

# Head's Up!

## Issue#6

10 October 2025

Stafford Manor  
High School

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Dear Parents and Friends of Stafford Manor,

### **2 Weeks to go and all to play for!**

Our attendance is currently +1.3% above where we were at this point last year and this is to be celebrated. As you will be aware, our focus on attendance continues to take a huge priority this year and the last 2 weeks are really important for your child in terms of attendance as we move towards half term.

Please continue to ensure your child attends school all of the time! Students who have 100% attendance in the final 2 weeks of this half term will be entered into a prize draw for £5 and £10 Amazon vouchers. We will be selecting 2 students per year group, per week. In addition to vouchers, children will be able to receive VIP vouchers from their teachers for doing the right thing and working hard in lessons and modelling the 4Rs.

Students have also been competing for our termly free rewards breakfast, which will be taking place on the last day of this half term. This is a free hot breakfast that students really do value and share with their tutor group and also their form tutor.

Please don't miss out and make sure your children are here for the final 2 weeks of term!

### **Unmissable and unforgettable Rewards**

Mrs Thorley is working with the student leadership team in order to agree on the unmissable and unforgettable rewards for those students who have achieved the gold, silver and bronze rewards criteria this half term. A reminder of what these are is shown below.

| Criteria   | Gold                  | Silver                 | Bronze                      |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Attendance | 95% or above          | 92% or above           | Below 92%                   |
| Behaviour  | 0-10 behaviour points | 11-60 behaviour points | 61 or more behaviour points |

Best wishes,

**Rhys Adams**  
**Headteacher**

## Higher Horizons

This week the Higher Horizons team from The University of Staffordshire visited the school to carry out workshops with the Y11 students. The workshops covered a variety of topics including Revision Skills, Exam Techniques and a final dedicated session to preparing for English and Maths exams. The Y11 mock period is fast approaching, beginning on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. The sessions will have hopefully given the students some valuable revision techniques and skills to prepare them for their exams.



## Halloween Spooktacular Film and Fancy Dress

### Halloween Spooktacular Film & Fancy Dress

We are rewarding all year 7 and 8 students who have been getting it right the majority of the time.

This is a half term reward that will be taking place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

£2 entry – this will include a small bag of goodies. You will be able to purchase drinks and cakes on the night.

Prizes for the best fancy dress costume –  
**BE SPOOKTACULAR!**



Year 7 and 8 students are being invited to the first ever SMHS Halloween Spooktacular Film and Fancy Dress event on 22 October 2025.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware that several titles in the **Spy Dogs, Spy Pup, and Spy Cat series by Andrew Cope** contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions.

***We have removed copies of the book from our school library and classroom book corners.***

Below are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately. Should any be the property of the school, please return them and we will dispose of them accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Adams  
**Headteacher**





## Black History Month

This week the students have had assemblies on black history month. We have always celebrated black history at Stafford Manor High School by sharing the stories of incredible individuals. This week students were introduced to Dido Belle. If you'd like to know more about her, then use this link: <https://qrco.de/bgCEqK>

Mr. Mainwaring has always begun running a film club. The first film students will be watching is Belle. It is based on the life of Dido Belle. If you're interested in joining Mr. Mainwaring's film club, then please speak to him in J9.

## London Theatre Trip

If your child is taking part in the London Theatre Trip, please ensure that any money owed is paid as soon as possible. The final payment is due on 15 December.

Rooms are quads for girls and triples for boys. Students need to meet with Mrs Mandley next week. Thank you.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI 3

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term, if children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer. EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in-game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety, with a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iRM, TechRadar, and plenty more.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College

Source: See the reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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## Staffordshire Health and Care Careers Roadshow—Friday 3 October 2025

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 21 of the Y11 H&SC students attended Stafford college where they participated in the Staffordshire Health and Care Careers Roadshow. The day was a mixture of different events and activities including:

Small group workshops where they met a Micro-Biologist, Nurse and Paramedic. The workshops allowed students to gain an insight into the jobs these individuals have, the day to day tasks they perform and the different skills and qualities needed to perform the role.

All students learnt how to perform CPR and the important steps to take when faced with an emergency situation.

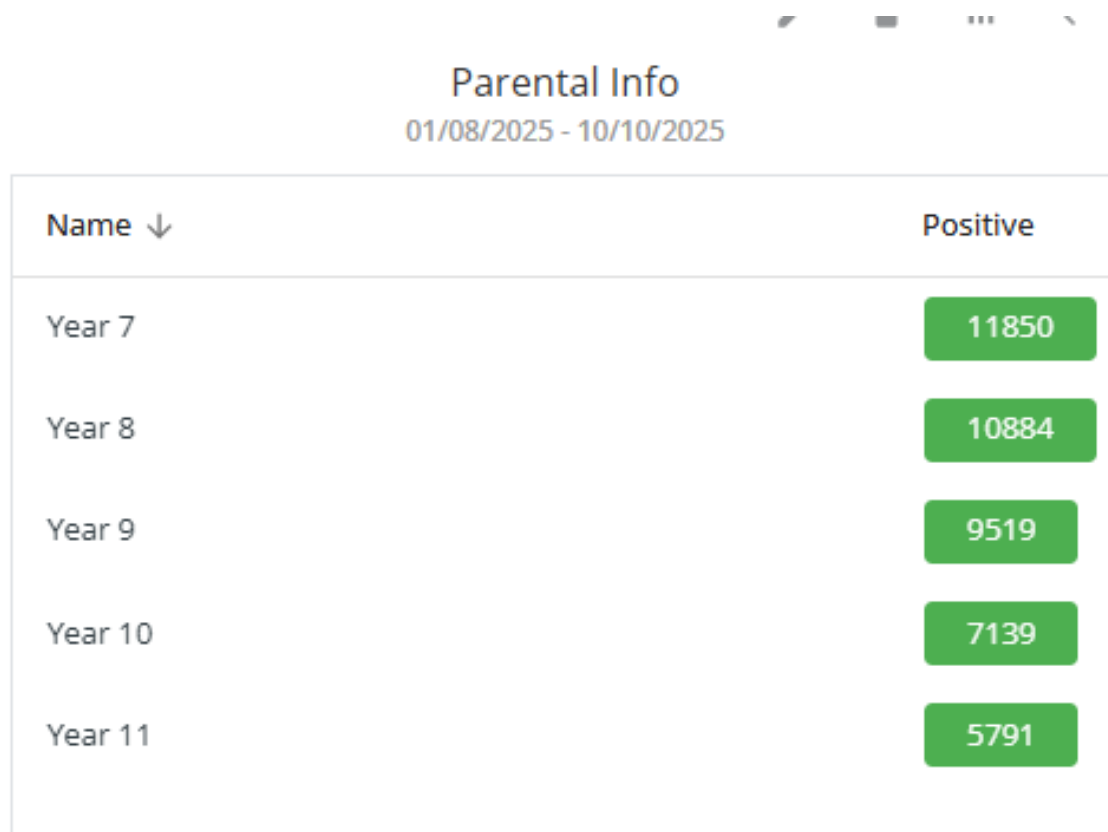
The morning ended with a careers fayre where students met with professionals from a variety of different fields within the Health and Care Sector including, podiatrists, sexual health nurses, the work experience team at Stafford Hospital, apprenticeship providers and many more.

A really fantastic day enjoyed by all!



## Achievement and Rewards

There have now been over 43,000 achievement points awarded. This is really amazing!



| Parental Info           |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 01/08/2025 - 10/10/2025 |          |
| Name ↓                  | Positive |
| Year 7                  | 11850    |
| Year 8                  | 10884    |
| Year 9                  | 9519     |
| Year 10                 | 7139     |
| Year 11                 | 5791     |

# SMHS Community Support Hub And SMHS Food Hub

SMHS Community Support Hub and Food Hub are open every Wednesday and Friday for all our parents. You can pop along and have a coffee and a chat. There is also food available for collection to help support you.

The Community Support Hub is also open during our Parents Evenings.

**Open to all– please come along**

**Wednesday—2.00 —4.00 pm**

**Friday—11.00 am—1.00 pm**