

# Mossley Hollins High School

## Our Newsflash (6)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October



### OUR TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

#### Congratulations to our Trust Partner School **OFSTED Ungraded Inspection Report Published for Droylsden Academy, Tame River Educational Trust**

Congratulations to our colleagues in our Trust partner academy for an excellent report on their inspection in September. Many of the approaches are Trust-wide and applied here, at Mossley Hollins. Mr Wilson, the headteacher of Droylsden Academy, and his team of students, parents, teachers, support staff, governors and partners have done an excellent job.



- ✓ Pupils are **proud** to attend Droylsden Academy;
- ✓ Pupils are **happy** and **accepting** of each other's differences ... our school is a place where they can be themselves;
- ✓ Pupils feel **safe** in school ... there is always someone that they can talk to;
- ✓ **Bullying is rare** and when it does happen it is dealt with quickly;
- ✓ Teachers' **expectations** of pupils' behaviour and academic achievement **are high** ... pupils rise to these standards;
- ✓ Pupils **behave well and work hard** ... they are **well prepared for life** in modern Britain;
- ✓ Pupils are expected to develop their **character and confidence** ... they develop **leadership** skills;
- ✓ Pupils benefit from an **extensive range of extra-curricular clubs**;
- ✓ There is a carefully designed, **broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum** ... thought has gone into the **knowledge** that students must learn;
- ✓ Teachers are successful in helping pupils to **deepen their understanding** of ideas and concepts across the curriculum ... **teachers think carefully about how to teach new subject content** ... **effective support helps pupils remember more over time**;
- ✓ Continuous **training and development** is prioritised;
- ✓ Teachers receive **quality information about pupils with SEND**.... teachers use effective strategies to adapt learning for these pupils;
- ✓ Teachers prioritise the development of pupils' **subject-specific vocabulary** ... they also encourage a **love of reading**;
- ✓ An extensive programme of **pastoral support and life lessons ensures that pupils learn about healthy relationships and the wider world**;
- ✓ A **strong culture of safeguarding** permeates this school ... there are effective systems in place to identify pupils who may be at risk of harm.

**ACTION:** For those pupils who are behind in their reading knowledge, leaders provide some extra help and **have plans to develop this further**. However, the range and depth of this support is currently underdeveloped.

#### Open Evening

It was fantastic to welcome over 1000 prospective students and their families through our doors, on Tuesday ... September. Our guests had the opportunity to meet some of our wonderful students and staff and participate in some



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activities around our different faculties. We have had a number of positive comments about our fantastic student helpers from our prospective families and wish to celebrate them in this week's issue of the Newsflash.

“ I am writing to thank everyone involved in Tuesday's Open Evening. It really was a great opportunity to see School's facilities and get a feeling for life at Mossley Hollins. Please can our thanks be passed on to our fantastic tour guide, Amber Webster. She really did an amazing job of showing us around, answering our many questions and putting my daughter at ease. She really is a credit to the School. ”

“ I just want to give some feedback about one of your pupils. Her name was Emily, a year 11 student, who intercepted us halfway through our visit around the school. From that moment, she took us to every area of the school explaining things and chatting to us along the way and even waiting at the door while we had a look around to then take us to the next area. She answered our questions and chatted to the kids. I was genuinely shocked at how a young girl could be so confident speaking to adults. I think my daughter found her to be quite an inspiration. She has always been a bit scared of “teenagers” but she saw a completely different side to them yesterday. It was also great to be able to ask her the type of questions you wouldn't really want to ask teachers, too. ”

“ Thank you for a very welcoming, informative open evening. Our child was amazed by Mossley Hollins and the welcome we received from students and staff was heartwarming. We particularly enjoyed the drama, dance and music performances. Not to mention the fact that our child could have a go at the Spanish homework lessons and the sports. Brilliant! ”

“ Your students are an absolute credit to you. They were polite, friendly and welcoming. Enthusiastic and informative. The teachers likewise, even after a day's teaching! ”

“ We just wanted to congratulate you on the open night, our son loved it! He really enjoyed looking at each of the different subjects and all of the subjects were so interactive. The students were absolutely delightful and really helpful. You can just see that they enjoy going to school at Mossley Hollins. ”

“ We were very impressed by your fantastic facilities. This is our daughter's first choice, now. She says its amazing. What a great school ethos. We were very impressed with the Head boy and Head Girl. I would say the whole evening exceeded our expectations. ”

**SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD**

#### **Wear Red Day**

On Friday 21st October, we will be Participating in 'Wear Red Day', which is established by Show Racism The Red Card's charity. On this day, staff and students are allowed to wear one item of clothing that is red for a charitable donation of £1.

Our Head Student and Prefect Team will be collecting money to support the anti-racism and anti-bullying work of the school.

#### **Religion and Worldviews Notice**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, students in Year 9 and those studying Religion and Worldviews at GCSE level in Year 11 will receive a talk from a visiting speaker, Mr. Frederick Naftel, on Antisemitism. Mr Naftel is a descendent of Holocaust



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survivors and his talk will focus on Antisemitism throughout history, including cases of antisemitism in the modern world. He will speak to Year 9 students as part of their unit of work based around the question 'Is religion a power for peace or a cause for conflict?'. For our Year 11s, his talk will enrich their learning on 'Issues of Good and Evil' and 'Issues of Human Rights'. If you have any questions about the talk or would like any further information about the Religion and Worldviews curriculum, please contact Mrs Rebecca Harrison [r.harrison@mossleyhollins.com](mailto:r.harrison@mossleyhollins.com).

### **Year 8 Tameside River Educational Trust Maths Battle**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Mr Frost took five teams of Year 8 students to Droylsden Academy to compete in the first ever TRET Maths Battle.

It was a valiant effort from our teams with some standout performers. Thea Smith-Heeley and Jack Mason both won in their individual head-to-head rounds, with Jack leading his team on to the final head-to-head round against another Jack from Droylsden Academy.

Unfortunately, Jack was pipped to the post and Droylsden walked away with the trophy. A huge thank you goes to Mr Tiley and his team at DA for their wonderful hospitality and challenging questions.

### **Our fabulous Mathematicians were:**

Hannah Cristofoli	Jemima Birtwistle Vere	Tamsin Francis
Joshua Crossley	Erin Ogden	Hunter Melville-Terry
Megan Lawley	Keira Gardner	Nominoë Duncan-Franc
Jack Mason	Lucy Hallam	Timothy Langley
Thea Smith-Heeley	Tia Jeffrey	Harry Perfect

There will be plenty more opportunities throughout the Year for Mossley Hollins to regain the trophy. Watch this space!

### **Scientist of the Week: Egan Distin Webster**

Miss Walton would like to nominate Egan (Year 7) as Scientist of the Week for consistently showing fantastic commitment in his science lessons. This week he was able to confidently explain how particles cause pressure. Keep up the hard work, Egan. Well done!

### **Tameside HACK 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October**

Tameside Council and Tameside College are bringing the Tameside HACK back in October half term, 2022. The Tameside HACK is a two-day coding competition for 11-18 year-old HACKERS, in Tameside. Both days (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October) start at 9:30am and finish at 16:00pm.

Sponsor businesses set challenges for HACKERS to work on in teams of four, and donate the all-important prizes for the winners! Mentors from real tech businesses are available throughout the competition to lend a hand, and there's a dedicated mentor for newbie coders so young people of all abilities can have fun and learn.

Everybody gets a free goody bag from the sponsors as well as free lunch on both days. There'll be computers available so you don't even need to bring your own device!

Visit [www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideHACK](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideHACK) for more info. Email [coders@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:coders@tameside.gov.uk) if you have any questions.



## Outstanding Sports News

On Wednesday, the year 7 boys football team played their first game for Mossley Hollins against St Damians. They put in an outstanding performance to win the game 3-2. Jamie Ell opened the scoring with a long-range strike before Roman Dewsnap scored the winner after a fantastic run from Kai Holden. Well done, boys, on a fantastic start to the season!



Congratulations to Charlie Hilton, Luke Hewitt, Jack Riley, Zak Needham, Jayden Morgan, Nico O-Edwards, Toby Beedham, Ryan Kirby, Ollie Lord, Jamie Ell, Harry Rudol, Roman Dewsnap and Kai Holden.

On Tuesday, the year 10/11 Netball team played their second tournament of the year. After losing their first game to Denton Community College, they finished in style to win their last two games 5-1 against Alder Community High School and 6-0 against All Saints Catholic High School. Fantastic effort, girls!

Congratulations to; Millie Wright, Amy Starkey, Maisie Riley, Mae Traynor, Honey Cheetham, Amelia Grey and Maddie Crosby.

On Tuesday, the year 9 boys football team played their first game of the season against St Damians. Tom Pritchard and Oliver Loughman scored the goals for Mossley but unfortunately, they went in to lose the game 3-2. We wish the boys the best of luck in their next game.

*For more stories and updates, please see our News page on our website. You can also follow us on Twitter @MossleyHollins.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*(Please see our website for further details)*

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Parent Partnership Evening
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	First day of Autumn Term 2
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Maths Battle between MCSP Primary Schools
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	First ever MCSP Debate of the year

## OUR REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

### Life Skills in form Time

Life Skills will be reintroduced into Form Time after October half term, alongside its place in the curriculum, to ensure our students continue to remain safe, healthy and prepared for life's opportunities. These are the revised days that each year group will deliver the session in Form Time:

Redgrave (year 7)	Faraday (year 8)	Bronte (year 9)	Nightingale (year 10)	Turing (year 11)
Tuesday	Friday	Thursday	Friday	Wednesday

The timetable below shows the theme for the first half-term in the lead up to Christmas and the topic for the initial week:



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Year Group	Theme	Week One Topic
Year 7	Step into the NHS	Introduction- the Launch
Year 8	Online Safety	What is the media?
Year 9	Gangs and anti-social behaviour	Anti-social behaviour
Year 10	Citizenship (Democracy)	Democracy versus Dictatorship
Year 11	Planning for Life after Mossley Hollins	Options Post 16

If you currently have a child in year 11, you may find this website useful for discussing options going forward:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16>

If you have any queries regarding our Life Skills curriculum or our Pastoral Programme please contact Ms M O'Donnell at [m.o'donnell@mossleyhollins.com](mailto:m.o'donnell@mossleyhollins.com)

### **Rehearsals for School Production**

Rehearsals for this year's production of *We Will Rock You* will take place on Mondays and Thursdays 3-5pm, in the Arts Theatre. Rehearsal on Monday 17th October is for named cast and understudies. The rehearsal on Thursday 20th October is for all the cast, including chorus and backstage crew.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

The safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. We offer a number of support streams for our students to reach out to if they ever feel anxious, overwhelmed, stressed, worried or lonely. All the details of our Mental Health and Wellbeing support streams can be found under the student tab of our website: [www.mossleyhollins.com/students/mental-health-and-well-being/](http://www.mossleyhollins.com/students/mental-health-and-well-being/)

We have also signposted other support services, which are available to young people outside of school, at the end of this edition of the newsflash.

### **E-Safety: Protect yourself on the Internet: remember the GOLDen rules.**

#### **Ground rules**

1. Keep information private – think, would I tell this to a stranger?
2. Agree rules about meeting online 'friends' in real life
3. If it's not acceptable in real life it shouldn't be acceptable online

#### **Online safety**

1. Use anti-virus and monitoring systems
2. Know where to get advice – see below
3. Activate security and privacy settings

#### **Location**

1. Internet access should be in a family room, rather than a bedroom
2. Know that Internet access can be gained by the use of other devices; such as gaming consoles, mobile phones or the neighbour's wireless internet connection

#### **Dialogue**

1. Talk to your parents about your internet use
2. Talk to your parents if you have a problem or feel uncomfortable

### **Two-week timetable**



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The week commencing **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October** will be **blue week**. Please ensure you bring in the correct equipment and homework for your **blue week** lessons.

### **Homework**

We would like to remind parents that students use their homework planners to record their homework. Please support your child at home by reminding your child about completing their homework for the due date.

Setting routines are recommended to help children adopt these strategies for themselves and so does not stop the development of independence but instead helps it. Support at all levels can be helpful in the beginning:

- Creating a homework schedule to be displayed somewhere obvious (e.g. on the fridge) and added to as tasks are set.
- Sitting together and discussing the tasks that have been set and how your child will complete them.
- Reminding your child about presentation skills.
- Encouraging your child to ask questions to their teacher if they are finding the work challenging.

We will also be offering homework clubs in different faculty areas to provide support for your child.

### **Ensure notifications are on for School Gateway app**

As a school we are looking at ways to reduce costs, one area highlighted is the amount we are spending on text messages.

Even if you have the School Gateway app you must ensure that you are logged in all the time and have push notifications manually turned on for this app within your phone settings. Every device will have other settings that can affect push notifications (for example, battery optimisation, which prevents some devices from receiving push notifications when the battery is below a certain percentage).

Please also ensure that you are running on the latest version of the app, which can be confirmed in the Play Store or App Store. If you are still not receiving notifications and have followed the guidance below, you would need to refer to the help guide for your specific device and/or contact your device manufacturer:

If both parents\carers are registered on Gateway please ensure that each registered user is using the School Gateway app.

#### **Guidance for switching on notifications:**

##### **Apple**

1. On your phone, go to settings
2. In here, scroll down to the 'Notification Centre'
3. Select School Gateway
4. In here, ensure that under the heading 'Notification Centre' is switched on
5. Close the screen; you will now receive notifications when new app messages come through

##### **Android**

1. On your phone go to Settings > Applications Manager
2. Scroll down the list of apps until you find School Gateway and select it
3. In here there will be a tick box that says 'Show Notifications'. Ensure this is selected

##### **Huawei**

1. Tap the Apps icon on your home screen
2. Tap settings
3. Tap Apps or App Manager
4. Scroll down and tap School Gateway
5. Tap Notifications
6. Confirm 'Block all' is toggled OFF (Samsung / other devices - toggle 'Allow Notifications' ON)
7. Restart your device

##### **Samsung**

1. On your phone go to Settings > Notifications and Status Bar > Notifications Centre
2. Scroll down your list of apps until you find 'School Gateway' and select it
3. Activate 'allow notifications' and also 'priority display'



4. Close the screen; you will now receive notifications when new app messages come through

4. Restart your device

5. You will now receive notifications when new app messages come through.

## **Year 7 PE**

This year, due to limited space in the changing rooms, we are asking year 7 pupils to come into school in their full PE kit on certain days. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please see the table below. Thank you for your support with this matter.

If your son/daughter has PE on the following day/period please ensure they come to school in their full school PE kit with their school jacket over the top.

BLUE WEEK	RED WEEK
Wednesday – Period 5	Friday – Period 5
Thursday – Period 2	
Friday – Period 5	

## **Our Uniform**

Thank you for presenting a high standard of personal appearance (see student planner for details of the uniform and PE uniform required, shoes, bag-type, hairstyles, no make-up, no jewellery and no nail-varnish). There are no exceptions. We are counting on full parental and carer support. Our uniform can be sourced from *Simply Schoolwear* or *Top Marks*. We wear formal black footwear, only. We do not wear trainers or sports' manufactured shoes, canvas pumps, and our shoes must be below the ankle. That way, we all look very smart and begin to represent our family and community-school so well. Students who arrive to school without the correct footwear will be provided with a pair of shoes from our school stock.

## **Your Equipment**

School Planner; Pencil Case (with at least the 2Ps – pen/pencil – and 2Rs – ruler/rubber); DEAR-reading book; Lesson Books, Folders and Equipment for the day; PE-kit on PE day). It really is the minimum expectation of good or great learners and members of our Team.

## **Sixth Form and College Open Days**

To all of our year 10 and 11 students, it is important that you take the time to fully explore your options after Mossley Hollins. Please see the dates below for sixth form and college open days/ evenings. These are fantastic opportunities for you to get a taste of college-life and to find out key information about post-16 study.

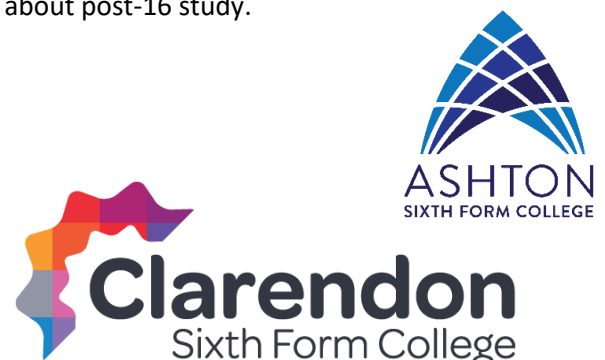
### **Ashton Sixth Form College:**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October (10am-1pm)

### **Clarendon Sixth Form College**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (10am-2pm)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November (5pm-8pm)



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## OUR GCSE COUNTDOWN

### EXAMINATION COUNTDOWN



## OUR VACANCIES AND OUR TRAIN TO TEACH OFFER

### Job Vacancies – Mossley Hollins High School

**Role:** Personal Assistant to the Headteacher – Mossley Hollins High School

**Pay Scale:** Grade F (Point 17-22)

Actual Annual Salary Point 17: £24,920 – Point 22: £27,514

**Hours:** 36 hours per week/Full Year (there may be an opportunity for some flexibility)

Day	Start Time	Finish Time	Total Hours
Monday	8:00 AM	3:30 PM	7:00
Tuesday	8:15 AM	5:30 PM	8:45
Wednesday	8:00 AM	3:30 PM	7:00
Thursday	8:15 AM	3:30 PM	6:45
Friday	8:15 AM	3:15 PM	6:30

**Contract:** Permanent

**Closing Date:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 (12 noon)

We may decide to close this vacancy early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

**Start Date:** November 2022

**Role:** Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Level 4 (Numeracy+) – Mossley Hollins High School

**Pay Scale:** Grade F (Point 17 – 22)

Actual starting salary at Grade F Point 17: £20,050.93

**Hours:** 34 hours per week (term time only)

**Contract:** Permanent

**Closing Date:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 12 noon

**Start Date:** As soon as possible

**Role:** Curriculum Tutor Level 3 (Literacy+) – Mossley Hollins High School

**Pay Scale:** Grade E (Point 11-16)

Actual starting salary at Grade E Point 11: £17,805.26

**Hours:** 34 hours per week (term time only)

**Contract:** Permanent

**Closing Date:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 12 noon





**Start Date:** As soon as possible

**Role:** Finance Officer - Mossley Hollins High School

**Pay Scale:** Grade E/F (Points 11-22)

**Actual starting salary:** Grade E, Point 11 - £22,129 (pay award pending)

**Hours:** 36 Hours per Week, Full Year

**Contract:** Permanent

**Closing date:** Friday 18th November 2022, 12 noon

**Start date:** As soon as possible

Further details are available on the school website at [www.mossleyhollins.com](http://www.mossleyhollins.com)

### Train to Teach

**Train to Teach** with us here at **The Tame River Teaching & Curriculum Institute** through School Direct in partnership with **everyonelearning@ Hawthorns Kingfisher**.



We are currently recruiting for **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Geography, History, Maths, PE with Ebacc, Art, RE, Design & technology, Computer Science and MFL**. We lead and host training and placements in strong schools at secondary and primary level. Bursaries may be available.



For more details, please contact [eduggan@tret.org.uk](mailto:eduggan@tret.org.uk) or look at the **Train to Teach** Section of the Trust Website: [www.tret.org.uk](http://www.tret.org.uk).

## OUR IMAGE GALLERY



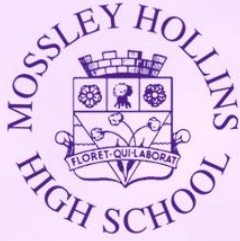
Last weekend, Jack Towell (Year 10) set off to climb Mount Snowden in Wales with his family. He managed to complete the full hike in just under four hours! A fantastic achievement. The picture shows Jack and his younger sister at top of the mountain. Congratulations to Jack and the family.



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## General



Concerns in or out of school? Use the the Confide reporting tool to report any concerns.



Childline- general support for young people.  
Call **0800 1111** or visit  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

**childline**



Think you know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

## Mental Health and Well-being

Off the Record: Suitable for children and young people aged 10-25 in Tameside who are experiencing mental health difficulties such as anxiety, worry, low mood, bereavement, bullying and stress etc. [www.otr-tameside.org](http://www.otr-tameside.org) **0161 355 3553**



Samaritans  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)  
Freephone: **116 123**  
Text message: **07725 90 90 90**

Eating Disorders B-eat – Eating Disorder Charity  
[www.b-eat.co.uk](http://www.b-eat.co.uk)  
Tel: **0845 634 141**



Mind: Suitable for young people aged 8-18 years struggling with different issues such as anxiety, worry, low mood, stress, bullying etc.



## Sexual Health and Well-being

YOUthink are a specialist team for sexual health intervention and prevention, which focus on improving young people's sexual health. The team is made up of youth workers who offer FREE one to one individual support to young people aged under 25 to access local contraception and sexual health services. The service also offers a variety of services including: pregnancy testing, condom distribution, advice and support.

The Service is confidential and designed to keep young people SAFE and not judge.

To contact YOUthink about any sexual health issue, or ask a question about services, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm:

Tel: **0161 342 5600** or **0161 342 5671** or **0161 342 5672** and ask to speak to someone from the YOUthink team.



Or visit 31 Young People's Centre, Clarence Arcade, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT. LGBT Foundation is a national charity delivering a wide range of services to lesbian, gay and bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities. <https://lgbt.foundation/> Advice Support & Information **0345 3 30 30 30**

SEXWISE – online honest advice about contraception, pregnancy, STIs and pleasure.

<https://www.sexwise.fpa.org.uk/>

Sexual Assault:

<https://www.sexwise.fpa.org.uk/where-to-get-help/sexual-assault-services>



## Domestic Abuse



Refuge <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>  
**0808 2000 247**



## Self Harm



Self-Harm Network <https://www.nshn.co.uk/>

## SHARE

Self-Harm Awareness & Recovery - Support group in Manchester  
Tel: **0161 226 5412 / 07876 166 625**

## Papyrus

National suicide prevention charity. Tel: **0800 068 41 41**

## Drugs and alcohol



Tobacco <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>



Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/-looking-after-yourself/drugs-and-alcohol/>



My Recovery Tameside:  
<https://www.changegrowlive.org/my-recovery-tameside>  
You can also phone or email: **0161 672 9420** or email [tameside.referrals@cgl.org.uk](mailto:tameside.referrals@cgl.org.uk)

Or if you live in Manchester: **0161 839 2054** from 09:00 - 17:00 on weekdays or email [eclipsemanchester@cgl.org.uk](mailto:eclipsemanchester@cgl.org.uk).



Talk to Frank: <https://www.talktofrank.com/>  
**0300 1236600**



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING  
PEGI  
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### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

#### IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

#### CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder – a recognised mental health issue.

#### GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

### CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

### STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

### AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

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Manners + Hard work + Honesty = Success

