

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 11 go marching on and on and on and on and on!

A huge congratulations to the Year 11 Football Team on reaching the fifth round of the English Schools Cup with another fine victory, this time against Hazel Grove High School from Stockport. Goals from **Daniel Ihejirika** (2) and **Tavon Forrest-McDowell** secured a 3-1 win in another tight and exciting game. Altogether, 634 teams from across the country entered the competition and we are now down to the last 64, with the next tie at home against Rivington and Blackrod High School after the Christmas break. Well done to all the squad on an amazing cup run, Champions League next!



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Cross Country

Well done to all the students who represented the Academy at the Tameside Cross Country Championships at the Ashton Cycle Centre this week. Well done, in particular, to **Mylee Dunbar** who came second and **Lola Jones** who came fifth in the U12 Girls event, **Marshall Fleet** who came first in the U14 Boys event and **Harri-Ann Fleet** who came 7th in the U16 Girls event!



Mylee Dunbar, Lola Jones, Rosie McGhee-Royle, Imogen Skade, Al Hassan Barrie, Noah Blemmings, Tyler George, Yusra Islam, Erin-Amelia Fray, James Madden, Bobbie Merriman, Alfie Millington, Jack Nash, Alyssa Evans, Amanda Levanavicute, Yunisa Barrie, Michael Chale, Marshall Fleet, Calum Gilder, Harri-Ann Fleet, Rose Taylor, Alfie-Lee Murphy, Jude Smith, Damola Oseni and Samuel Otabor



Gardening Club

With the winter approaching, members of the Gardening Club have been planting their spring bulbs. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour next term!



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Tameside Table Tennis Championships

The Tameside Table Tennis Championships are being held at the Academy this year. The Championship is held over two evenings with the finals being held next week. Good luck to the Droylsden teams who played some brilliant table tennis this week and are in contention for a number of medals in next week's finals. Well done also on the great sportsmanship you have displayed whilst representing our school.



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Watch this space!

Droylsden's up and coming band 'Shryk', made up of **Jasmine Beckwith**, **Logan Latchford** and **Harry Chambers**, will be performing at the Academy Christmas Concert this year, with their own rendition of Jingle Bells. We recommend that you take the opportunity to listen to the group now before they get big! Who knows, in years to come, you may be able to say "I was there" and this edition of Newsflash may become a collector's item! You can listen to Jingle Bells through the following link:

[..\..\Jingle bells LHJ \(1\) \(1\).mp3](#)



Photography

Thank you to **Kyle Shaw**, from Year 11, for submitting this amazing photograph of the Academy taken from his drone. A great picture and a wonderful sky and sunset across Manchester.



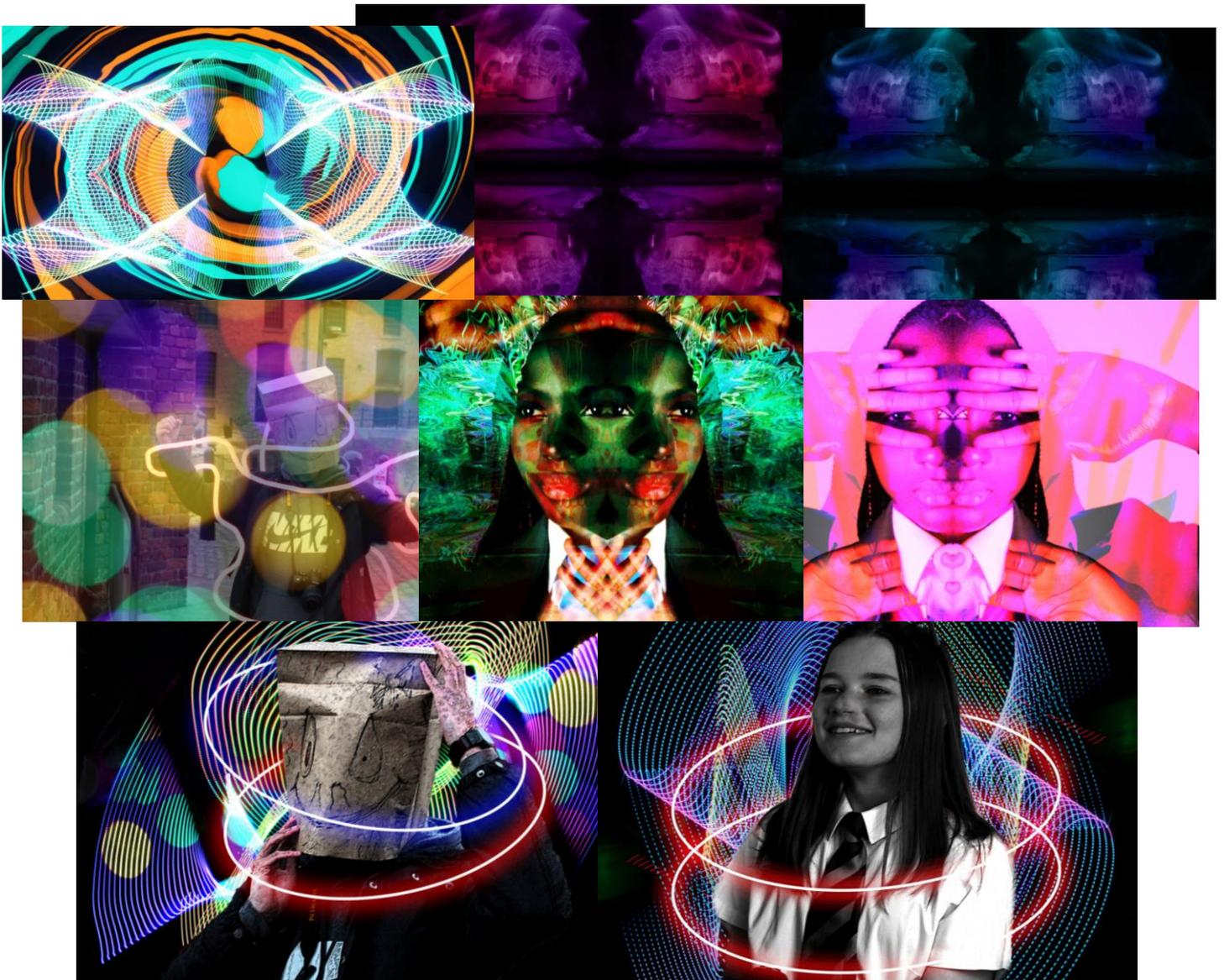
By kyle shaw

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Kyle also took this photo of the students who attended the English Literature Twilight Session last week.



Thank you also to **Ethan Stanley, Molly Nash, Alex Hume, Gracie Plant** and **Daniel Arora** for submitting the following edits from their GCSE Photography portfolios.



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This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Reece Carter**, **Jayden Dewsbury**, **Macella Mares**, **Morgan Woollas** and **Maddison Briggs** who are this week's brightest Sparx having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website. Photos of Reece, Jayden, Macella and Morgan can be found below.

This week's brightest **sparx**

Year 7	Reece Carter	2,490 XP
Year 8	Jayden Dewsbury	1,762 XP
Year 9	Macella Mares	18,268 XP
Year 10	Morgan Woollas	1,306 XP
Year 11	Maddison Briggs	5,039 XP



As parents and carers will be aware, Sparx is an online Maths resource which students can log onto at any time to practice and reinforce or develop their understanding of a topic, revise and complete homework tasks. Students are awarded 'XP Points' every time they attempt a question and evidence clearly shows that regular use of Sparx boosts a child's GCSE Grade. Parents and Carers can receive Sparx updates for their child by email and we hope that they will encourage their child to use this brilliant resource regularly at home.

Christmas is coming!

Thank you to **Mateen Acheampong**, **Chloe Gibson**, **Felix Oboh**, **Erin Wilson** and **Oliver Discombe** who helped decorate this year's Academy Christmas Tree!

Mateen, Chloe, Felix, Erin and Oliver were chosen as representatives of Year 7 as they were amongst the 'Top 10' for the number of Achievement Points they have earned this year.



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TAME RIVER EDUCATIONAL TRUST: ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Annual Public Meeting of the Tame River Educational Trust will be held on Monday 16th January 2023 at 6.00pm.

Parents and carers of pupils of Droylsden Academy are invited to register their intention to attend an Annual Public Meeting of the Tame River Educational Trust, to be held on Monday 16 January. The Chair of Trustees and Chief Executive will be in attendance to report:

- the performance of the Trust over the past year;
- proposed activities of the Trust Board for the year ahead.

If you would like to attend, it is essential that you respond to contact@tret.org.uk by 3.00pm on Friday 16th December 2022, confirming your intention to attend and we will be in touch to let you know of the venue.

In order to ensure that the best information can be provided at the meeting, you are asked to submit written details of any questions or matters you may wish to raise – to the above provided email address, also no later than 3.00pm on Friday 16th December 2022.

Further details of the meeting will be available by return email from Monday 9 January.

Nils Elgar

Trust Secretary

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Thomas Loco**, from Year 7, **Niall Weatherbed**, from Year 8, and **Karina Turner** and **Ruben Mistry** from Year 9 on their nominations as Student of the Week.



Thomas has been nominated as Philosopher of the Week by Miss Worsley for his hard work and presentation in Religious Studies. Thomas puts an incredible amount of effort into his classwork and homework and takes pride in everything he does. He always sets himself high standards and lives up to his expectations. Well done Thomas, you are a pleasure to teach and an asset to the class!

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Niall has been nominated by the English Department as his understanding and application of symbolism and allegory in Animal Farm, the text the class are studying, have been exceptional. Niall always goes above and beyond, looks at layers of meaning and is somebody who always strives to improve. To add to this, his book is always beautifully presented and homework is always completed on time and to a high standard Exceptional Niall, well done!

Karina has been nominated by the Maths Department as she has been working exceptionally hard recently. She has really taken ownership of her own learning and asked excellent questions to develop her understanding of the topics we are covering. Well done Karina, you are making great progress and deserve to do well!

Ruben has been nominated by the Science Department as he achieved an amazing, superb, fantastic and exceptional 100% in his recent Science T1 Assessment! Miss Wictome was really impressed by his breadth and depth of scientific knowledge and understanding across a range of topics including more challenging ones such as isotopes, eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells and microscopy. Well done Ruben! What odds can we get on you achieving 100% on T2?

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Timetable for week commencing Monday 12th December

	Break	Lunch
Monday 12th December	CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING
Tuesday 13th December	The Book Doctors	Festive Reading Activity A Christmas Carol Escape Room (Limited Places – Sign up in the Library)
Wednesday 14th December	OPEN TO ALL	OPEN TO ALL
Thursday 15th December	The Book Doctors	NEWS AT 1 (open to club members only)
Friday 16th December	OPEN TO ALL	EARLY CLOSING

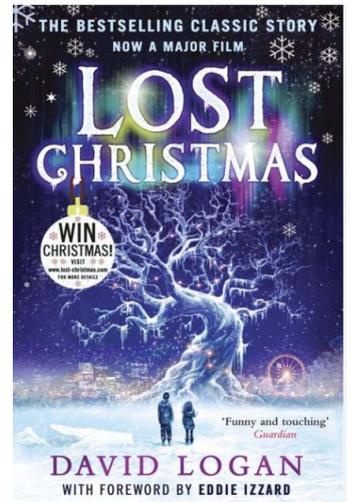
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Festive Reading suggestions for Christmas!

'Lost Christmas' by David Logan

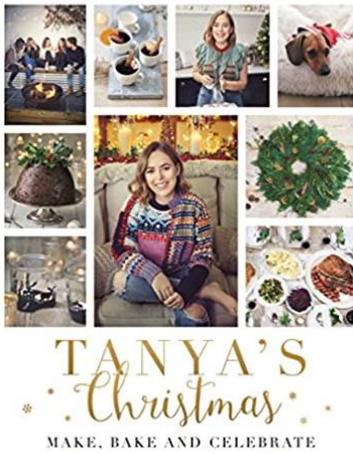
Goose wants all his family to be together on Christmas Eve - but then his dad, who is a fireman, is called out on duty. In his frustration Goose hides dad's car keys, hoping he won't go. This simple action leads to tragedy for Goose and others too.

A year later, and Goose is lost. He is an orphan: his parents are dead, the rest of his family is coming apart at the seams and he's increasingly involved in carrying out petty theft. All he has left is his dog Mutt - and then he goes missing too. But then Anthony appears - a man who knows nothing about himself but sees and feels the secret pain of all those who shake his hand. How does he know so much? Can he help Goose and the others he meets ease the pain and recover what they've lost?



Set on Christmas Eve, this moving, magical and thought-provoking fairy-tale for older readers makes an ideal story for the festive season.

TANYA BURR



'Tanya's Christmas' by Tanya Burr

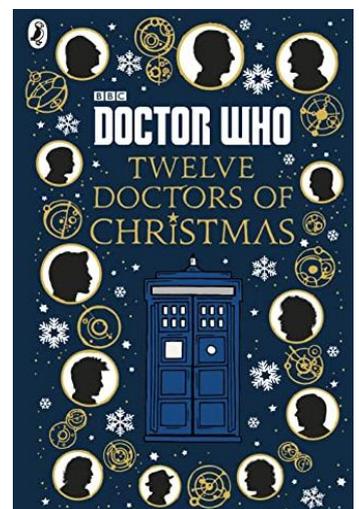
Tanya's Christmas is a pure celebration of the season. Within its pages, Tanya Burr shares everything you need to make the most of Christmas. From finding the perfect gift, decorating your home and hosting a party to remember, to cooking roast turkey with all the trimmings, baking indulgent festive teats and her own hair and make-up tips.

Presented as a countdown to the main event and into the new year, this beautiful book has over 50 sumptuous recipes and thoughtful craft projects. At every step, bestselling author Tanya suggests easy ways for you, your family and friends to create special memories together that will last a lifetime.

'Doctor Who, the Twelve Doctors of Christmas' by Jacqueline Rayner, Colin Brake, Richard Dungworth, Mike Tucker, Gary Russell and Scott Handcock

A new collection of illustrated Christmas adventures, starring twelve incarnations of the Doctor plus many of his friends and enemies.

Inside this festive book of Doctor Who stories, you'll find timey-wimey mysteries, travels in the TARDIS, monster-chasing excitement and plenty of Christmas magic. Find out what happens when the third Doctor meets Jackie Tyler, the seventh Doctor and Ace encounter an alien at Macy's department store and the Ninth Doctor tries to get Rose a red bicycle for Christmas.



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With stories by Jacqueline Rayner, Colin Brake, Richard Dungworth, Mike Tucker, Gary Russell and Scott Handcock, plus twelve original illustrations by artists including the award-winning Rob Biddulph.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Footloose



The Academy Production will be performed over three nights on 25th, 26th and 27th January. Tickets are now on sale at Student Services priced at £4 for adults and £3 for concessions with free places for children under 5.

Our Charity Appeals

A poster for 'CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2022'. It features a blue and a green jumper with white stars. The text reads: 'CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022. WEAR A CHRISTMAS OR SEASONAL JUMPER AND BRING £1 FOR THE HOUSE CHARITIES. YOU WILL BE AWARDED A SERVICE HOUSE POINT. SPEAK TO MISS WORSLEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.' Below the text are logos for Albion, Conquest, Mustard Tree, and a star logo with the text 'When you wish upon a Star'.

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Please join in with our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16th December and make a donation to the House Charities the we are supporting.

Oakfield	Reuben's Retreat	https://www.reubensretreat.org/
Saxon	Mustard Tree	https://mustardtree.org.uk/
Albion	The Anthony Seddon Fund	https://tasfund.org.uk/
Victoria	When you wish upon a Star	https://www.whenyouwishuponastar.org.uk/

Mustard Tree Donation

Over the next three weeks we are going to be supporting Mustard Tree with their 'Winter Wish List'. Please look at the poster here, produced by **Evie Quinlan**, for ideas and suggestions as to what you can bring in and donate. As this is a House event, all students who get involved with this will receive House Points in recognition of their support for this worthwhile charity.

The poster features a red background with white and orange text. At the top, it says 'Mustard Tree Winter Wishlist!'. Below that, a red box with white text says 'We need you!'. There are two columns of text: the left one explains the charity's need for donations, and the right one lists specific items like tinned goods, UHT milk, and kitchenware. At the bottom, there are logos for Oakfield, Albion, Saxon, and Victoria, along with a deadline for donations.

Mustard Tree Winter Wishlist!

We need you!

It is nearly Christmas and people are struggling to provide for themselves or their family. So, this year we are supporting the charity 'Mustard Tree' and are in need of your donations.

Mustard Tree are looking for a number of things, but even one small donation from you could make the biggest impact on someone's life. They are in need of: tinned items, mince pies, UHT milk, kitchenware, tea bags, coffee, sugar, Pot Noodles, savoury snacks, gluten free and dairy free items. They would also really appreciate any old, unwanted Christmas decorations and/or warm clothes.

Deadline for donations is Wednesday 14th December. For any more information, please contact Miss Worsley.

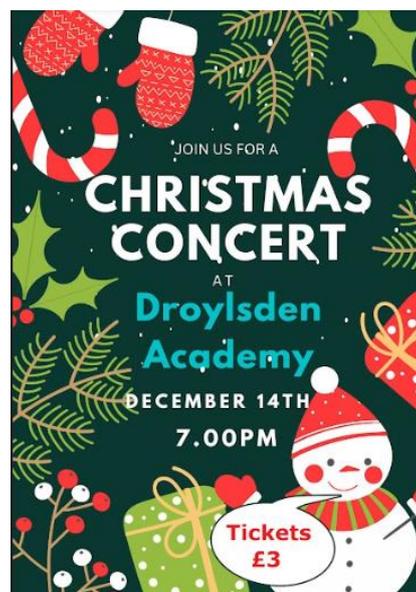
OAKFIELD ALBION SAXON VICTORIA

The Academy Christmas Concert

Don't forget this year's Christmas Concert which takes place on Wednesday 14th December.

Tickets are on sale at Student Services, priced at £3 each.

It would be lovely to see you there!



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Lost Property

We have a large pile of lost property at Student Services so if your child has lost a coat, bag or their PE Kit, then tell them to check whether it has been handed in or not. Unfortunately, we do not have room to store all of the lost property and anything which has not been claimed by the end of term will be donated to a charity shop or a charitable organisation.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 14th December.

The Academy Christmas Carol Concert will be held on the evening of Wednesday 14th December.

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING?



TAME RIVER
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
TEACHING & CURRICULUM
INSTITUTE



If so, why not 'Train to Teach' with us here at **The Tame River Teaching & Curriculum Institute** through School Direct in partnership with the everyonelearning@ Hawthorns Kingfisher , Tame River Teaching and Curriculum Institute.

We are currently recruiting for **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Geography, History, Maths, PE with Ebacc, Art, RE, Computer Science and MFL.**

School Direct allows Trusts and schools to request training places directly, select the ITE (Initial Teacher Education) provider of teacher training they want to work with and agree the content and focus of the training, in line with national standards for teachers.

Our new Trust, Tame River Educational Trust, plays host to training and placements in very strong schools (Mossley Hollins High School, Ofsted Outstanding, and Droylsden Academy, Ofsted Good) and we are working in partnership with other schools in Tameside. Bursaries are available!

For further information please contact e.duggan@tret.org.uk

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options>

Apply here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training Course Provider Code 2A1>

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HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.