of online predators who may disguise themselves as peers in order to exploit children. On top of this, the design of many apps can encourage overuse through constant notifications and endless scrolling which can interfere with sleep, wellbeing, and school performance.

Financial risks also exist, with in-app purchases or "loot box" style features that can tempt children into spending money without fully understanding the consequences. Some apps may even appear harmless but are designed to hide conversations or bypass parental oversight, adding another layer of complexity for families.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



DIGITAL SAFETY

What parents and carers should look out for

When your child asks to download a new app, it's worth considering a few key questions. What age is the app designed for?

- Does the rating match your child's stage of maturity?
- How much personal data does it request?
- Are the privacy settings easy to control?
- Does the platform have strong moderation and reporting tools?
- What is the community culture like?

You may also want to check how easy it is to make in-app purchases and whether parental controls are built in. Exploring these factors together with your child not only helps you assess the risks but also builds digital literacy, encouraging them to think critically about the online spaces they inhabit.

A trusted resource

To make this easier, **Internet Matters** has put together a clear, parent-friendly guide to the apps and platforms most commonly used by children today. It highlights what each app does, its key features, and the potential risks to be aware of.

You can find the full guide here: [Internet Matters – Apps & Platforms \(11–16\)](#).

This resource is regularly updated, so it's a reliable way to stay informed as new platforms emerge and existing ones evolve.

The NSPCC website also contains helpful advice regarding keeping children safe online - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Practical steps you can take

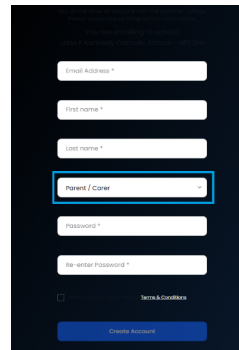
The most effective safeguard is open communication. Ask your child what apps they use and why, and take time to explore those apps together. Set clear boundaries around screen time and "offline hours" such as at mealtimes or after bedtime. Encourage your child to block or report users who behave inappropriately, and make sure location sharing is switched off unless absolutely necessary.

Apps can be positive spaces where young people learn, create, and connect. But without awareness and guidance, they can also present real risks. By staying informed and keeping conversations open, parents and carers can empower children to use technology safely and responsibly.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS



We're delighted to let you know that John F Kennedy Catholic School has become a member of The National College – a multi-award-winning online training provider for staff and parents.

What does this mean for you?

As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly, around online safety and keeping children safe online.

Online safety advice on any topic

Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers.

That's why you've now got access to **hundreds of courses, explainer videos and online safety guides** to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help.

Signing up is easy

Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow <https://v2.nationalcollege.com/enrol/john-f-kennedy-catholic-school> and complete your details. You will be asked to enrol and enter some key details. As you enter your details it is important that you sign up as a parent/carer. Once you're set up, you'll get instant access to all training and resources.

Download the app for free

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want.

You can download the National Online Safety app using the links below:

- [App store](#)
- [Google Play](#)

They're always here to help

The National College has a brilliant support team if you have any questions. Their [help centre](#) provides a comprehensive bank of answers to most FAQs, but if you still can't find the answer you're looking for, you can always get in [contact](#) with them.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



STUDENT SERVICES

Labelling Uniform



A reminder that all uniform, including PE Kits must be clearly labelled with the students full name and form. Student Services are currently receiving lots of lost property that is unnamed .

Thank you

This item belongs to:

Mrs Doyle – Student Services



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October, Half Term
Thursday 6th November, Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.00pm
Wednesday 12th November, Gym and Dance Display, 7.00pm
Thursday 13th November, Gym and Dance Display, 7.00pm
Friday 28th November, Occasional Day, School Closed

WE ARE HIRING!

[Click here for the latest vacancy information](#)



FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 3rd December, GCSE Presentation Evening, 6.45pm, Hall
Tuesday 9th December, Year 10 Consultation Evening, 4.00pm, Hall
Monday 15th December, Carol Concert, 7.00pm, Hall
Tuesday 16th December, Year 7 Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 17th December, Year 11 Mock Results Day
Friday 19th December, End of Term, 1.30pm
Monday 5th January, INSET Day, Closed to students
Tuesday 6th January, Spring Term Starts



TRIPS 2025 – 2026

**"A Gentle
Reminder"**

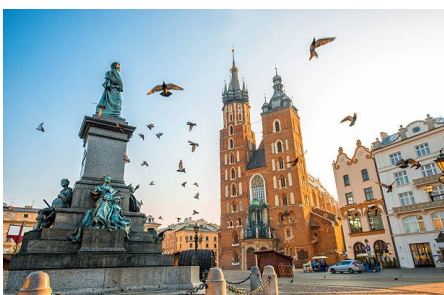
Monthly Instalments are due on the 1st of each month for the following:

- Ski Trip, February 2026
 - Valencia 2026
- Taste of Italy, February 2026

Upcoming trips :

*** Year 7 Croft Farm 2026 - limited places available***

- A Level RE , Conference
 - DofE Bronze
- Panto , December 2025 - New Year 7
- Back to the Future, January 2026, Year 9





ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS 2025

At John F Kennedy Catholic school, we believe that student performance, behaviour and attendance are fundamentally linked. Our ethos is to maximise the full potential of each student and in order to achieve this, high attendance rates are essential.

Our expectation is that individual student attendance should not be below 95%.

Section 7 of The Education Act states that 'parents are responsible for making sure that their children, of compulsory school age, receive a suitable full time education'.

Section 444 of The Education Act clearly states that 'if a child is absent without authorisation, then the parent is guilty of an offence'. This is a strict liability offence - i.e. all that needs to be shown is a lack of regular attendance. Sanctions can include a fine of up to £1000.

Holidays during Term time

Authorisation of absence for Holidays during term time is at the discretion of the Headteacher and is granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Fines are enforceable for a child being absent from school without permission. This is currently £80 per child for each parent, rising to £160 if paid after 21 days.

Lateness

As stated in the school Attendance Policy:

- Students should attend school "full time" and they should remain in school attending all timetabled lessons. This means that students should arrive in time for registration. In practice school buses may be late and in this case students should sign in at Reception so they can receive their mark.
- Avoidable lateness beyond 10.00 am constitutes unauthorised absence and can legally be the basis of an offence by the parent/carer
- Those students who arrive very late (after 10.00 am) without a good excuse will not be credited with an attendance. Their absence will therefore be unauthorised and a different mark (U) will be used to distinguish them from those who are "unpunctual". Steps will be taken by the school with the support of parents/carers to correct those students who are persistently unpunctual



GENERAL NOTICES



St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School

St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School Open Evening

Open Evening for prospective parents and children on **Tuesday, 11th November 2025, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm** at St Cuthbert Mayne School.

If your child does not currently attend St Rose's, we kindly ask that you email admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk to confirm your attendance.



The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust is recruiting for Clerks for two school boards, St John's Catholic Primary School and St Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School. This is a great opportunity with flexible working and professional development.

More information is available at:

[Clerk to Local Academy Council](#) - St John's

[Clerk to Local Academy Council](#) - St Joan of Arc

Interested parties can contact Director of Governance & Compliance, [Christina Reffold](#) at governance@ascat.co.uk for more information



GENERAL NOTICES

Road Safety

Parents/Carers are reminded about the importance of road safety and we highlight a number of points you may wish to discuss with your child:

- The importance of crossing the road at a safe place. Using either a zebra or pelican crossing where possible
- Avoid crossing behind parked cars
- Never run out into the road
- Be aware of your surroundings – take out earphones and stop talking with friends or on the phone when crossing the road
- Have reflective items on jackets or bag.
- If cycling, follow the same instruction and make sure you have lights on your bike and wear a helmet at all times.



Disabled Parking Zones

Please can we ask that the disabled parking bays located along Hollybush Lane be kept clear . They are marked on the path and are needed to be accessed by local residents.



JFK enjoys good relationships with our neighbours and local community. Please be mindful of driveways and access in Hollybush Lane and neighbouring roads if dropping off/picking up your child from school. **Please also try and avoid leaving your car engines running outside of school.**



GENERAL NOTICES

Appointments During School

Please try to avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, please alert the Year Team via email with a copy of the appointment letter/email/screenshot at least 24 hours in advance.

If your child does need to leave for a pre-arranged medical appointment please ensure that they are aware of the time and date of the appointment and are instructed to be ready in reception to be collected. There have been a number of occasions recently whereby the office staff have had to search for a student in order for them to be picked up.

Illness During the School Day

We have seen an increase in students calling parents prior to seeking medical attention at school. Any student feeling unwell during the school day should report to Student Services where they will be seen by a medically trained member of staff. Please do impress upon your children the importance of the school contacting home if it is required during the school day. It can cause parents unnecessary worry which we would like to avoid.

ABSENCE

If your son/daughter is going to be absent due to illness please telephone the school absence line by 9.00am on each day of absence.

Year 7 01442 229105 (year7@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 8 01442 229124 (year8@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 9 01442 229131 (year9@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 10 01442 229132 (year10@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 11 01442 229136 (year11@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Sixth Form 01442 229137 (6thform@jfk.herts.sch.uk)

Students should bring a letter explaining their absence on their return to school.



Public Health
England

Guidance from Public Health England

Diarrhoea and vomiting: exclusion period: whilst symptomatic
and 48hours after the last symptoms



[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school



FLU VACCINATIONS



Vaccination UK

The School Immunisation Team have completed their visits to the school to offer the flu vaccination. If your child did not receive their vaccination and you would like to book a community clinic appointment, please do so via this link: <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book>

| Area: | Town: | Address: | Date: | Time: |
|---------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|---------------|
| Hertfordshire | St Albans | Marshalswick Community Centre, AL4 9TU | Wednesday 29th October | 10.00-2.00pm |
| Hertfordshire | Bishops Stortford | Bishops Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, CM23 4DA | Saturday 1st Nov | 10.00-2.00pm |
| Hertfordshire | Ware | Widford Village Hall, Ware, SG12 8SH | Saturday 22nd Nov | 10.00-2.00pm |
| Hertfordshire | Watford | Meridan Centre, Garsmouth Way, Watford WD25 9ET | Friday 28th Nov | 15:00-19:00pm |
| Hertfordshire | Hemel Hempstead | Leverstock Green Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8QG | Saturday 29 Nov | 10.00-2.00pm |
| Hertfordshire | Stevenage | St Nicholas Community Centre, 59 Canterbury Way, SG2 4LJ | Saturday 29 Nov | 10.00-2.00pm |
| Hertfordshire | St Albans | Marshalswick Community Centre, AL4 9TU | Wednesday 10th Dec | 16:00-19:00 |
| Hertfordshire | Bishops Stortford | Havers Community Centre, 1 Knights Row, CM23 3GR | Wednesday 10th Dec | 15:00-17:00 |
| Hertfordshire | Harpenden | Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown RD, Harpenden, AL5 1PS | Saturday 13th December | 10:00-14:30 |
| Hertfordshire | Borehamwood | Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT | Sunday 14th December | 10:00-14:00 |
| Hertfordshire | Watford | Meridan Community Centre, Garsmouth Way, Watford WD25 9ET | Saturday 20th December | 10:00-14:00 |
| Hertfordshire | Stevenage | St Nicholas Community Centre, 59 Canterbury Way, SG2 4LJ | Saturday 13th December | 10:00-14:00 |
| Hertfordshire | Welwyn Garden City | Welwyn Office- Orion House, Bessemer Rd, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1HU | Saturday 20th December | 10:00-14:00 |



HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair for parents and carers



FREE

Wednesday 21st January 2026
17:30 - 19:00
Online (Zoom)



What is the Virtual Careers Fair?

This free event is for parents, carers, and students to explore apprenticeships and T Levels. Visit different exhibitor rooms on a 10-minute rotation to learn about different programmes and opportunities available.

Who should attend?

This event is for all parents and carers but will be particularly useful for those supporting children in year groups 10, 11, 12 and 13. Students in these age groups are also welcome to attend.

Why attend?

This event offers many benefits, including:

- Free of charge to attend (fully-funded by Hertfordshire Careers Hub).
- Find out more about apprenticeships and T Level programmes with local training providers and colleges.
- Hear from local employers about opportunities and the recruitment process.
- Discover more about the skills and training provision being offered within Hertfordshire.
- Select which breakout room you would like to hear from.
- Ask questions and gather information from the comfort of your own home.

Exhibitors will include:



And many more...

How to attend?

- 1 Register by Monday 19th January, 2026 for your free ticket by clicking [here](#).
- 2 Read the attendee guidance ahead of the event to help you prepare.
- 3 Log on and join the event online on Wednesday 21st January 2026 17:30 - 19:00.

BOOK NOW

Further information

Find out about the event by visiting: amapps.uk/HOPIntro

The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair is brought to you in partnership by:





Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops Autumn 2025



Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

← Eventbrite Page

RESPONDING to ANGER



- Healthy & unhealthy anger.
- How to spot the signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.

Tuesday 23rd September, 9.30-11.15am
Workshop SL781 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/asd-adhd-responding-to-anger-781-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1413258727899?aff=oddtcreator>

THE TEENAGE YEARS



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Help teens develop independence skills.

Monday 13th October, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL782 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-782-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417376895449?aff=oddtcreator>

SCHOOL AVOIDANCE



- What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance and is this what your child is experiencing?
- Common causes and triggers of school avoidance.
- How EBSA is affecting you and your family.
- Practical steps you can take to support your child and look after yourself.
- How to work with your school in your child's best interests.

Monday 10th November, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL783 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-school-avoidance-783-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417463965879?aff=oddtcreator>

TECH USE



- Keep your child safe online.
- Help your child to switch their device off.
- Support behaviour difficulties when playing.
- The effect of using devices as a reward or consequence.
- Teach children to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

Monday 24th November, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL784 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-tech-use-784-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417436894909?aff=oddtcreator>

Follow us on:



Contact via:

info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



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THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO GREEN CAREERS

2025 Edition



www.theparentsguideto.co.uk