SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST

JPSA

John Port Spencer Academy

Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026

Read for Good

Dear Parents/Carers

Students in Years 7–9 will be taking part in the Readathon Challenge, an initiative run in partnership with Read for Good. The programme encourages students to read widely for pleasure while raising funds to provide new books and professional storyteller visits for children in hospital. As highlighted in the Readathon materials, “good books are as important as good doctors when you are in hospital”, reflecting the significant emotional and educational support reading can offer.

Students may choose any form of reading - fiction, non-fiction, comics, newspapers, or even recipes—and can be sponsored per page, per book, or for time spent reading. All funds raised contribute directly to improving the hospital experience for young patients, and in addition, our school will receive book vouchers worth 20% of the total raised, enabling us to further enhance our own library resources.

To recognise students’ efforts, anyone who raises sponsorship will be entered into an Prize raffle, and those who raise the highest amounts will receive additional rewards.

We are grateful for your support in encouraging your child to participate, explore new reading interests, and contribute to a cause that brings comfort and joy to children facing difficult circumstances.

Our student Poppy is also taking part in her own Readathon to raise money for a charity close to her heart, read more on this and the Read for Good challenge in this newsletter.

This is a great time for students to visit our wonderful library, students are welcome before and after school, during break times and at lunchtimess to borrow books and read with friends.

Miss O’Leary
Principal



Joy Progress Success Act with care, kindness, respect and integrity

Key Dates

Term Dates:

Half Term 5 - 13th April 2026 - 22nd May 2026

Half Term 6 - 1st June 2026 - 23rd July 2026

INSET Days:

26th June 2026

April/May:

Summer Exams ~ 7th May - 17th June

School Events:

Wednesday 29th April	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday 1st May - 3rd May	London Sports Residential Trip
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Year 13 Prom
Wednesday 13th May	Mamma Mia Theatre Visit
Thursday 21st May	Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Day - Year 12
Friday 22nd May	Students break up for Half Term
Monday 1st June	Students return
Tuesday 9th June	Junior Kangaroo (Maths Challenge)
Tuesday 9th June	Mathematical Olympiad
Tuesday 16th June	Year 12 Geography Field Trip (Birmingham)
Wednesday 17th June	Sheffield Hallam University - Sport Conference Trip
Wednesday 17th June	Mind Charity Concert

Save the Date:

Thursday 25th June	Online Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening
30th June & 1st July	Year 6 Transition Days
6th and 7th July	Sixth Form Taster Days



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JPSA Transition



Joy

JPSA Library

All students welcome!

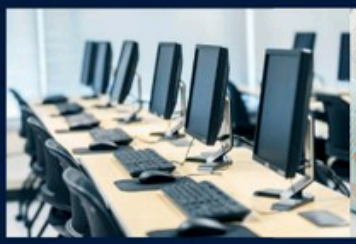


Students are welcome to access the library before and after school, during break times, and at lunchtimes.
The library offers opportunities to complete homework, use computers, borrow books, read with friends, and take part in activities such as jigsaw puzzles.

Opening Times:

Monday: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Wednesday: 8.00am - 4.15pm
Thursday: 8.00am - 4.15pm
Friday: 8.00am - 3.30pm

Visit Our Library Website:





After School Library Clubs:

Tuesday: Homework Club led by Miss Russell
Wednesday: Reading Club led by Mrs Smith and Mrs Martin

More library clubs coming soon!



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Progress



Read for Good

Readathon Challenge 2026!

Year 7-9

‘Motivating kids to read’

What is Read for Good’s sponsored read?

- It’s a fun activity to get the whole class / school reading…
- …that gives books to children in hospital
- AND it raises money for more books for our school



Progress

What do you do in a sponsored read?

- You ask friends and family to sponsor you for reading as much as you can in the time given.
- You can choose whatever you like to read - stories, comics, non-fiction, newspapers, recipes, even an instruction manual - anything goes!
- Get sponsored per page, per chapter, per book or for every ten minutes you spend reading.



How do I get sponsored?

- List what you plan to read (remember all reading is good reading!)
- Ask friends and family to sponsor you - per page, per book, per ten minutes, whatever suits you.
- It's really easy for sponsors to pay online at Readathon - Sponsor a pupil- and means you don't have to worry about handing money in to school.
- If they can't sponsor you online, you can give you cash or a cheque to take into school.



Remember, never ask strangers to sponsor you.

Progress

What is the money used for?



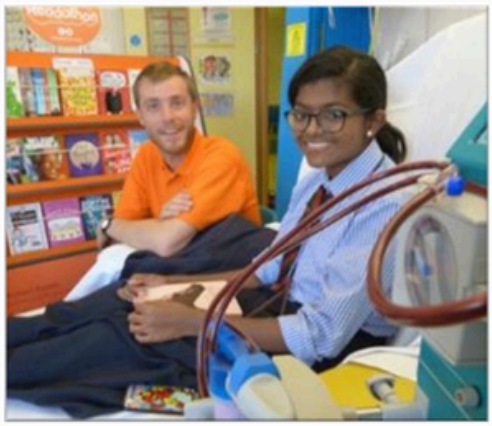
- The money you raise helps to buy brand new books and storyteller visits for children in hospital.



- Books and stories cheer kids up, relieve the boredom and help children in hospital to feel a bit better.

How do books and storytellers help kids in hospital?







"Good books are as important as good doctors when you are in hospital. One makes your body better and the other your soul."

Adam (age 13), Leeds General Hospital



How does a sponsored read help our school?



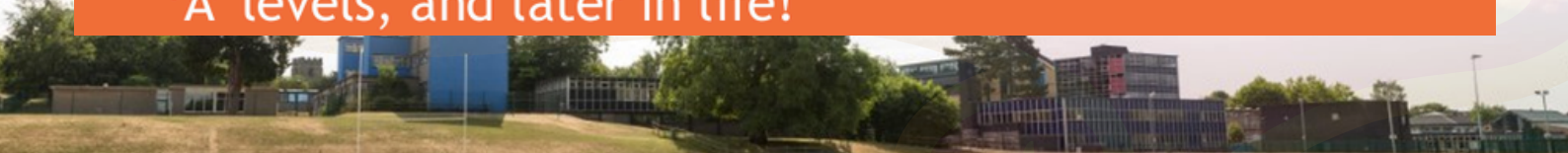
- Schools who run Readathon every year get better results.
- And our school will get to choose free books vouchers worth 20% of the money we raise!

What's in it for me???



- I can try different books, authors, types of reading to find out what I like the most.
- It feels good to help seriously ill children.
- My school will get free books!
- Kids who choose to read for fun are more likely to do well at school, in their GCSEs and 'A' levels, and later in life!

AND IT'S FUN!



I'm in – what next?



- Choose what you would most like to read. Remember - anything counts!
- Try to read as often as you can!
- Encourage friends to get involved.
- Remember the money you raise will be helping lots of children in hospital!



Each student who raises any amount of money on their sponsorship card will be entered into the raffle to win an Easter Egg!

- Read
- Receive donations
- Show your English teacher your donation(s) once received
- They will put your name on a raffle ticket in the English Staffroom

Win an Easter Egg!



Each student from year 7, 8, and 9 who raises any amount of money on their sponsorship card will be entered into the raffle to win an Easter Egg! One student from each year group will be drawn out at random to win.

Deadline- Tues 5th May (after Bank Hol)



1. Read
2. Receive donations from friends/family
3. Show your English teacher (Or Miss Boulton your donation(s) once received by no later than Tues 5th May
4. They will put your name on a raffle ticket in the English Staffroom

Who can read the most?



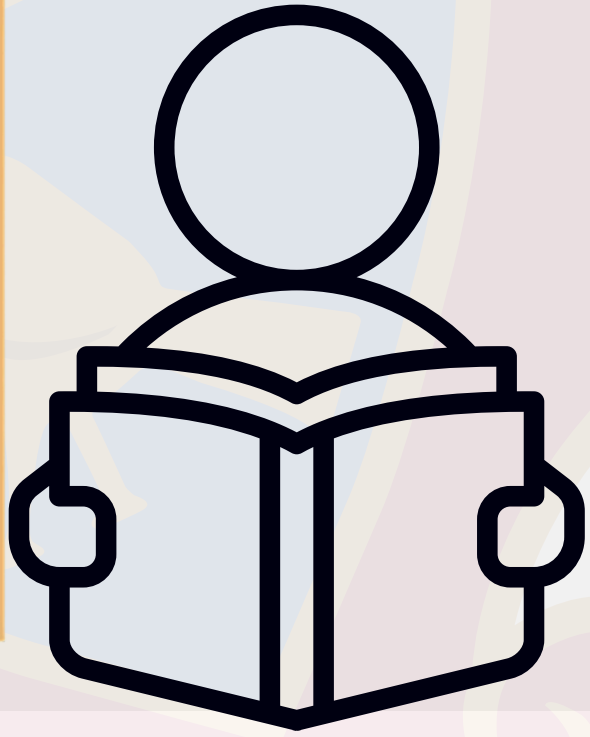
We're looking for as many students from each year group to get involved!

The students who raise the most will receive:

- A golden reader badge
- A free book
- A Platinum ticket
- shoutout in the Newsletter.









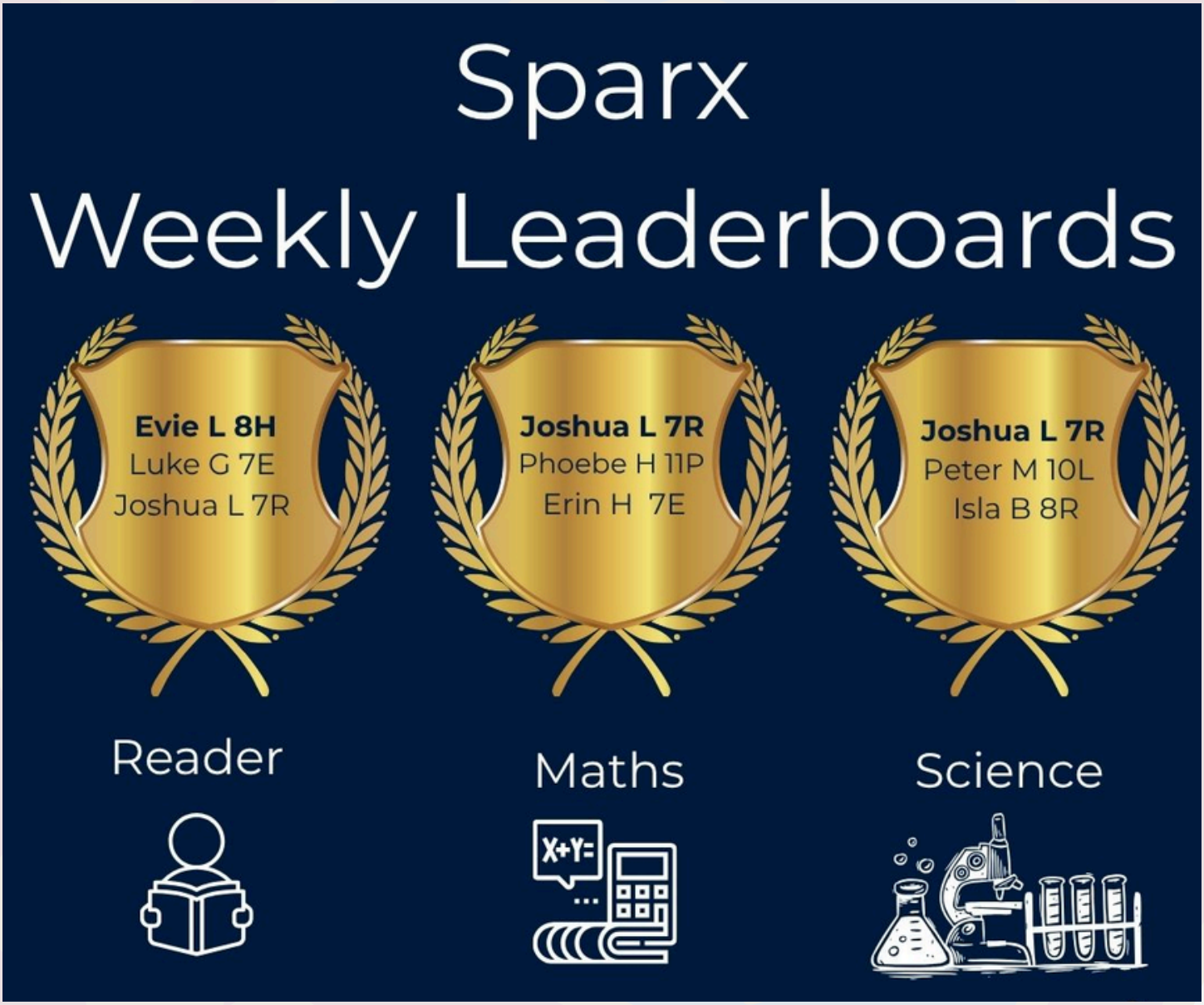
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Progress



SPARX LEADERBOARDS

Well done to our current leaders!





Success

Charity Match Successfully Raises Funds for Prom

This week Year 11 organised and hosted a fundraising Football Tournament between Year 10 and 11. The event was a huge success and raised money towards the Year 11 Prom. Seven teams took part and put on some great games for the spectators! Mrs Orr and Mrs Humphrey want to thank all who were involved and attended. A special mention goes to Logan Wildsmith for organising all of the teams and advertising the event.

Winning Team -



Back Row (L-R) Daniyal, Josh, Ricardo, Juv, Oscar, Jamie
Front Row (L-R) Oliver, Zia, Salvio, Freddie

Success



Year 10 Food Technology

Our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to the summer term. Last week they made Fraisier Cake - making a Genoise Sponge and then demonstrated an array of different decorative techniques.



Success



Key Stage 3 Food Technology

Our Key Stage 3 students have made an impressive start to the summer term. Our Year 9 students have made some lovely Quiches - making their own shortcrust pastry and then learning all about the process of coagulation. Our Year 8 students made beautiful Calzones - making their own bread dough and demonstrating some lovely crimping.



Act

with care, kindness, respect and integrity

24 Hour Readathon to raise money for Kleefstra Syndrome UK

Hi my name is Poppy and I am doing a 24 hour readathon, spread over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of May, in order to raise money for Kleefstra Syndrome UK.

Scan the QR code to donate to my GoFundMe!

Kleefstra syndrome (Ks) is a rare genetic disorder characterised by intellectual disability, often accompanied by a spectrum of complex physical and clinical features. The predominant cause of Ks is a tiny piece missing (known as a deletion) from near the end of chromosome 9. My friend Flo has Kleefstra so I would like to do all that I can to help her and other families affected by the syndrome.

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Attendance Matters



WHY YOUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!!

Students with GREEN attendance rating (97% or higher) achieved 1 ½ grades higher in each of their GCSEs than students with a RED attendance rating (below 90%). The results are similar at A Level.

Unlock Rewards

Red	< 90%
Red Amber	90 - 93%
Amber	94 - 95.9%
Amber Green	96 - 96.9%
Green	97+ %



Attendance postcard rewarded every half term

Feel Good Friday

Weekly mentions as part of Feel Good Friday

DID YOU KNOW?



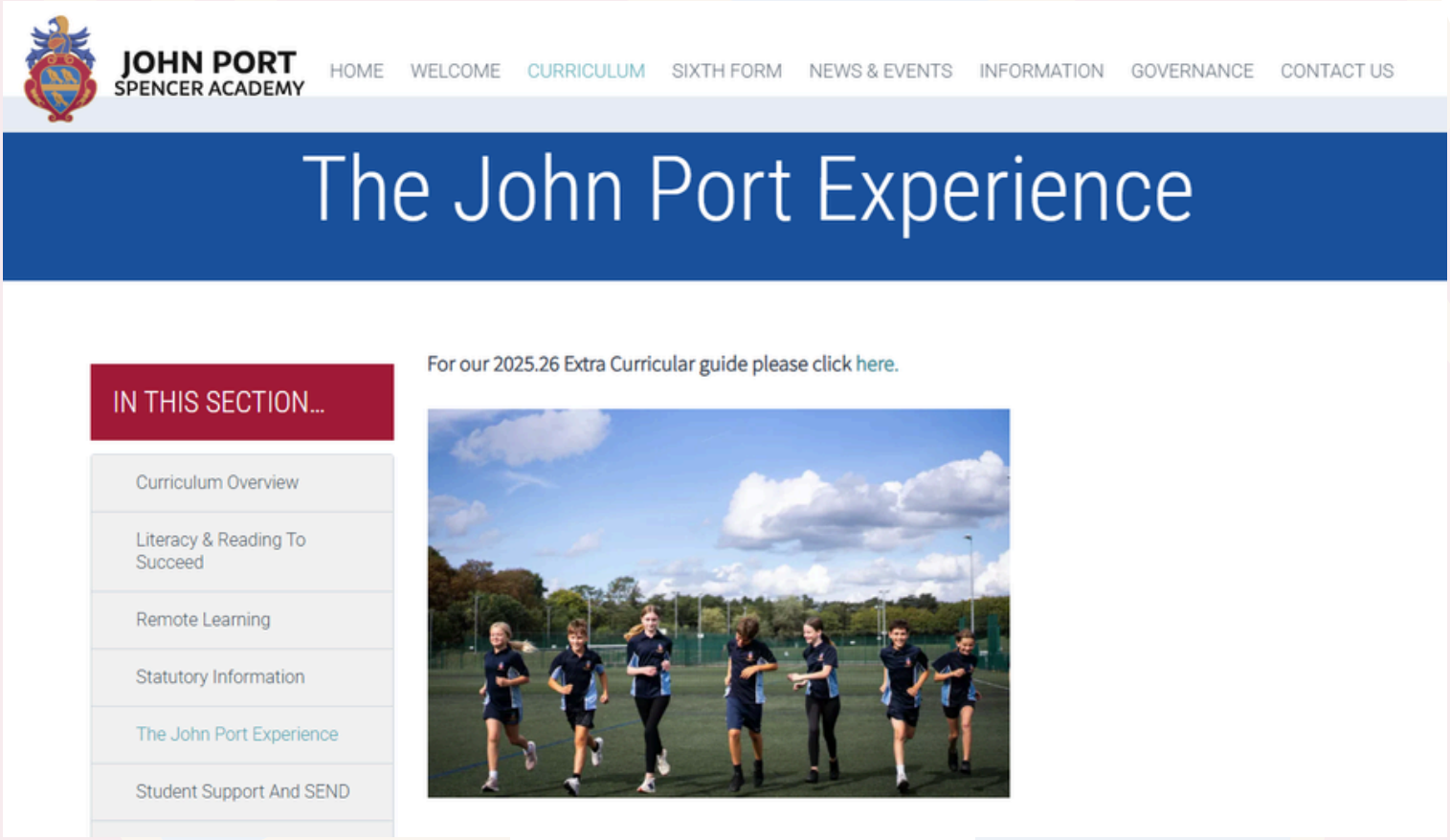
Poor attendance could lead to you earning around **£10,000** less by the time you're 28 compared to someone who shows up to school almost every day.

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The John Port Experience

Our Extra Curricular Timetable for this half term is available here:

https://johnportspencer.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/JPSA-EXTRA-CURRICULAR-BOOKLET-TERM-5-25.26.pdf



The John Port Community

1:1 Meetings

We are delighted to invite you to one to one meetings with Miss O'Leary, Principal

Tuesdays

From 3.00pm

We are committed to working together with families to ensure every child thrives in our care and open communication is key to addressing any concerns or challenges affecting your child's education and wellbeing.

Appointments are available every Tuesday after school to discuss any issues, ideas, or concerns you may have. These sessions are an opportunity for us to work collaboratively to support your child's success and happiness at school. Whether you wish to talk about academic progress, social or emotional wellbeing, or share suggestions. Your insights as parents are invaluable, and I want to ensure that every child has the best possible experience at our school.



To book an appointment please email:

lsmith@johnportspencer.org.uk

John Port Spencer Academy



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech - related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes' explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.

National Online Safety®

Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they woke up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged **3-4** go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged **5-7** go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged **8-11** go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged **12-15** go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2016

SOURCES:
https://www.independent.co.uk/.../children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2016 https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/.../how-app-developers-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones, Journal of Youth Studies.
https://www.theguardian.com/.../how-does-screen-time-affect-children-s-sleep-research, University of Leeds https://mailchi.mp/.../the-lack-of-sleep-damaging-for-children

What's On in the Local Area

Try Rugby for FREE with Ashby RFC!

Looking for a new challenge? Want to be part of something bigger? This is your moment. Join Ashby RFC's Young Bulls and experience rugby in a fun, supportive, and competitive environment.



- Year 9 (U14 focus – moving into Year 10)
- No experience needed.
- **Free** for the rest of the season + summer
- Top-level coaching & guaranteed game time
- Strength, conditioning & team events

Training:
• Thursdays: 6:00pm–7:30pm
• Sundays: 11:00am–12:30pm

Bring a friend, give it a go, and see what rugby is all about!

Spaces are **limited** – register your interest now: dyl1740@hotmail.co.uk.





ASHBY R.F.C.
THE BULLOCKS

What's On in the Local Area

The Junior County Hockey season for 2026–27 begins in June 2026. To support player development ahead of the season, **Derbyshire Hockey Association** will be offering a programme of Development Coaching (DC) and Strength & Conditioning (S&C) sessions throughout the summer.

Who can take part

The programme is open to all players in the following age groups (based on school year in September 2026):

U13: Years 6–8 (born 01 Sep 2013 – 31 Aug 2016)
U14: Year 9 (born 01 Sep 2012 – 31 Aug 2013)
U15: Year 10 (born 01 Sep 2011 – 31 Aug 2012)
U16: Year 11 (born 01 Sep 2010 – 31 Aug 2011)
U17: Year 12 (born 01 Sep 2009 – 31 Aug 2010)



Development Coaching (DC)

A total of 14 hours of coaching will be delivered at The Ellis Astro, Shobnall Leisure Complex across July, August and early September.

U13 sessions: Tuesdays
U14–U17 sessions: Thursdays

Sessions include both evening (1.5 hours) and daytime (4 hours) formats.

There is no selection or nomination required—players of all abilities are encouraged to attend although places are limited due to capacity. Coaches will provide feedback during sessions, and attendance may lead to selection for the County Academy in September.

Summer Coaching 2026 - Derbyshire County Hockey

Strength & Conditioning (S&C)

These sessions will also take place at The Ellis Astro on selected Sundays (June–August), from 9:30–10:30am, and are designed specifically for hockey players.

Costs

DC evening sessions: £10
DC day sessions: £40
All DC sessions: £100 (discounted rate)
S&C sessions: £10 per session

Registration

All players must be registered on the Derbyshire Talent Platform:

www.derbyshirecountyhockey.talentplatform.hockey

New players must complete registration before attending. Existing players should log in and ensure all required profile details (including medical and emergency contact information) are up to date.

Additional Information

Sessions are led by experienced coaches following England Hockey's development framework
Players should bring standard hockey kit (stick, shin pads, gum shield, water, etc.)
Payment for sessions must be made in advance via BACS (details available upon registration and on website)

This programme is an excellent opportunity for young players to develop their skills in a structured and supportive environment ahead of the upcoming season.

Safeguarding



Our latest Safeguarding Parent Newsletter is available here:

JPSA Parent/Carer Safeguarding Newsletter



Who to Contact

General Enquiries - info@johnportspencer.org.uk
Sixth Form Enquiries/Attendance - Sixthform@johnportspencer.org.uk
Reporting Absences - Attendance@johnportspencer.org.uk
Arbor Enquiries - arbor@johnportspencer.org.uk
Safeguarding - safeguarding@johnportspencer.org.uk



Principal:
Miss O'Leary - HT@johnportspencer.org.uk
Leadership Team - Please see our website



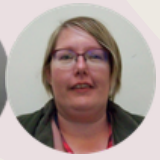
Year 7:
Mr Collier - NCollier@johnportspencer.org.uk
Miss Spray - TSpray@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 8:
Miss Perry - HPerry@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mr Gaynor - CGaynor@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 9:
Mr Bray - LBray@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Dare - TDare@johnportspencer.org.uk

Year 10:
Miss Woodward - DWoodward@johnportspencer.org.uk
Ms Askin - LAskin@johnportspencer.org.uk




Year 11:
Mrs Orr - LOrr@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Humphrey - SHumphrey@johnportspencer.org.uk




Sixth Form:
Mr Barker - GBarker@johnportspencer.org.uk
Mrs Lowndes - RLowndes@johnportspencer.org.uk

SPENCER
ACADEMIES TRUST

John Port Spencer Academy
Main Street
Etwall
Derbyshire
DE65 6LU

01283 291018
info@johnportspencer.org.uk
www.johnportspencer.org.uk