



The Link Academy Newsletter Summer 2021



Message from the Principal

Dear Learners, Parents and Carers,

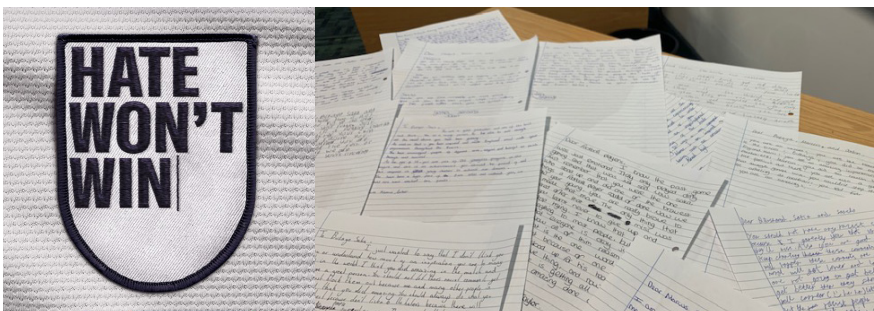
I am certain that with all of the disruption that we have faced this academic year that we will all be very glad to see a more normal term in September. I have written to you to give you information about your child's return form, tutor and classroom. Everyone at The Link would like to thank you all for your support and hard work in maintaining distance learning during lock down this year.

We are excited for next academic year which will see a new Accelerate Curriculum Model to support our new Year 7 learners with their basic literacy and numeracy skills. There will also be a big focus on 'Character Education' in Year 9 for all learners, including opportunities for learners to achieve an Arts Award and a Sports Award! We are working hard on aspects of our Curriculum which involve Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and we have a new two weekly lesson for Years 7 and 8 on this subject. In September, our new Year 10 learners begin their KS4 journey where they start their option subjects back in specialist classroom spaces.

We have Year 6 Summer School taking place week commencing 2nd August and Year 11 Masterclasses week commencing 9th August. The Year 11 Class of 2021 join us on 12th August to collect their much-anticipated GCSE results. So, it's a busy hive of activity over the summer holidays at school! In the meantime, we wish our families a restful and safe summer break and we look forward to seeing our learners in September!

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards-Morgan
Principal



Our acts of kindness letters, written by our learners, to support Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho and unite against racism.



Students have been organising and leading charity activities over breaktime this term to raise money for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.



Learners (and staff) enjoyed a morning or afternoon on the inflatables.

#rewardingeffort

Year 11 Student Leaders

After a very tough recruitment process the following learners will be our Year 11 Student Leadership Team from September!

President: Hassan Mohammed

Vice President: Ruby Sampson

Senior Ambassador: Keira Fellows

President: Esther Eshun

Vice President: Harley Smith

Senior Ambassador: Anya Brookes

Ambassadors:

Sophie Evans

Amie Nije

Lauren Hill

Aisha Shabir

Makayla Malcolme

Serenity Smith

Nyela McDonald

Faye Yardley



Sports Day 2021 Result

Whole School

	House	Points
1 st	Brecon	726
2 nd	Malvern	721
3 rd	Clent	693
4 th	Kinver	688



THE LINK
ACADEMY
Netherton

59 events over 4 days, sports house tournaments & athletics events have all contributed to the whole school sports days winners of Brecon!

Well done to all competitors we are proud to have such enthusiastic learners at The Link Academy!



Celebrating the Euros

Academies across the Trust have been celebrating the England football team making it to the final of the Euros. For England, it was the first men's major tournament final since 1966- what an achievement! On Wednesday 7th July 2021, England beat Denmark 2-1 during the semi-final and in celebration, The Link Academy invited learners and staff to wear an England (or Italy) football shirt to school on Friday 9th July 2021. Although we did not win the Euros, we were all extremely proud of the England Team who demonstrated our core values throughout the year and inspired our young people.



'Safer Schools' have highlighted this as to be an extremely dangerous website and app called 'Monkey', which allows users to have video calls with strangers. The platform markets itself as 'an alternative to Omegle, with a TikTok vibe'. The online safety experts reviewed and tested this platform and have found that it contains large amounts of inappropriate, disturbing, and harmful content transmitted via web cameras.



What is Monkey?

Monkey is an online video chat service that is similar to Omegle or Chat Roulette, with a TikTok style interface.

- Users can talk to strangers from all over the world via webcam.
- Once a conversation is finished, or one user wishes to leave the conversation or talk to someone else, they click 'next' and are presented with a new user who could be from anywhere in the world.
- Users are asked to select their gender before meeting people.

Age Rating?

- The website states that all users must be over 18, but there is zero age verification. Users only have to tick a box to confirm that they are over 18. Google Play Age Rating: Parental Guidance.
- The app is currently only available on Android devices.

Key Safeguarding Concerns?

- Harmful Content – Whilst testing this platform, reviewers found that every second or third user was a male with some attempting to interact. Reviewers found countless examples of adverts for sex, as well as pornography. Extremely harmful content can flash up for a few seconds before the user clicks next, meaning there is no time to report in most cases.
- The unpredictability of this content is likely to increase the shock factor and harmful impact because users have no warning as to what may appear.
- No age verification – There is little to no age verification mechanisms which children of any age can easily bypass. All users must do is tick a box to confirm that they are over 18. If users are signing in using their Facebook or Google accounts, the platform will still ask for a date of birth without any proof. The place where users input their DOB is pre-set to age 18.
- Designed to attract children – Everything, from the name, to the graphics used on the platform suggest this is created to attract children. It is described as 'an Omegle Alternative with TikTok vibes'. On Google Play Store, its description reads 'Make friends and chat to celebrities' and the app has copied TikTok's vertical style video feed.
- In-app purchasing – There are ample opportunities to spend money via VIP profiles or through buying more in-app currency called coins.
- Location sharing – The location of every user is shared publicly (not specifically but will say a country and a town/city) and there is no option to block this.
- Users can not access this platform without turning their camera on. If you deny the camera, Monkey will prompt you 'Monkey needs the cam'.
- Young people access Monkey Web via other mainstream platforms – Our online safety experts have located numerous examples of screenshots from Monkey being shared on mainstream social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram. Monkey also has its own accounts on TikTok and Instagram with a link to the site in the bio of each profile. This means that young people may be driven to the platform by viral videos discussing the site.
- Sharing personal information online – As with all livestreaming apps, children and young people could give away personal information without realising. They may also share details with strangers online or via linking their Facebook or Google accounts.

Top Tips for talking to your child about online risks:

- Engage young people in a conversation about keeping safe online and who they would talk to if someone made them feel uncomfortable online or if they see something online that worries or upsets them.
- When talking to a child or young person, it's best not to mention the app or website by name. If you do, it is likely that the child or young person will check out the platform on their own if they haven't done so already. Instead, ask them what kind of new sites/apps they are using with their friends.
- You should support children to understand the implications of sharing content that is explicit, particularly if this involves images or chats with other children.
- You can also submit an online report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) by [clicking here](#).
- If you have concerns about the immediate safety of a young person, you should contact the emergency services on 999 (emergency number)

Music Lessons

We are working with Dudley Performing Arts to provide music lessons for students. Sessions will take place in school for as little as £6.50 a lesson. Visit the website to find everything you need to know including how to enrol.

www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/

SEND

Ask, Listen, Act - working together to inform the provision of SEND support for children after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are you a parent/carer of a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the UK?

- Tell us how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on you and your child.
- Tell us what worked well and what more needs to be done for your child with SEND.

What will it involve?

- The views of parents of children with SEND and their children aged 5-15 years.
- The survey will take about 20-25 minutes to fill out.
- There are lots of different ways in the survey for children with SEND to share their views.
- The link to the survey and more information is below:-
- https://ljmpsych.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2IOx1XLWHxHzQFg

If you have any questions or would like more information please email Dr Emma Ashworth at E.L.Ashworth@ljmu.ac.uk

Study Flyer v 2 07/06/21

The Link Leisure Centre

Call us on 01384 986549
or visit www.thelinkacademy.org.uk
for more information

Monday - Friday from 5.00pm

Sports Hall

Floodlit 5-a-side synthetic area



Involving Parents in our School Life

Article by Mrs Worsey

Celebrating the end of this academic year and looking forward to working with parents/carers again when we're back September. I've shared some information below of activities families can enjoy this summer in our local area.

Summer Holiday Activities & Events 2021

Drive In Cinema coming to the big screen at Himley Hall and Park next month. The park will be the setting for families in cars for four screenings over 8th - 9th August. Tickets are available via the Himley Hall website at www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

Summer fun in Dudley

Children and young people from across Dudley borough are being invited to enjoy summer activities during the summer holiday. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/news/summer-fun-in-dudley/ for more information.

The ever-popular Play Week

will return to borough parks this August. Activities such as a climbing wall, campfire, fencing, archery, den building, sports and games, small rides, radio stand and more will be on offer. Activities run from 12.00 to 4.00pm on Monday 2nd August at Hunting Tree Park in Halesowen, Tuesday 3rd August at Silver Jubilee Park in Coseley,

Wednesday 4th August at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, Thursday 5th August at Priory Park in Dudley and Friday 6th August at The Dell stadium in Brierley Hill.

Entry to the event and most activities are free with a small charge for rides. People can find out more about play week, as well as the play and adventure sessions on offer at Sycamore Adventure during the school holidays, at www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk/

The Summer Reading

Challenge returns to borough libraries this summer with a "Wild World Heroes" theme, encouraging children aged four and upwards to stand up for the planet.

For the Reading Agency led challenge, children read six books over the summer and collect stickers for their wallet along with other incentives along the way. Children can read any book they like from picture books to stories or reference books on ways to care for the environment and our wildlife.

The choice is amazing and it's all about having fun with reading. People can find out more online at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Dudley Leisure Centre will be running two, one-week intensive swimming courses over the summer holidays.

The lessons are suitable for children aged four years and over and cater for complete beginners through to intermediate and advanced swimmers (stages 1 to 7). The

courses consist of five 30-minute lessons each day of the week. The first week-long course runs Monday 26th to Friday 30th July, with the second course running from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th August. Sessions run at 9.00am, 9.30am, 10.00am and 10.30am. For further information and availability people can call the leisure centre on 01384 812800 (option 1).

Raring2go!

Raring2go! is a magazine full of ideas on local places to visit, and children's activities. For families of young children in the Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster area. Visit <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/kidderminsterandstourbridge/summer/> for more information.

The Black Country Food and Drink Festival - NEW DATE

A bank holiday weekend festival of food, drink and live entertainment in the grounds of Himley Hall will now take place on 27th Aug – 29th Aug 2022.

For activities, services and events across the Dudley Borough go to:

Dudley Community Information Directory - <https://dudleyci.co.uk/>

For more information on any of the above contact: Mrs P Worsey, Parent Link Worker on 01384 814998 or pworsey@thelinkacademy.org.uk



Autumn Term Dates 2021

Term Starts: Monday 6th September 2021

Half term: Monday 25th October 2021 - Friday 29th October 2021

Term ends: Friday 17th December 2021



www.thelinkacademy.org.uk



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