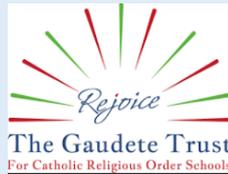




A Message from the Principal

This Sunday is the third week of Advent and it is the Sunday where we light the rose candle, representing joy. Therefore, it is also referred to as Gaudete Sunday which seems an appropriate time to inform parents and carers about what it means for St Ambrose College to be part of the recently established Gaudete Trust.

The word Gaudete means 'joyful', and the Trust is a family of 17 schools from 5 collaborating Religious Orders. Although most schools are based in the north-west, the schools are spread as far as London and Southampton. To be clear, this isn't what is commonly referred to as a multi-academy trust (MAT) with a CEO etc. The Gaudete Trust is a new, collaborative way for schools founded by religious congregations (in our case, the Christian Brothers) to come under one trusteeship at a time when there are fewer brothers to take on the position of trustees. The charisms of the schools share much in common and the composition will allow us to 'rejoice' (Gaudete) in the rich heritage of Religious Orders education and in our young people. There will be short assemblies for each year group to inform them of this new Trust next week, again tying in with Gaudete Sunday. Apart from a change in trusteeship (the Christian Brothers are still represented), the key difference for us is that we will have opportunities to work with a new and wide family of schools and many initial ideas were discussed at the launch event in Edgbaston, Birmingham, a couple of months ago.



I was asked about the reasons behind the rose candle and in following up, picked up some new knowledge. I knew about the lighter shade representing a break from the darkness in the middle of Advent but I'd never heard of the candle being referred to as The Shepherds candle before. It gets the name as it reminds of the joy experienced by the shepherd's as they found the new born Jesus.

In school, we've been celebrating Advent and subsequently preparing for Christmas by having reconciliation services and individual confession this week. Many thanks to Fr Tom and Fr Jonathan but also thanks to Fr John for leading our celebration of Mass yesterday. Different year groups have different Advent appeals which conclude next week so please remember to send in donations with your son(s) next week.

I met with members of our community who aren't of the Catholic faith at lunchtime on Wednesday. This followed on from some ideas raised during the recent inter-faith week. Wednesday's discussion was really enjoyable and thought-provoking. Whilst all the students clearly enjoy being students of St Ambrose College, it was also clear

that there is more we can do to ensure that we are inclusive. I look forward to seeing some of the actions coming to fruition.



Although there were many nominations for the Principal's Award this morning, only 5 students turned up for their hot chocolate, badge, certificate and selection box. Given that the funeral of Brother Ignatius took place in Bowdon yesterday, it was fitting however that all 5 recipients were members of Ignatius House. During the distribution of hot chocolates, there was some controversy with the pronunciation of the word marshmallow. I stand firm in my view that it is pronounced as it's spelt and there is no 'e' sound at any point. I am aware that a current music artist isn't helping matters.

In Saturday's rugby fixtures there was a clean sweep against Manchester Grammar School (MGS) and our basketball teams had mixed results against Altrincham Grammar School for Boys on Wednesday, with the under-16 fixture particularly close fought. Our water polo teams have just returned home after winning 5-3 on penalties against MGS to reach the next round of the national competition, and our senior cross-country team have been crowned Trafford champions. Congratulations to everyone involved across all sports. Please note that there are no rugby fixtures tomorrow.

I probably don't congratulate staff enough in my weekly message but I would like to acknowledge Mrs Hill, Mr Cook, Mr McFadden and Mr Fitzsimon who all achieved their NPQSL awards this week.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Carol Service at Holy Angels on Tuesday. Please note the 7pm start time which is a shift from 6pm in previous years. In the meantime, have a wonderful, joyful weekend!

Mr Rainey
Principal



Reminders

Dates for your diary

5th - 19th December	Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations
20th December	School finishes for Christmas at 12.30 (see Newsletter for info on School buses)
8th January	Return to School
8th-19th January	Year 13 Mock A-Level Examinations

For more calendar dates please visit our website [Saint Ambrose College - Calendar \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://Saint Ambrose College - Calendar (st-ambrosecollege.org.uk))



SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Please find below a list of bus services for
Wednesday 20th December

Confirmed 12:30pm pick up:

761
762
763
765
767
768
766
764

Service confirmed NOT running :

769
NW Bus Club



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

We usually feature the Principal's awards breakfast on Week 1, however it was an extremely busy week in Mr Rainey's schedule so we rolled it over to this week as we didn't want them missing out on a free pastries and hot chocolate and a chat with the big boss. Well done to them all for being fine Ambrosians, setting the standard high as usual.



Levi L—Y12

Reuben L—Y13

George M—Y13

Aaron M—Y13

Alfred O—Y9

Hugo H—Y11



***#ambrosianspirit #positiveattitude #compassionandkindness
#strivingforexcellence #sportingexcellence***



SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 7—HISTORY PROJECT: Britain Before 1066

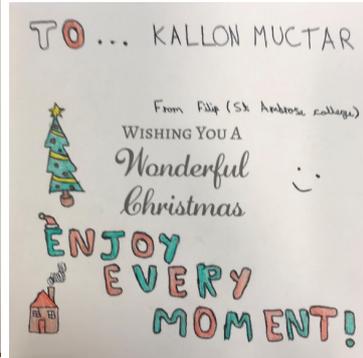
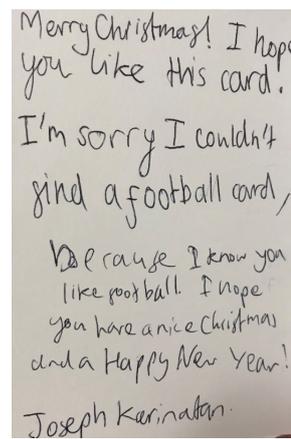
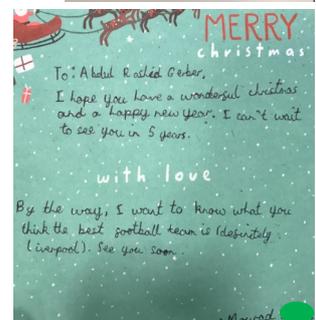
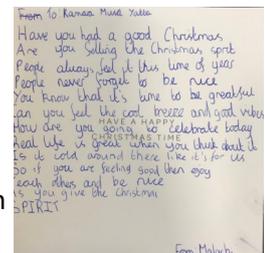
Year 7 have been creating artefacts that develop their knowledge and understanding of settlers in Britain before 1066. Pictured are members of 7C showing off their Iron Age Settlements, Roman Swords and Shield, Anglo Saxon Shields and Viking Ships.

Mrs Scott
Head of Humanities



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ST AMBROSE ACADEMY—SIERRA LEONE

The Edmund Rice community which has established Christian Brother schools all over the world. In particular we have a special connection with our sister school; St. Ambrose Academy in Sierra Leone and as such run an immersion to visit the school every two years. We would like to build upon the relationship we have with our sister school and make our students aware of the work we do to support them, starting with Y7. As such this year we have sent the students of St. Ambrose Academy Christmas cards to set up an open line of communication between both their students and our own. In times of uneasiness across the world where we all seem so far away from one another this is a way to connect with our fellow Ambrosian's and when the time comes, and your son is in the Sixth form he may then get to meet the recipient of his Christmas cards. What better way to live out the eight essentials; 'Building a Christian Community'.





SCHOOL NEWS

PHYSICS SOCIETY

For the past 6 or so weeks we have been running the "ICE CityZen" STEM challenge (Institute of Civil Engineering) as part of Physics Society. You can read more about the challenge by following the link here: [ICE CityZen Award | Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\)](#)



Last week, we successfully submitted four video entries to the final challenge. These were from teams of up to four year 12 and year 13 students, on a variety of infrastructure project topics.

Below are the links where you can watch the video entries for each team, each entry is approx. 4 mins long and are worth the watch.

Jude B, Aldrin A (Year 12)

 [ICE Cityzen Challenge Video Project - Jude Biju, Aldrin Antony.mp4](#)

Bryme-John G, Harvey S, Joseph D, Greg P (Year 13)

 [ICE CityZen 1.mp4](#)

Andras P, Gabor P, Aidan S, Amari S (Year 12)

 [ICE-FINAL.mp4](#)

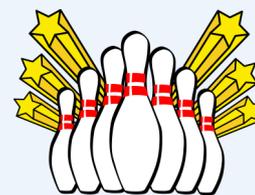
Thomas B, Daniel C, Callum W, Chukwudum O (Year 12)

 [1205\(4\).mp4](#)

Dr Gardener
Head of Physics

YEAR 9 REWARDS TRIP

I would like to once more congratulate the pupils for their fantastic efforts this Michaelmas term which culminated in a highly successful trip to Atlantic Bowl on Thursday. The pupils represented Year 9 and St Ambrose College brilliantly with their impeccable behaviour, good sportsmanship and wonderful humour. I would also like to pass on my sincere thanks to Mrs Brook, the Front Office team and Mr Cook for their phenomenal efforts in making this trip a highly successful outing, and to Miss Cahoon, Miss Robinson and Mrs Hart for their good company as supervisors. A special thanks to Mr Anderson, Dr Gardener, and Mr Howarth for holding the Year 9 fort in our absence. Finally, I would like to thank the parents and carers of all of Year 9 for the positive encouragement and support that you give to your sons. Wishing you all a very restful and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Mr Vaughton
Head of Year 9





SPORTS UP-

ALL sports hall lessons for the next 2 weeks will be outside due to the mock exams. Please ensure shin pads are brought to every games/PE lesson.

Gaelic Football

Training has started for year 8&9 initially! This will continue from Wednesday 10th January after school on the Astro.

Handball—Will resume after school on Tuesday 9th January 3:45-4:45.

Basketball & Badminton—will resume on Monday 8th January.

Indoor Cricket—training will begin for year 7/8 on Monday 8th January 3:45-5:15.

Head Injury Risk Assessment

There has been a lot of discussion on the news about concussion and direct links to dementia etc in contact sports. The RFU have a very useful video which I would recommend all parents to watch outlining what we should do if we suspect a potential concussion. You can find this on <https://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugbysafe-toolkit/headcase/> and is appropriate for all contact sports.

Shin Pads

Parents and students are reminded that shin pads are required to participate in football in PE and Games lessons.

KUKRI Online Shop - This is now CLOSED

Personalised rugby shirts The Kukri Shop will be opening again shortly. If you missed the first opportunity to order a personalised rugby shirt please contact the College via email office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk to be added to the waiting list. As advised KUKRI will only reopen the online shop when there are a minimum of ten orders. We do have some older style reversible Games shirts available to purchase as a replacement. The shirts are £10 and have various sizes available.

200 Club—now even easier to set up via your on-line banking!

Parents are reminded of our 200 Club which has monthly draws to raise money for School Sport. The Direct Debit mandate can be found on the School website and parents are encouraged to support the Sports Committee who run this. For £10 a month parents can win £100 with three bumper prizes of £200 in Summer and Xmas draws, The School receive half of the monies collected and use this to support our extensive Sports programme. Please return completed forms to any Sports staff.

School sports Website:

The vast majority of fixtures are available to view on : <http://www.sacsport.org.uk/?id=332>

RESULTS THIS WEEK

Rugby

On Saturday 9th December we took on MGS 1st XV, 2nd XV, U12A&B all won at home

U15A, U14A&B – was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches ,U13A won.

Football

On Tuesday 12th Dec our U18B travelled to Calday GS in the ESFA trophy. Unfortunately the cup run ended with a 3-1 defeat.

Swimming

The swimming gala on Tuesday 12th Dec v MGS was postponed.

Cross Country—On Tuesday 12th Dec our junior, intermediate and senior cross county teams will be competed in the Trafford Schools Cross Country Tournament - see separate report.

Basketball

On Wednesday 13th December both our U16 and U14 teams travelled to AGSB

The U14's won 23-21

The U16's lost. 29-23

THIS WEEKS FIXTURES

This Friday 15th our U15 team compete in the northwest finals at Bolton School.

Rugby

There are no rugby fixtures this Saturday 16th December- have a well-earned rest.

Old Boys rugby fixture – Tuesday 19th December ko 2.15.

The class of 2022/23 return to take on the current 1st XV in this festive classic! Members of the rugby squads in years 8-11 can watch this if they purchase a ticket for £2.

Fixture in the first week back

Rugby

On Wednesday 10th Jan our u17 team take on St. Anselm's at home 2.15 ko

On Saturday 13th Jan we take on St. Anselm's in a reverse of the early season fixture.

U12A&B are at home

U15A, U14A, U13A&B are away.

All 10 am ko

Football

On Wednesday 10th Jan our 1st and 2nd XI travel to King's Chester in a friendly.

Water polo

On Wednesday 10th Jan our U13 team take on MGS at home 1.35 start.

Swimming

On Thursday 11th Jan all age groups travel to Cheadle GS for the first gala of the New Year .

Enjoy the festive break

Mr M Fitzsimon

Director of Sport



SPORTS REPORT

TRAFFORD SCHOOL'S CROSS COUNTRY

Crossford Bridge, Sale was once again was the location for the Trafford Schools' Cross Country race. It is a chance for all boys to start their journey to compete for the county in the English Schools Cross Country Championships next year. In order to do so, they would need to place in the top 8 in Trafford, then the top 8 in the Greater Manchester Championships at Heaton Park in early February. In total, St Ambrose had 11 boys across all age groups given letters for them to compete for Trafford in 2024. The day was about individual successes rather than the team scores for once as different year groups were missing key members due to illnesses and other commitments.

The year 7 boys race saw Thomas D take an impressive win, leading from the start and despite being chased all the way, pulled away from a challenger in the later stages. In contrast, Henry F started very slowly and was trapped in the pack at the start of the race, but overtook the vast majority of the field to finish in 4th place to complete a great run. Eben Y was a last minute recruit and ran better than his first John Leigh race to finish in 37th, Will J completed the team coming home in 55th to add to his tally of times representing the school.

The year 8-9 boys race saw James S and Adam L start quickly which has gone against their previous races this year. They reaped the rewards having their best race of the year to place in 6th and 7th respectively, both qualifying for the county championships. This was Adam's first year racing cross country so it is a great way to round off the year for him. Shea G was another late recruit in order to help the team out and he had a good race against the year above to finish in 20th place.

The year 10-11 boys race was very close for the team prize with just 2 points difference in the team totals. Sadly we just missed out to a very strong Stretford Grammar School team. This was despite Thomas A and Liam O'B finishing in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Gabriel McG also placed in the top 8 which would normally be good enough to take the team prize, but with some of the year 11s competing mocks we were missing some of our stronger runners who would be up at the front of the race. Andrew K put on the Ambrose vest for the first time after running parkrun normally at the weekends, Isaac T also came to cross country trainings to improve his parkrun time and is now at a club. They show that you can take up running at any time during your life at school. They finished in 20th and 25 respectively.

The Senior boys race is always a small field, but perhaps never as small as it was on Tuesday. Ambrose were the only boys team in the race, meaning progression to the next round was guaranteed so long as the boys running finished...or started! Three of the team almost missed the start by doing a longer warm up and then being slow to put their spikes on! Thankfully, they just made it in time and used the race as a training run with some faster efforts after it. A necessary evil in order to gain entry for the county round for those hoping to run in the English Schools' finals. Gabor P, Andras P, Joe D and Ben H will all be hoping to be fit for the chance at doing just that at Heaton Park on the 3rd February.

Mr Aspinwall





MEMORIAL RUGBY MATCH

There are fantastic prizes to be won on the raffle, including copious bottles of alcohol, a Sale Sharks signed short and 2 Hospitality tickets to Sale Sharks.

If the boys would like to purchase a raffle ticket, they can see Mr Howarth in the PE Dept and pay by cash .

22/12/23

**12.00 kick off
@ Heywood Road**



**Memorial
Rugby
Match**



Heaton Moor

v



St Ambrose College

On the day raffle:

Top Prize: 2 Sale Sharks Hospitality Tickets

The match is fundraising for the charity Brake, which helps families that have lost loved ones in automotive accidents. Please scan the QR Code to donate.





YOUNG ENTERPRISE



St Ambrose Young enterprise



As part of the College's annual participation in the Young Enterprise Programme, this year's team have produced a high-quality **2024 Saint Ambrose College Calendar**, which contains relevant information such as term dates and key events. Each month has a subject-themed picture (all taken by the calendar team) with students across the year groups included. To make your calendar orders, please visit the link which has been sent out via email and complete the online form.



Link to order calendars:
<https://forms.gle/urjixf6fabJXDE2h7>



Additionally, the company have produced a limited edition **500ml Double Walled Metal Bottle engraved with Saint Ambrose logo**. Due to the success of the Christmas Fair we have very limited stock, with only around 40 bottles left. A separate email will be sent out to all parents on how to purchase one. Don't miss out!

OUR COMPANY

SCAM JAM

We are committed to dismantling scams and safeguarding trust in the digital realm. We strive to empower and protect our community through educating others against exploitation.

Our Story

As a responsible and ethical company, our primary goal is to contribute to the well-being of society by taking proactive measures to protect vulnerable individuals from falling victim to scams. We recognize the impact that scams can have on people, especially those who are more susceptible due to various factors such as age, lack of technological familiarity, or other vulnerabilities.

For any enquiries please contact:
18jackpunnoose@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Instagram:
[stambrose.ye](https://www.instagram.com/stambrose.ye)



STAMBROSE.YE



CORMAC H—STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people under the age of 35 in the UK, every year over 1800 young people took their own lives. POPYRUS is a national charity who provides confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person through their helpline, HOPELINE247.

Cormac wants to raise awareness to help all young people who deal with suicidal thoughts and will be running a 5k every day for the 25 days up to Christmas to raise money for POPYRUS. Cormac has created a Strava Challenge dedicated to this and encourage everyone to give it their best shot.

He says, "I think that young people have many stressful problems that they are very good at hiding to the naked eye, and especially with the need to have a perfect social media nowadays, it's even more of a problem that needs to be stopped.

I think that running is a great form of escapism, regardless of pace. It can be a place where you can clear your head, appreciate nature or the community, listen to your favourite music or even just get out of the house and feel accomplished about yourself. For me, it gives me purpose to my day and if I can raise money for a charity by doing it that's amazing. "

Every £5 raised can contribute towards a life-saving contact to HOPELINE247.

If you would like to donate to Cormac's JustGiving page, the link is https://www.justgiving.com/page/5k-advent-calendar?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2F5k-advent-calendar&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Updates will be posed on Cormac's Instagram page: **@cormachogan**





CHRISTMAS LUNCH



TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Tickets must be purchased in advance for the Christmas Lunch

Tickets can be purchased from all tills at break/lunchtimes from Monday 4th December

Last day to buy is WEDNESDAY 13th December

Only £3.50 (Price held from last year)

Turkey with all the trimmings, festive dessert & a drink

Or

Mac & Cheese festive bites with French fries

Merry Christmas !





CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Christmas Jumper Day

@ St Ambrose



Tuesday 19th December

(also Christmas Dinner Day!!)



Save the Children
FUNDRAISER

Suggested
donation

£2



STUDENT SUCCESS



Congrats to Oscar P (Y10), Andrew S (Y9), Jude E (Y9) and Logan M (Y9)



Who were all part of the City of Manchester team that regained the U15 National Age Group Championship title last weekend.

The cup was help by London, but the Manchester side were unbeaten in the competition and were crowned champions after a tense 5-4 final v Watford.



CAREERS—Upcoming Events

Friday 1st March 2024 (all day)

Careers & Future Pathways Fair

We are excited to host a careers fair during this evening, where we aim to bring together a diverse range of employers from various industries. This event will provide an excellent platform for our students to gain insights into different career paths and connect with professionals.

Monday 17th June – Friday 21st June 2024

Work Experience for Year 12

During this week, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to participate in a work experience program. Students are encouraged to organise their own placements at workplaces of their interest. **We strongly recommend that students begin making inquiries and arrangements for work experience as early as possible to ensure a valuable and enriching experience.**

If you or any contacts you may have are interested in being a delegate and presenting at our careers & Future Pathways Fair, we would be delighted to welcome new employers. Please reach out to us at the contact address provided below.

We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

Kind regards,
Mr. Gunning and the Careers Team



LIFEGUARD COURSE



**LIFESAVERS
DIRECT**
Royal Life Saving Society



RLSS

NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD QUALIFICATION

Venue: St Ambrose College 2024

Cost £270

(NOTE For St Ambrose students only)



Monday 12th February
Tuesday 13th February
Wednesday 14th February
Thursday 15th February
Friday 16th February
Time 8.30am till 5.30pm
100% attendance required on all days
Candidates must be over 16.

For booking and more information contact Trafford Training on:

Fiona.buckley@traffordleisure.co.uk

training@traffordleisure.co.uk

Please see Mrs Chandler with any questions

more people. more active. more often.
www.traffordleisure.co.uk





SUPPORT OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

As much as we are all looking forward to the break over Christmas, and being able to spend quality time with our friends and family, we want to be able to welcome all of our happy and healthy students back in January.

The school holidays are a time for your son(s) to take a break from their daily routine and spend it with families and friends. Your son will likely want to take the opportunity to explore his independence and freedom. Whilst this is absolutely part of your son growing up, it is still important to remind them of some key safety messages, such as:

- Stay in groups where you can
- Don't approach strangers
- Be careful around train/tram lines
- Do not light fires or fireworks
- Wrap up warm
- Stay away from icy lakes/ rivers/ canals
- Wear hi-vis clothing, a helmet and having lights if cycling anywhere
- Make sure mobile phones are charged and they tell you what their plans are
- If someone makes them feel unsafe, go to a shop or restaurant and tell an adult what has happened

The Christmas holidays can also be a difficult time for some. As our staff take a well-earned break, they will not be available to offer the same support they could during term time. However, there are plenty other organisations out there

that can help:

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://www.samaritans.org/> or call **116 123**

<https://www.thecalmzone.net/> or call **0800 58 58 58**

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> or call **0800 1111**

If there is an urgent matter relating to someone's immediate safety, please contact **999** or for further support relating to other matters of well-being please refer to your local authority support services:

[Trafford Directory of Services](#)

[Greater Manchester Directory of Support](#)

[Salford](#)

[Warrington:](#)

[Cheshire East:](#)

[Stockport:](#)

[Cheshire West and Chester](#)

We wish you all a happy and restful break over the Christmas period and look forward to welcoming you all back on 8th January 2024.

The Pastoral Support Team



General Notices

ATTENDANCE

The School Day

Please can we remind all students to ensure they are on-site by 08:55, all boys should be in their form rooms at 09:00 for registration.

All students should enter the building using the student entrance **not** Main Reception (this is only for late arrivals). Students who have two or more late marks in one week will receive an after-school detention.

Parents/Carers – please do not use the College car park as a drop-off point at the beginning or end of the day. This is for the safety of our students.

For further guidance please refer to our Attendance Policy available on the website: [St Ambrose College \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

Medical Appointments

If your son has a medical appointment please try and make them after school or if not as close to the end of the school day as possible. Please give advance notice of appointments in writing attaching copies of medical letters/appointment cards and email them to attendance@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

PASTORAL/WELL-BEING ISSUES

Please contact your son's form tutor in the first instance and they will resolve or pass on as required. For urgent matters relating to safeguarding or pastoral care, please contact Mr Groves, our Designated Safeguarding Lead: mrpgroves@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

ONLINE SAFETY

Students' online safety is important to us. We encourage parents to visit our website for advice and guidance [Saint Ambrose College - Online Safety \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

Useful resources can also be found by visiting:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx>

More general advice and information about the latest apps is available from Net Aware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>