

# BARCLAY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th November 2022



Dear Parents

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been the usual busy week at Barclay Academy with lots going on! Today's non-uniform day went very well and now we have to count up all the money to go to Children in Need.



Thank you for the positive feedback regarding our decision to allow the students to watch the England game on Monday afternoon. As you know, I always think that it is important that we mark these occasions and ensure that our students do not miss out. As I said in my letter, those students who do not want to watch the football will have other activities on that afternoon.



I was very proud of our students last weekend at the Remembrance Sunday service in the Old Town. Our students looked the smartest and the Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy all did us proud by laying the wreath on behalf of the school.

It has been Anti-bullying week this week and I would like to thank all the Heads of Year for delivering assemblies to their year groups on this important topic. Thanks to all the work that we have done at school, including your support with accessing the resources, Barclay Academy has once again become a National Online Safety accredited school.

I was very pleased to see that our Year 12 English students went on a trip to The Globe Theatre in London to take part in a workshop on Shakespeare's Othello. As you know, I think that trips are extremely important and I know that there are lots more planned for after Christmas.

Well done to the Year 7 Girls' football team who played extremely well against the other secondary schools in our Trust. They won two games and drew on the other. Well done!

As always, please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any queries or concerns.

Have a lovely weekend! Best wishes,

**Dr Matthew Laban**  
Principal

**Knowledge | Aspiration | Respect**

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need with the non-school uniform donations and cake sale. Over £550 was raised for this worthwhile cause.



## Y12 ENGLISH TO THE GLOBE

On Monday, we took the year 12 and 13 English literature students to Shakespeare's Globe. Pupils have been studying the tragedy Othello and envisioning how it would've been performed on stage is a crucial part of their course. Students enjoyed a tour of the theatre and a workshop on the dramatization of the play. Pupils had the opportunity to stand on the stage, visit backstage and engage in performance tasks with one of theatre's own actors. They will be able to embed their new knowledge in their studies of the final two acts of the play.



## SPORTS

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During the week, our Year 7 Girls Football Team had taken part in football tournament against the trust's academies in Hertfordshire. We are pleased to share that they had won their tournament by beating Laurette Academy 7-0, beating The Grange Academy 2-0 and drawing 0-0 with Future Academies Watford. Ava, Brooke, Lucie and Maycie-Angel were the goal scorers. Mr Dawe was really impressed with the team's high press and support play. We are very proud of them.

The Year 7 Basketball Team played their first basketball game of the season against Knight Templar School. They had fell just short after a really strong first and third quarter. The game ended with a 33-25 loss. The team had shown had many positives and are looking to bounce back. Player of the match was awarded to Owen for performing several excellent layups, providing good leadership and perseverance to support his teammates.

## CAREERS

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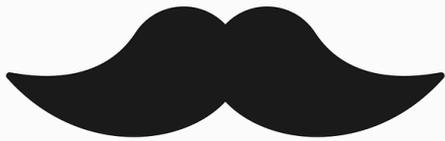


Year 9 have had fun this week working interactively at our Careers & GCSE Options Workshops. All of the students enjoyed logging on to their new Unifrog accounts working interactively to research what jobs they may like to do. In addition, students researched GCSE subjects and what careers could link to each subject. Feedback from students was great! They are keen to do more sessions in the build up to choosing the subjects they will study for GCSE.



Year 12 students on Friday visited University of Hertfordshire to have a tour of the campus, meet current undergraduates and lecturers and take part in workshops for a taste of university of life. Congratulations to Dylan T for winning the photograph competition.





# MOVEMBER

There are many documentaries which give information, guidance and support surrounding mental health. Here are just a few that can be found on BBC I-Player.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p078jr43>

## **Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency**

Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency is a deeply personal and candid film following Roman as he explores the mental health and suicide crisis affecting young men in the UK.



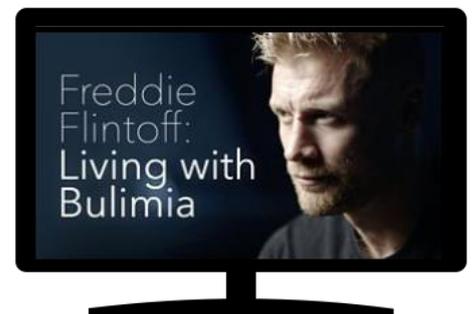
## **Ugly Me: My life with body dysmorphia**

Documentary exploring body dysmorphic disorder, a condition which causes people to believe they are extremely ugly. The film follows 29-year-old Liane and her boyfriend Mitch over a year as Liane starts therapy to try and conquer this crippling condition.



## **Freddie Flintoff: Living with Bulimia**

In this powerful and unflinching documentary, Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff goes on an acutely personal journey into the eating disorder he has kept secret for over 20 years – bulimia.



## **The Instagram Effect**

In just ten years, Instagram has gained over a billion users worldwide, shaping culture, trends and the way we live our lives. But its impact on society is increasingly being questioned as governments step up efforts to regulate social media networks.

## **The Student Mental Health Crisis**

Much like the rest of the UK, universities across the country were forced into lockdown. But on returning, millions of students have been met with a university experience they never could have anticipated. A BBC investigation has found that during the first lockdown over March through to May there were at least 10 suspected student suicides at UK universities.





Next week is 'Just Talk' week and the theme this year is 'Look Beneath the Surface' there will be resources shared and continued reflection on our ongoing campaign to support students' wellbeing. Below is an opportunity for parents:

#### **Parent/Carer Workshop: Managing Conflict for Children/Young People**

**Thursday 24 November 2022 - lunchtime and evening sessions available:**

As part of Just TalkWeek, Watford FC CSE Trust are providing two Positive Minds; Parent/Carer workshops on Thursday 24 November at 12:30pm and 6pm.

The free workshops will focus on *Managing Conflict with Children and Young People*, inclusive of top tips to aid parents/carers with their approach, guidance to support through the key steps to effectively communicate, as well as providing take home resources, to support around conflict with their child/young person.

#### **Book here:**

[Parent workshop: Managing conflict for Children/ Young People Tickets, Thu 24 Nov 2022 at 12:30pm | Eventbrite](#)

[Parent workshop: Managing conflict for Children/ Young People \(Evening\) Tickets, Thu 24 Nov 2022 at 6pm | Eventbrite](#)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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**Monday 21<sup>th</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November** – Y11 Virtual Mock Interviews

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Y13 Virtual Mock Interviews

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** 10.00am – 11.00am– SEND Coffee Morning

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Last Day of Term

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

AGE RATING  
**PEGI 18**

The Call of Duty (CoD) series is a worldwide gaming phenomenon, with millions of copies sold every year. While 2021's release, Vanguard, wasn't quite as well received, this latest entry – Modern Warfare II – has so far proved a massive commercial success. A sequel to the recent Modern Warfare reboot (and not to be confused with the original Modern Warfare 2, from back in 2009), the game is an online shooter which features – unsurprisingly – extreme violence, rendered in realistic graphics. Amid the explosions and political nature of the plot, there's much for parents to be aware of.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, Modern Warfare II carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter – according to PEGI's wording – depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

### OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on Modern Warfare II in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against – or cooperating with – strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Modern Warfare II follows the 'battle pass' model of games like Fortnite. For a fee – usually around £10 – each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

### POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history"; failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

### AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multiplayer mode in Call of Duty titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of any age to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, Call of Duty games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous Modern Warfare featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With Modern Warfare II offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

### CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays Modern Warfare II. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. Call of Duty fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending – and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance – and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

### TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays Modern Warfare II in multiplayer, you could try out the Spec Ops mode with them – formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



**NOS**  
National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://pegi.info/what-do-the-labels-mean/> | <https://www.usgamer.biz/call-of-duty-modern-warfare-accused-of-rewriting-history-to-blame-russia-for-combats-walk-of-shame/>