

# BRILLIANT CLUB GRADUATION

Students taking part in the Brilliant Club have officially graduated! After hearing from a representative of Oxford University about studying there, our students enjoyed a graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements on the programme. Well done everyone!



# FUTURE BUSINESS MAGNATES

8 Year 8 students took part in the Future Business Magnates competition this year. The students competed against 15 other Durham based schools in a business competition to 'solve today's problems with tomorrow's technology.'

Students attended the final last Friday at Beamish Hall and I am extremely proud and excited to tell you that the students came in 3rd place winning a trophy, framed certificate, £500 for the school and £30 each in shopping vouchers!

The students represented the Academy fantastically and I am overjoyed with the efforts of all 8 of them! Well done all!



# Upcoming Events

Day	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Monday	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light Careers Interviews English Spoken Language recordings start from today – check with your English teacher for date, time and location.
Tuesday				
Wednesday	Bingo Night – Family and Friends of NDA All Welcome	Bingo Night – Family and Friends of NDA All Welcome	Bingo Night – Family and Friends of NDA All Welcome	Bingo Night – Family and Friends of NDA All Welcome
Thursday	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light	Beacon of Light Houghall Trip – Selected Students
Friday				Careers Interviews

## TEAM TRANSITION 2023

Wow! What a week!

On Monday, an amazing group of year 6 children arrived at NDA. They experienced life in the academy and took part in a wide variety of activities. In Science, they learned about bunsen burners and kiwi DNA, in Maths they deciphered codes to unlock treasure chests, they learned colour techniques in Art, understood how to introduce themselves in Spanish, as well as lots of other magical new skills.

The children spent time with their tutors and made new friends. They even had a tutor football and dodgeball tournament, where 7.2 were crowned victors. 7.6 were awarded the attendance trophy and we had daily ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of these fabulous young people.

It was a tremendous week and the children did themselves, their parents and carers, and their primary schools very proud. We are so excited for September and can't wait to welcome them back to NDA as our new, official Year 7 cohort! Well done everyone!!!



# INFLATABLES ARE BACK!

The inflatables are back for some last day of term fun!

Criteria that must be met to take part:

100% attendance from 19/06/2023 - 14/07/2023

Fewer than 20 negative points between 19/06/2023 - 14/07/2023



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guidance, terms and sign for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using their device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI' – a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

#### EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

#### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

#### VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this: certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions and whether they're accurate and reliable, reminding them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (harassing or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.06.2023



## HOT LUNCH PROVIDED

**9AM - 3PM**



Microscopes and DNA | Drones  
Constructable Ride Ons | Bushcraft  
Compressed Air Rockets  
Ride-on Hovercraft | Robotics  
Vacuum Forming | 3D printing |  
Fan-powered Cars  
and much more!!

# North Durham Academy

