Dame Elizabeth CADBURY School NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Year 11 Results 2018 – Another Successful Year!

Summer may seem a while ago now, but for the pupils who sat their GCSE exams it will be one they will remember proudly for the rest of their lives. Results day in August showed that the months and months of hard work which the pupils had put into their studies was worth it. Overall, the school achieved a record level of progress and this was particularly outstanding in Maths and Science with both subjects achieving their best ever progress measure. 68% of pupils achieved a Grade 4-9 in Maths and 61% did so in English. Almost a quarter of pupils achieved at least one Grade 7, equivalent to an A and almost every subject had pupils scoring the top grades.

Some stunning results were obtained by the following pupils:

- Duncan Winkles Grade 8 Maths, English Language, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and History, plus Grade 7 in Computing and English Literature
- Abbie Tshetlhanyana Grade 9 in Biology and Chemistry, and Grade 8 in Maths, Physics and Geography
- Whitney Ajala Grade 8 in Core Science, Combined Science and French
- George Dukes Grade 9 in Biology, Grade 8 in Chemistry and Physics

In terms of progress the following pupils averaged over 2 grades above their targets, which is exceptional:

- Chelsea Venner
- Andrew Long
- Suaad Hassan
- Amy Hampton
- Connor Siverns

All of whom have joined our expanding Sixth Form (more on that later!)

We would like to say thank you to all parents/carers for the support you have shown your child through this incredibly important time in their lives – it certainly makes a difference.

Finally, a huge well done to last years pupils, we are so proud of each and every one of you and we wish you every success for the future. You have certainly set the bar high for the new Year 11!

Mr Wright Assistant Headteacher



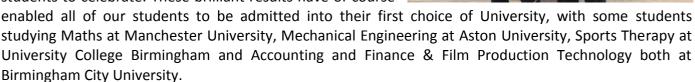


6th Form Results

Congratulations to last years Y13 cohort who achieved outstanding results! 100% pass rate in all A Level and BTEC subjects.

- 100% of students achieved grades A-B in Maths A-Level and 100% of students achieved grades A-C in A-Level Product Design.
- 100% of students achieved Distinction*- Distinction in Business Studies Media.
- 100% of students achieved Distinction*- Merit in Sport and Engineering

As you can see, an excellent set of results for our Y13 students to celebrate. These brilliant results have of course





https://www.decschool.co.uk/6thform

This September we welcomed our largest Y12 cohort ever, with our suite of A Levels expanding to include English Literature, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Psychology, Sociology and Health & Social Care. As you can see in the image, they are a smart looking cohort who will be the perfect role models for our students in Y7-Y11.

Our 6th Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 8th November, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. This Open Evening will be the perfect opportunity for parents and students to find out more information about our 6th Form

and the subjects we offer. In the mean time please see the website for more information

Many Thanks

Mr Hanson Associate Head of 6th Form & Computing



The University of Manchester







Another Successful Open Evening And Morning At DEC



Our super talented prefect guides waiting to meet and greet prospective parents.



A range of activates taking place on a very busy evening as well as Mr Dunn welcoming parents as part of his speech 'What makes our school so special'.



Dame Elizabeth Cadbury recently welcomed a record number of visitors to the school's Open Evening and Mornings. Over 1200 parents and pupils attended the event which featured many aspects of life at DEC. There were vibrant displays of dance, pupil performances to illustrate the successful sporting ethos, academic workshops and many more activities by pupils that showcased the many strengths of the school. The response from visitors has been extremely positive and further consolidates Dame Elizabeth Cadbury's place at the heart of the local community.

Safeguarding At DECS

Student Social workers

Miss Morris and DSL Mr Walton will also oversee two student social workers currently undertaking their work placement here at DECS. They are working within our safeguarding team and will support student and family intervention, alongside other agencies such as Birmingham Children's Trust.

Safeguarding updates

On the first staff training day in September all staff attended their annual Safeguarding and Child Protection training lead by DSL, Mr Walton. A big focus on updates from the recently updated key DfE document "Keeping Children Safe in Education 18" enables safeguarding to remain world class amongst all staff.

Safeguarding curriculum

Since September we have been busy offering our pupils awareness, guidance and advice sessions on key learning areas as part of our commitment towards the "keeping children safe in education" agenda. Topics covered have included Risk Management, Citizen Aid Black, European Languages Day and we will soon be moving on to explore the risks associated with Radicalisation, Extremism and Terrorism. The full safeguarding curriculum for 2018/19 is available to view on the school website within the safeguarding tab.

Some useful websites for parents to look at are:

www.nspcc.org.uk

<u>www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers</u> (E safety tips for parents) <u>www.youngminds.org.uk</u> (Mental Health advice)







E safety accreditation

As we look to finalise our portfolio to secure the nationally recognised 360 degree award for E Safety we have held our first parental forum in school lead by Mr Ali (Deputy Head) and Mr Jam (E Safety coordinator) where E Safety updates were discussed.



External outreach work

At the end of summer term Mr Walton (DSL) and Ms Minogue (Attendance manager) carried out a departmental audit on the attendance and safeguarding practice on a linked local school. As part of our commitment to collaborate and support other schools work we will continue to offer our knowledge and expertise.

Mr C Walton Assistant Head Teacher Specialist Leader in Education – Safeguarding

Reading

The start of a new term has already seen a fantastic number of students completing their weekly canteen reading. Brindley Brittain and Nathaniel Austin (both Year 7) need to be celebrated on the sheer volume that they are completing and also the enthusiasm they have to read more! Well done to those students who have already been recognised during form time as being conscientious readers every Monday.

Our new homework timetable includes 20 minutes of reading per evening for Year 7 and 8 students and to aid this we have provided them with two copies of the same text (one to take home and one to keep in class for reading out loud with the rest of the group).

Upcoming exciting opportunities:

- We have a BookSwap happening after half term again this year for Key Stage 3 so make sure you look out the details for this very soon!
- We also have a new reading club so please look out for the details.



Dates For Your Diary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY			
Year 7 Settling in Evening	11 th October		
DEC Oscars	25 th October		
Year 11 Rewards Trip	26 th October		
29-10-2018 until 02-11-2018 Half Term (1 Week)			
6 th Form Open Evening	8 th November		
6 th Form Parents Evening	15 th November		
Topic Day 2	16 th November		
Year 11 Parents Evening, Results Evening and Reports	22 nd November		
Children in Need – Charity Event	23 rd November		
Parent Forum	29 th November		
21-12-2018 until 07-01-2019 Christmas Holiday (2 Weeks)			

DEC Careers

It's a really exciting year for all pupils at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, with the newly appointed Careers Team; Miss Raine, Mr Hanson and Mr Smith are looking forward to supporting all our pupils in ensuring they all receive the best career support possible enabling them to reach their career goals. We are excited about the new opportunities we have lined up for all of our pupils, in preparing them effectively for the careers they wish to enter. Through topic days, assemblies and work experience, all our pupils are going to be given an even wider education on career pathways.



As well as everything above we are also developing a "Careers Hub", which can be accessed by all pupils to find about possible career pathways and career opportunities. This will be a 'one-stop-shop' for everything careers related that will give pupils valuable insight into their future opportunities. In addition to this, later this year pupils will be able to access a wide range of engaging information on our school website. Both pupils and parents will have 24-7 access to the latest advice and spotlight careers with individual subject areas showcasing what the future might hold if they pursue a career in their chosen field. Expertly curated by faculty leaders, real-life examples from the world of work will make subjects easier to understand and enable pupils to increase their interest in particular subjects.

Throughout this academic year we also be enabling pupils to build a rich picture of the world of work by providing first hand encounters with employers throughout Years 7-13. We have already built strong links with local and national businesses who will guide our pupils through careers talks, mock interviews, enterprise competitions and workplace visits. Our partner experts will explore sectors both established and emerging, including digital technology.

Finally, to support our pupils throughout this process, all steps along the career pathway from Years 7-13 will be recorded by pupils in their own careers folder. This will allow our pupils to track their progress and fine-tune their career goals as their skill set develops throughout their time at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. DEC Careers at is an exciting new platform to give our pupils the very best opportunities in life – the journey starts today.

Miss Raine, Mr Hanson and Mr Smith

New Staff - September 2018

Mr A Rackham – Assistant Head Teacher: Teaching and learning, Inclusion

The new academic year has seen DEC welcome a new member of the senior leadership team, Mr A Rackham who is Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for overseeing our whole school inclusion strategy. Mr Rackham joins us from many successful years as a Raising Standards Leader at Plantsbrook School though some parents may remember Mr Rackham's previous time at Dame Elizabeth as a Head of House. We are delighted to welcome him back to the DEC family and look forward to the exciting work ahead in the further development of our Inclusion and SEND work.



Miss A Morris – School Social Worker

At Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, we take our safeguarding responsibility extremely seriously. Safeguarding children is simply the most important thing and we have truly outstanding provision which enables children to flourish into adulthood.

Our commitment to supporting our young people to flourish has now extended beyond classroom teaching and extra curricula activities. For a while, The Believe Centre has provided tailored support to our most vulnerable pupils through intervention, 1:1 work or workshops to develop skills in a range of areas; improving children's access to their education and ultimately their success at the end of Year 11 and Year 13. In the July edition of our newsletter you will have read about our new School Social Worker, Miss A Morris who has already supported a number of families over the Summer Holiday in a myriad of ways.

Like you, we never want to see any young person fall behind for reasons that we may be able to support to overcome. Ms Morris can offer help and advice in so many ways – if you are experiencing difficult circumstances and would like advice or support, please don't hesitate to make contact with your Head of House in the usual way.

We also welcome staff to the DEC family in the following areas:

Mr W Baron De Burgh	Deputy Faculty Leader - Science
Miss A Clamp	Dance and PE Teacher
Mrs K Green	English Teacher
Ms N Hawtin	Social Sciences Coordinator
Miss A Marks	English Teacher
Miss C Smith	English Teacher
Mr M Wallis	Geography Teacher
Miss S Wilson	Deputy Faculty Leader – Science
Ms E Winer	Deputy Faculty Leader – English and Drama
Miss C Wyatt	Science Teacher

All new staff have settled in fantastically and are already making a huge contribution to pupil progress.



Homework: A New Approach

During the last school year, we were busy trialling a new approach to homework in school, which focuses on supporting long-term memory through retrieval practice. We call this self-quizzing. There's lots of educational research on how re-calling information from memory actually helps us to improve our memory over time, and our trials last year in school echoed this finding. We saw groups and individual pupils significantly improve their progress in end of unit tests, as their revision became more effective, and memory improved as a result. We also had positive feedback from our parent forum on this approach in light of it being so focused on preparing pupils for their learning and supporting independent study habits from a young age.

So what can you expect? Pupils will be set homework as per the homework timetable. This is available on the school website, and pupils should have it recorded in their planner. Each pupil has a homework book for each subject, and a substantial amount of their homework will be self-quizzing. This means they will be asked to revise a topic, expected to put their notes away, and then re-call as much as they can; writing what they can remember in their homework book. When pupils have exhausted this, they should then use their notes to add detail in a different colour. This will help them to identify what they need to pay special attention to next time they are revising. Their teachers will check that homework is complete to the correct standard on a weekly basis. Rewards and special recognition will be given to those who have made an outstanding effort.

Also, not all subjects will self-quiz. For example, sometimes a project might be more appropriate in DT or pupils may need to answer a past exam question or research a given topic. Homework is always intended to support their learning and progress. We are also keen to make sure that pupils are not completing any more than 60-70 minutes of homework per evening as a maximum amount, to ensure they do have time to relax and feel fresh for school the next day. To support our pupil further the school library is a lovely, quiet space where our pupils can complete homework, access computers before school, at break time and after school each day.

Further to this, we are also launching an online learning platform in October, called Century. Teachers will be using this to set homework, upload resources for pupils to use and set revision tasks. This is a fantastic resource that will support our pupils tremendously in their independent work, and the way it is used in

school will grow and develop throughout the year. Century will not replace the pupils' planner, but should be a great support for pupils at home. Log-ins will be coming home very soon.



Mrs Sullivan Assistant Headteacher



Inclusion Strategy

I am immensely pleased and proud to be appointed as an Assistant Headteacher here at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. As the Inclusion Leader my primary aim is to ensure all pupils, regardless of circumstance, are happy and safe; have access to an appropriate curriculum; and achieve their true potential. To ensure this we apply the Graduated Approach, providing a range of support and intervention for individual SEND pupils, so that they can achieve their aspirations and be the best that they can be - both inside and out of the classroom.

During the recent SEND Coffee Morning I had the pleasure of meeting many parents and carers. Here, I emphasised the importance of working as a partnership so that we ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. If you were unable to attend this event, please find the relevant PowerPoint slides on the school's website. Furthermore, lots of information regarding SEND can be found on the website, including the link to the Local Authority's 'Local Offer'. There will also be a variety of opportunities for both parents / carers and SEND pupils to be involved in overcoming barriers to learning. I therefore welcome the opportunity to work with all those involved in providing the best possible educational experience for all pupils here in school.

Mr Rackham Assistant Headteacher

Science Focus - Summer Success And What To Expect In 2018-2019

August and September 2018 have been exciting months for staff and pupils in the Science Faculty. In August, pupils received the first results on the GCSE Science 9-1 specification and responded to the increase in difficulty by making the highest ever progress score in DEC Science. This is a testament to the hard work of the pupils in the run up to the exams. We start the new academic year with the roll out of A Level Chemistry and Physics – started in response to student demand. From 2019-20 we aim to also offer A Level Biology to complete the full suite of post 16 Science options. In addition to these exciting new courses, we expect our University of Birmingham Undergraduate tutors to return before Christmas to

support our year 11 pupils. We also must welcome our new Science teachers: Mr Barron de Burgh, Ms Wilson and Ms Wyatt who will further strength the faculty. STEM club has also launched as an extra curricular opportunity running on Mondays. This will give pupils the opportunity to complete practicals, investigations and projects that wouldn't be possible in lesson time.



Look out for the Science masterclasses later on in the year to experience some Science that takes you far beyond the curriculum and explores concepts and ideas that you'd hear about at university. Talking of which: we will be selecting teams to attend the Big Physics and Chemistry Quizzes at University of Birmingham this year – we did exceptionally well last year; can we do even better in 2019?

As a final example of the fantastic opportunities afforded by our close partnership with the University of Birmingham, we hope to take our year 10 GCSE Astronomy group to see a working observatory as well as using research quality equipment (with support from university academics) to further enrich their learning

– details to follow!

Modern Foreign Languages: A Wonderful Start To The New Term For The MFL Department

Learning a new language is a lot of hard work - but it can also be a lot of fun.

DEC pupils are already busy this year and have been doing some fantastic homework. Filling their books full of great cultural references as well as compiling a reading list that will help them to really get into their chosen language. In fact, pupil's books are already looking great and will be a great revision resource, for example by providing a great list of key vocabulary in the target languages.





Maybe they were inspired by the World Cup where French speakers resigned supreme!

The MFL department recently took part in the school open evening, which was extremely popular. I think that was because future pupils are keen to find out about us – but I think it may have been because

everyone wanted to taste the delights of the 'European Café'! Parents and prospective new pupils enjoyed nibbling foreign food such a German Pretzel, French Brioche and Spicy Spanish Chorizo! Nothing went to waste. It was a great pleasure to have

parents enquiring and supporting the learning of language. Thank you to all the pupils that supported our department on this occasion.



Finally, we have just celebrated the European Day of Languages on the 26th September, and because of this you may

have noticed that the PSHE sessions this week had a language theme.

Do you know that the longest German word has 67 letters, why the Americans all speak European languages or even what is a Palindrome? Language learning will also make you a quiz master!

Mrs V Lopez Faculty Leader - MFL









Anti-Bullying

On the 12th of September, 15 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from year 8 and 9 attended a Diana Award training course. The course offered the pupil's lots of fantastic ideas to help recognise, identify and prevent bullying in our school. They were given the tools to plan out ideas for the academic year. One of their ideas was to promote self-confidence, self-esteem, as well as



celebrating each person's identity. This was done through my true selfie (<u>https://mytrueselfie.com/</u>).

Pupils have taken a true reflection of themselves and celebrated their identities, by putting key words and colours around what makes them unique. As a team we would like to encourage all pupils to use social media positively by taking part in this. If your child is happy to they can take the selfie and email me it at <u>c.faulkner@decschool.co.uk</u> and they can also be put up to promote who we truly are. (An example of this can be seen below).

It is going to be a very productive and busy year for the Anti-Bullying Team and we will keep you posted of the other exciting projects we have coming up.

As always if you have any concerns with bullying please communicate this through any of the different ways

- 1. Email <u>c.faulkner@decscool.co.uk</u>
- 2. Speak to an anti-bullying ambassador,
- 3. Fill in a referral from and post in the red letter box,
- 4. Use the confide button on your desktops,
- 5. Use the DEC concern page.

We continue to work successfully preventing bullying in school to ensure that it is a safe place for all to attend. Once we are made aware of an issue, we continue to be deal with, within 24 hours

We thank you for your continued support.



6th Form Expansion – Success All Round!

On Wednesday 5th September we were delighted to welcome a record number of new Year 12 pupils, nearly all of whom have chosen to stay at DEC continuing their studies from Year 11. Our new 'Business Dress' policy Timetables are now well underway in a wide range of A Level subjects. Pupils are taking their first steps towards A Level and BTEC success – next stop, university!

We look forward to sharing the exciting developments in our newly expanded 6th Form over the coming year. Watch this space!

Aims and aspirations – meet a few of our 6th Form learners:



Abul

I am studying A Levels in: Business Studies, PE and Product Design I aim to study for a degree in: Engineering I am aiming for a career as: An Aerospace Engineer



Chelsea

I am studying A Levels in: English Literature, Sociology, History I aim to study for a degree in: English Literature I am aiming for a career as: An English Teacher



Sophie

I am studying A Levels in: Psychology, Sociology and Health and Social Care I aim to study for a degree in: Criminology I am aiming for a career in: The criminal justice system



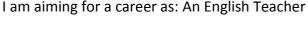
Andrew

I am studying A Levels in: History, English Literature, Psychology I aim to study for a degree in: Psychology and Philosophy



Fatemeh

I am studying A Levels in: English Literature, Sociology and Health and Social Care I aim to study for a degree in: English Literature I am aiming for a career as: An English Teacher





I am studying A Levels in: Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics I aim to study for a degree in: Biomedical Science I am aiming for a career as: A Doctor



Marzieh I am studying A Levels in: Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics I aim to study for a degree in: Dentistry I am aiming for a career as: A Dentist



Shane

I am studying A Levels in: Sport, Business Studies and Media I aim to study for a degree in: Accountancy I am aiming for a career as: An accountant



Suaad

I am studying A Levels in: Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics I aim to study for a degree in: Medical School I am aiming for a career as: A Doctor

Extra Curricular News

2017 saw the launch of the new whole school extra-curricular programme, that gave our pupils the opportunity to attend new clubs across the whole curriculum. New clubs such as School of Rock allowed pupils to be creative and rock away with Mr Rybinski and Mr Brayford. STEM clubs in the maths and science faculties saw huge numbers of pupils attend to make rockets, building and many more exciting projects. Art and Music continue to thrive, providing our pupils wonderful opportunities to hone their creative skills as well as enhance their specialist skills playing instruments, singing and drawing.

This September we launch our clubs again with renew vigour and enthusiasm to provide our pupils with new experiences and opportunities across the whole curriculum. Clubs beginning in September will be D of E, Drama, Music, Orchestra, Art, Choir as well as the new MFL Language Lab and the hugely popular science STEM club. We will continue to expand and evolve the offering and programme across the academic year as new clubs will begin and others expand. A new publication of the extra-curricular timetable will be released to all pupils every half term as well as through twitter and throughout the school notice system. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of our pupils to engage with faculties and enhance their talents and skills as well as develop their own personal confidence and knowledge, across a wide range of curricular activities.

We look forward to seeing as many of you attend our clubs and to see the many talents on show across the whole school.

Subject	Master class in	Year groups invited	location 3.15pm- 4pm	Date Thursday
Geography	Effect of volcanoes on humanity	7-11	Room 22	Thurs 27 th Sept
Maths	Maths: How to catch a serial killer	8-11	Room 17	Thurs 4 th Oct
Media	A Future in Digital Media.	8-10	Room 27	Thurs 11 th Oo
Sociology	Why do people turn to crime	9, 10, 11 , 12, 13	Room 9	Thurs 18 th Oo
Business	Enterprise	10,11,12,13	Room 4	Thurs 25 th Oo
Creative	Palette knife painting	9, 10, 11	Art Room	Thurs 8 th Nov

Mr James Extra Curricular Coordinator

Sporting news

It's been a fantastic start to the new academic year in PE. Many pupils have taken advantage of our range of extra-curricular clubs and have demonstrated excellent determination to develop in their chosen activity. With such a high number of regular attenders at clubs, the opportunity to represent Dame Elizabeth Cadbury against other schools in fixtures is an honour that many pupils work incredibly hard to be involved in. With the football season in full swing, our teams are now competing in both local school league and cup matches.

The Year 7 & 8 boys' football team have made a fantastic start to their 2018 Dame Elizabeth journey with strong performances in training in what will be another action-packed year. In addition to regular local-league matches, some players will be given the opportunity to represent the Matrix Trust in both Year 7 and 8 football teams during a tour to Holland in 2019. This is an outstanding opportunity that is expanding on last year's success and enables the very best footballing talent to be developed internationally - look out for an update in our next newsletter!

In addition to our fantastic football provision, pupils have the opportunity to get involved in a number of clubs across the week. Our dance club has exploded this September with record numbers of attendees who hope to choreograph and develop exceptional performances using the expert guidance of our performing arts expert Miss Clamp. They will all be working hard to be involved in the numerous shows that occur throughout the academic year including our summer spectacular. Last year's 'Lights, Camera, Action!' DEC performance at the MAC theatre in Birmingham was, as always, an exceptional evening of stunning pupil performances.

Our ever popular badminton club continues to attract high numbers of pupils with even more becoming involved in the elite squad. This particular club enables our very top performers to receive even more expert coaching from our talented PE faculty in addition to their normal club session. Pupils have excelled with this additional training and it has boosted the performances of all, including our GCSE PE pupils. These pupils are always keen to develop their three assessed sports!

All of our clubs will be entering competitions this academic year. And with such a talented cohort it is an exciting prospect when dreaming of what can be achieved! Good luck to all of our pupils who will compete for Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School during the next term.

DEC PE		Education & Perfo	orming Arts Faculty MN 2018	DEC PE		
CLUB	YEAR	TIME	VENUE	STAFF		
MONDAY						
Boys' Football	Years 7,8	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Field	Mr James/ Mr Joss		
Dance	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10pm	Dance Studio	Miss Clamp		
GCSE ONLY Group	Years 9,10,11	3.10 – 4.10pm	Sports Hall	ROTATION (KSH/RHN/JSH)		
		TUESDAY				
AM Football	Years 7,8	8:00am - 8:30am	Sports Hall	6 th Form Coaching Academy [GJS]		
	•	WEDNESDAY				
Badminton	ALL YEARS (Challenge Staff)	3.10 – 4.00 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Scarth		
Badminton ELITE SQUAD	INVITE ONLY	4.00 – 4.30 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Scarth		
Boys' Football	Year 9	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Field	Mr Smith		
Girls' Football	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10pm	Yard	Miss Faulkner		
		THURSDAY				
AM Dance	ALL YEARS	8:00am-8:30am	Dance Studio	Miss Clamp		
Boys' Football	Years 10,11	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Yard	Mr Hanson		
Netball	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Courts	Miss Faulkner/ Miss Clamp		
		FRIDAY				
AM Football	Years 9,10,11	8:00am-8:30am	Sports Hall	6 th Form Coaching Academy [JSH]		
Indoor Cricket	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Joss		
DofE	INVITE ONLY	3.10-4.10pm	Rm.33	Mr James		
Attendance t ⇒ DEC Points every we ⇒ Entry into prize draw ⇒ Represent the schoo	18	Dame Elizabeth CADBURY		Lattended school clubs: vill you achieve?		



'Fortnite - Battle Royale', is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called 'the storm', which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.





What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins'; gliders' and 'emotes', which change the look of the characters but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made admirable for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

NOS

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes said it had seen "dozens" of reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones in the game to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game IS free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargable.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'v bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money. If these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap," making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

National Top

#1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Safety

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

#3 prevent them talking to strangers

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

#5 LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

#ZRESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

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Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

#4 Show them how to make a report

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game teedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.



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