



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

WC: 10/10/22

Dear Parents/Carers,

At NUSA this week:

A group of students in KS4 went to watch the 'Shawshank Redemption' at the Curve Theatre in Leicester on Wednesday. They really enjoyed the show and were amazing representatives of NUSA.

Our NUSA16 students visited the University of Nottingham yesterday to experience what life will be like at University. They really enjoyed the trip and once again, were excellent representatives of the school.

The Year 11 Boys basketball team won Gold in the City Schools Basketball tournament. A huge 'Well done' to them!

We had some visitors from our Trust central team this week and they were really impressed with how the students conduct themselves so well in lessons and how keen they are to learn. We are really proud of them.

Coming up at NUSA:

Next week we will be sharing the presentations from our student council applicants. The voting will take place in school on **Thursday 20th October.**

We break up for October half term on **Friday 21st October 2022 at 3pm.** We will return to school on **Monday 31st October 2022.**

Attendance:

Last week I mentioned that where a child has 19 days absent, they are then classified as 'Persistently absent'. We want to support parents where attendance is an issue, and as a result, will be sending letters out to individual parents next week to identify the next steps we will be taking to support attendance for all children.

The GSA:

As part of our efforts at NUSA to ensure our school environment is a place where every child can realise their potential, we will be forming a pupil led GSA (Gender -Sexuality Alliance) which will take place fortnightly after school on a Wednesday.

What is a GSA?

GSA's play an important role in promoting safer schools and creating more welcoming learning environments. In part these groups are set up to combat bullying and harassment of LGBTQ+ students and to promote understanding and respect in the school community. Although the efforts of these groups focus primarily on the needs of LGBTQ+ students, students who have LGBTQ+ family members and friends, and students who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, messages of respect, tolerance, and inclusion benefit all our students. By encouraging dialogue and providing supportive resources, these groups can help make schools safe and affirming environments for everyone.

Why do we need to champion a GSA at NUSA?

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBTQ+ young people with reports of significantly higher levels of mental health problems including depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicidal thoughts. This has a potentially life-long impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing. Alongside NUSA's anti-bullying and safeguarding policies, forming an alliance such as this is an important way of actively supporting LGBTQ+ young people in our school, and demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school

environment where every young person can be themselves and thrive. It is also another excellent opportunity for our students to understand the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for.

Who can join the GSA and what happens there?

All students are welcome! GSA's are not just for LGBTQ+ young people. They are a great way for allies to get involved.

As previously mentioned this will be pupil led and as such they will decide the agenda, however some possible activities could include:

- o Discussion and debate on issues that affect LGBTQ+ young people to build awareness and understanding
- o Preparing and promotion of upcoming LGBTQ+ events
- o Discussion of books, movies & movements in the LGBTQ+ arena
- o Design and maintenance for LGBTQ+ notice boards in School

Our students are engaged and excited to get the group up and running. The first session will take place on **Wednesday 9th November**.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email contact@nusa.org.uk

Safeguarding corner:

What Parents Need to Know about FIFA 23

You don't have to be football crazy or an avid gamer to have heard of the all-conquering FIFA franchise. What you might *not* know is that this latest edition will be the last release to bear that name, thanks to a parting of the ways between football's governing body FIFA (that's Federation Internationale de Football Association, acronym fans) and developers EA Sports.

There's no disputing that the game's been an immense success – but what's less impressive is its tendency to look defensively shaky against some online threats. Young players aiming to recreate their football heroes' exploits can be at risk from abusive opponents, expensive in-game purchases and the “just one more game” mentality

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

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

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

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

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

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

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

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

ADDICTIVE NATURE

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

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

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

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

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

CONTROL SPENDING

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

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

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

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

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

Have a lovely weekend,
Emma Howard