




**Ash
Wednesday**

...is observed in many traditional Christian churches as a day of fasting and repentance.

It is the first day of Lent, a 40 day season of self-denial and contemplation of one's sins, representing Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness.

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. - Luke 4:1-2

Lent culminates in the joyous celebration of the LORD's resurrection at Easter.

Ash Wednesday 6th March 2018

DIARY DATES

Wed 6th March
 Year 9
 Consultation
 Evening

Wed 6th March
 Humber Skills
 Trip

Mon 11th March
 Year 9 Briars
 Trip

Tues 12th March
 Year 8 Girls
 injections

Wed 13th March
 Year 8 York St
 John Visit

Thurs 14th
 March Year 11
 Drama
 Moderation
 Exam

Wed 20th March
 Year 11 PE
 moderation

Fri 22nd March
 Year 11 GCSE
 Food Practical
 Exam

Haircuts

Can I please remind parents that students should not have extreme haircuts. This includes extreme colours and very short cuts. Students should not have cuts any shorter than a grade two around the back and sides and a grade three on top. When students present themselves with extreme haircuts they may be expected to work in isolation. Thank you Mr Hibbard

Year 9 Consultation Evening

The Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 6th March. Appointments can be made between 3:30pm and 7:00pm. Please attend the evening with your son/daughter. Thank you Mr Fields.

Uniform

All school uniform will now be sold through Shah's. There has been a small increase/decrease to the cost of some items by around £1 - £2. Mrs Glynn

Year 9

As part of our work within the consortium, our students have the opportunity to become part of the Healthcare Academy. This is a programme designed for students who wish to have a career in health or social care and will involve access to industry professionals and potentially workshops, visits, work experience placements etc. I will be available in the library during Year 9 Parents' Evening to discuss this further with any students and parents interested in this opportunity. Students will need to sign up with me to register their interest

in the programme. Thank you - Ms Boreham

Year 11

Year 11 have mock exams in English, Maths and Science this week. Please can you encourage your child to bring the correct equipment to school each day for these. A timetable can be found on our website. Thank you - Ms Boreham

Year 10 SkillsHumber

The Careers trip to the Bonus Arena in Hull is on Wednesday 6th March. We will be leaving school at the start of period 1 and will be returning at lunchtime. Thank you - Ms Boreham

Safeguarding

Can parents please ensure parental controls are set where possible to monitor their child's use of technology, social media sites and apps please. It is important that parents know what their children are accessing. Equally, it is important that children know their technology use is being monitored to protect them. There are lots of anonymous apps around which allow cyberbullying to occur without naming the perpetrator. We would advise that parents ensure such apps are deleted. Please see attachments for additional information.

The NSPCC and 02 have partnered together to establish a system where you can visit any 02 store and get support to set parental controls, restrictions and monitoring processes up on your child's phone in order to protect them.

This is a FREE service and you can access it even if you have not bought the phone from 02. We advise you take advantage of this as it will be great at allowing you to safeguard your child.

Please ensure technology, apps and materials accessed are age appropriate. The legal age for Whatsapp has increased from 13 to 16. Thank you Ms Busk.

Summer Reading Challenge

13th July – 7th September 2019

Do you enjoy sharing book talk with other young people? North Lincolnshire libraries are looking for 14 to 25 year old reading activists to help with the annual challenge.

- Have fun enthusing families to read and discuss a variety of books
 - Encourage young people to make new choices and share their reading experiences
 - Offer quality time to young people looking for a reading buddy
 - Boost completion rates for the space Chase Summer Reading Challenge
- REQUIREMENTS: Good listener, enthusiasm – and more importantly, a big smile!

If you are interested please email: volunteering@northlincs.gov.uk

Year 11 Exams

Please be aware of the following dates for exams -

w/c 4th March - Year 11 mock week

Thursday 14th March - Drama practical exam

Wednesday 20th March - PE practical moderation

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th April - Art practical exam

Thank You - Ms Boreham

The Momo Challenge – A Factsheet For Parents

What It Is

Coined the "suicide challenge", Momo is a new viral game that encourages players to perform a series of challenges in order to meet 'Mother Bird' - a disfigured character (inspired by Japanese art) with bulging eyes and untidy black hair on a chicken-like body.

Light-hearted and fun at the outset, this game experience quickly darkens, absorbing players who are encouraged to perform acts of violence and self-harm through a series of progressively risky challenges. Originating in Mexico, it is easily accessed through social media shares (predominantly Facebook and YouTube) and is rapidly spreading across the world.

Why It's On Our Radar

The challenges issued in this game present a serious risk to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in our schools here in the UK, as does the distressing content when a player refuses to carry on.

With worrying similarities to the 'Blue Whale challenge', it has also been linked to at least five cases of childhood suicide.

The Low Down

- Players are encouraged to contact Momo and provide their mobile number.
- They will then receive instructions to perform a series of challenges, via SMS or Whatsapp.
- Player refusal can trigger severely abusive messaging and their mobile device being hacked.
- The final challenge is to commit suicide in order to meet 'Mother Bird'.

Why Children Like It

Sharing and commentary on Social Media platforms has created a level of intrigue and curiosity about this game, which is initially light hearted and fun.

Fundamentally, however, this is a game that targets vulnerable children and young people online, as those with mental health issues are more likely to be drawn to the psychological nature of the challenges.

What to Do

A person doesn't have to be searching for Momo themselves to be exposed to it and, unlike other games that children enjoy, there is no positive side to this.

Teachers and parents need to educate/reinforce online safety, and in this way encourage children and young people to make the right choice and avoid this game:

- The importance of confidently saying "no" to invitations to play games from strangers
- Knowing why they should not click on unidentified links.
- Knowing how to 'block' unknown numbers and friend requests.

