



The Hinckley
SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Welcome to our Safeguarding and Wellbeing Newsletter.

Everyone Needs a Bit of Joy at this Time of Year!

Winter is a time of dark nights, short days and a long build up to Christmas which for most of us is a time for festive family fun, but not for all of us, and we are very aware that for some families, Christmas does not bring joy, or family celebrations.

So, this edition is starting with what we are doing to spread some joy into our community this term, this Christmas, and who is helping us do that.

We have partnered with Morrisons, Hinckley who have given us a very generous donation of non-perishable food items, to support vulnerable families this Christmas with food hampers, and we have also had a fabulous delivery of luxury pamper items from our other community partner, The Lutterworth Hygiene Bank. Together these community partners have enabled us to support giving Christmas hampers to over 40 families.



If you are such a family in need, please get in touch (kpriestnall@thehinckleyschool.co.uk) and we can leave a hamper for you at reception. If it is difficult for you to get into school, we can deliver. We already have a list of families which we will deliver to who we have already supported this year in other ways.

Can you help us to spread a little joy this Christmas?

Should anyone in our community wish to donate non-perishable food items or pamper hygiene products to support this initiative, please drop off in your donations in reception marked for the attention of Safeguarding and Wellbeing. Any and all donations are so greatly appreciated.

E Safety

There will be E Safety assemblies delivered across the year groups by the Safeguarding Team this academic year and in these assemblies, we will focus on the online issues our children face the most and how they can better look after themselves online.

One of the biggest issues is that many children are accessing social media and websites that are designed for older children and in some cases adults and the way children get round this is to lie about their age, but it's often not a lie that just gets them past the requirement, e.g. age limit is 15 the child will state they are 18, so not only removing any protections that are there for children but the website will then view the child as an adult with no filtering of any kind.

Instagram have introduced [Instagram Teen Accounts](#) which have built-in protections for teens which should give parents more peace of mind if their teenagers are accessing Instagram in this way. The Teen Account will limit who can contact them, filter the content they can see and the Teen Account will need a parent's permission to change any of the in-built protections.

This is good news for teens and for parents. Please follow the link above to find out more.

CEOP = Child exploitation online protection

We will share information about CEOP in our E Safety assemblies. In the meantime, please remind your children that they can report to CEOP (anonymously if they wish) anytime for anything that concerns them online.



[Thinkuknow](#) is an education program from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and CEOP and is full of resources for parents as well as resources for safeguarding staff to use in education. Here is an example: [Romeo & Juliet](#)

External Safeguarding Audit

Alongside all other schools in The Futures Trust, we benefit from taking part in an annual external safeguarding audit and it was our turn on the 7th November. We are pleased and proud to report that the auditor gave us some wonderful feedback on the assessment of our safeguarding provision. Many strengths were noted and staff and student feedback was very positive, with a particular emphasis on the training we offer and the understanding that gives both staff and students on all aspects of safeguarding. We strive every day to ensure we offer a safe and nurturing environment for all our students and staff and it was lovely for this to be recognised by an independent specialist.

New for the New Year!

The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough council have offered us an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) to deliver an 8- week Wellbeing course, one hour a week.

Part mental health topic, part exercise activity, with 15 students per group, this course is for students with low level mental health concerns. The course aims to boost confidence and improve self-esteem. Students will learn the tools to improve their mental health, understand where to go when they need help with their mental health and will become Positivity Ambassadors for the school, passing on the skills they have learnt to others.

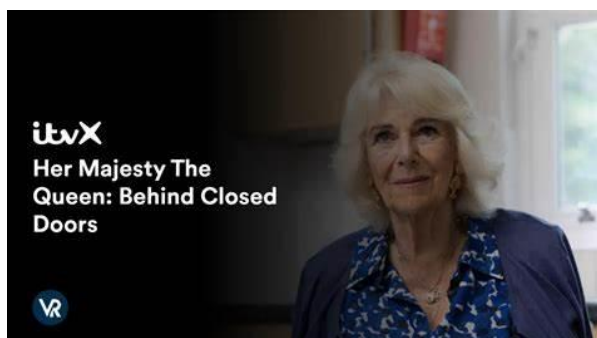
The group leader will be training our own staff to carry this on after Easter.

In addition, we are also receiving:

ELSA – Emotional Literacy Support Assistant – 1:1 support in school, half an hour sessions for 6-8 weeks.

All this and more can be found in our [Mental Health Offer & Family Support Directory](#)

'Her Majesty The Queen: Behind Closed Doors' on ITV



<https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-11-11/her-majesty-the-queen-behind-closed-doors-on-itvx>

This documentary was aired on ITV on the 11th November and will still be available to view on ITVX. It documents the journey of the law on domestic abuse and violence, and how that has developed and how that has helped people (mainly women and children) and it follows some

hard to watch true life testimonials.

We support many families and children who have suffered or are suffering domestic abuse and violence and I wanted to raise the following local support which families can access for support for young people. Our Mental health & Family Support Directory contains lots more services.

[Mental Health Offer & Family Support Directory](#)

Victim First and Support for Young People



Victim First

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Referrals can be made to Victim First for children and young people, under 13's will need consent from a parent/carer. They also accept referrals for a parent if they are unsure if their child would like to take up help.

It's all confidential unless a safeguarding issue presents or the child/young person wants it to be shared with a parent/carer. Support will not go ahead unless the young person has confirmed that this is what they want to do.

Average timescale for support tends to be between 1-3 months but it can be longer. The incidents could have happened a long time ago as well, it doesn't need to be recent.

With younger children they tend to meet face to face in schools and older children can range from face to face, email, text, telephone, zoom etc

They can support victims of ASB, bullying, exploitation etc and witnesses who feel impacted by an incident. They also have access to a hardship fund to help young people with their recovery. They can't support medium or high risk domestic abuse cases.

Referral forms can be found here - [Contact Us - Victim First](#)

For more information call 0800 953 9595 or email victimfirst@catch-22.org.uk

What's going on in the Community



BLOKES & BANTER **MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP**

Blokes & Banter is where men can gather to unwind, share stories and be themselves. It's more than a group, it's a community.

It's the place for good company, great conversation, genuine friendship and a cuppa!

Join us from **10.30am-1.30pm** every Wednesday starting 6th November for camaraderie and conversation at:

 **The Castle Suite**
Leicester Road Stadium
Hinckley LRF
Leicester Road
Hinckley LE10 3DR

FREE COFFEE

For more information call **01455 844444**, email admin@hinckleylrfc.co.uk or visit www.hinckleylrfc.co.uk

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council
hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Welfare Support Service Advice

We are always available to offer support and advice on:

- Benefits
- Grant applications
- Food bank referrals
- Household Support Fund
- Maximising your household income
- Minimising your outgoings
- Help with white goods

costoflivingsupport@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk ☎ 01455 238141

Drop in sessions:
First Wednesday of every month
Hinckley Hub, 10am and 2pm
No appointment necessary

scan to find out more 

BILLS **DEBT**



Web: www.localrock.co.uk Email: info@localrock.co.uk 21

Warm Homes Information – Leicestershire County Council public health

Leicestershire County Council's Warm Homes service provides advice to residents to support affordable warmth. Residents can obtain advice by telephoning 0116 305 2524 or by visiting the advice pages here: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/home-energy-grants

The service is currently delivering two projects:

- **Home Energy Retrofit Offer** - Eligible residents living in energy inefficient homes can receive tailored support, via home visits, to access grant funding or assess their homes to identify suitable improvements. The scheme aims to support residents to have the knowledge and confidence to improve their homes, affordable warmth and curtail carbon emissions. The service will be promoting retrofit of homes and providing advice at events across the county through to March 2025. Eligible residents could receive free home assessments to identify improvements and access grant funded scheme. To find out more visit the [HERO](#) webpage Or telephone the Warm Homes service on 0116 305 2524.
- **Home Upgrade Grant** - The Home Upgrade Grant administered by the Warm Homes service together with YES energy Solutions and E.ON Energy Solutions can provide homeowners and private tenants (subject to landlord contribution) with fully funded energy efficiency measures improving the warmth and comfort of homes, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty across the county. The scheme supports households that do not have mains gas as a primary heating system, such as those with electric, oil, LPG or solid fuel heating. Households that only use gas for cooking or secondary room heating can still apply. As the scheme enters its second year the income eligibility threshold has been increased reflecting the higher cost of living on household finances.

For more information including the full eligibility criteria, eligible postcode areas or to apply, visit the County Council's Green Living Leicestershire [Home Upgrade Grant](#) webpage. Or call project delivery partner YES Energy Solutions on 0330 912 6199, who will support residents with their applications.

Further information and resources are available via the Warm Homes [energy grants](#).

[Click here](#) to view and download a dedicated advice booklet.

Free School Meals

Here is the link to apply to Leicestershire [Free School Meals Leicestershire County Council](#)



The Hinckley
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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
from the Safeguarding Team

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