



# Manor Green College

'Opportunity and Success For All'

## Message from Mr. Robson



So it's finally arrived and I'm writing to you for the last time as Head Teacher of Manor Green College. I've enjoyed every moment of my 8 years here not least because it has been a privilege and an inspiration to meet you and your children.

I'm acutely aware that I have the option of retiring when I get to a point of exhaustion but that you don't, and have to continue being responsible no matter how tired and drained you feel. I hope that, at the very least, I have been able to run a school that provided one less thing for you to worry about, where you can be confident that your child is safe and will develop and thrive due to the great staff team who work here.

I'm going to miss you all terribly as I have lived and breathed the College 24/7 for most of the 8 years that I have been here, and although there are a stack of things I'm hoping to do, I'm not sure yet exactly how I will fill the hole where Manor Green College used to be. But that's my problem.

The much more important thing is that Manor Green College will open again in September and continue to do what we have been doing for years - daring to dream of what your wonderful children can achieve ready for when the time comes, as it does for all of us, to leave behind a place that will live in our hearts forever.

And with all my heart, I wish you and your children health and happiness in the future.



In the same theme of time to move on, Shelley Eckersley is leaving the college having been the Head of the Further Education Department for 8 years.

You will not all know Shelley, as students do not tend to meet her unless they are staying on at the College Post 16, but she has worked here at Manor Green College since it first opened and her experience, student centred attitude, and commitment to both the College and our families have made her an invaluable member of the senior team. She will be missed and on behalf of everyone here I wish her every success in the future.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

6th September  
Students return to college

21 September  
Jeans for Genes

25 & 26 September  
Big Pedal

28 September  
Macmillan Coffee Morning

12 October  
INSET Day

18 October  
Next Steps Evening

22—26 October  
Half Term Holiday

12 December  
Winter Lights Festival

19 December  
College Christmas Lunch &  
last day of term

20 December - 2 January  
Christmas Holiday

3 January  
Students return to college



# KS5 ACTIVITY WEEK





# KS4 ACTIVITY WEEK



From the 18th - 22th June KS4 had their awesome activity week. Students took part in a variety of activities including a trip to Brighton, a bike ride and swim at K2, a ramble round Ifield, designing a shoe, a Who Wants to be a Millionaire quiz, basketball, a trip to Tilgate, a cookie bake off, a beauty therapy session, a trip to London to see Wicked, Minecraft missions, a trip to Polseden Lacey, a virtual reality afternoon, football, a trip to Chessington World of adventures, jewellery making, biking, afternoon tea and slime making. We finished our week by all going to Horsham for a day out. We had a fantastic time and all of the students tried new experiences, made new friends and surprised many of us with what they were willing to try. Students throughout the week had exemplary behaviour and were a delight where ever they went or in what activity they were doing. Charlie, Year 10 said 'I had such a fantastic week. I tried so many new things and had a great time with my friends and staff.' We would like to thank all the staff who helped make our week so successful.



# D OF E SILVER EXPEDITION

## Silver D of E Expedition—Manor Green College The Jurassic coast

This was our very first Silver D of E expedition with 6 of our students. We stopped overnight at Foxlease, a Girl Guide centre, to get us closer to our starting point on the Wednesday.

On day 1 we walked from where the chain ferry dropped us off at Studland Bay to Ulwell farm campsite and cleaned the beach of litter to complete our aim for that day.

On day 2 we walked from the campsite into Corfe and visited the castle. The aim this day was to explore the castle and learn about the history of it. The students all had activities to complete whilst there. They then walked on to Norden Farm Campsite to spend the night there.

On day 3 they went from the campsite, back up onto the hill and we met them at a designated car park to drive them down to Kimmeridge Bay where they did another beach clean.

We covered a total of 15 miles over the 3 days.

The route was perfect, as it was very varied and challenged them all in different ways. They had to cope with relationship difficulties, uneven ground which one student in particular finds very difficult, home sickness, very hot weather on the beach on day 1 and wet weather in the morning on day 2. It is not a group that would normally work together at school so it took a while for them all to bond. Two of the girls really didn't like each other to begin with but ended up being really good together as they found they had a lot in common. Another, on the practice expedition, really struggled with the change of routine but was really determined to make it work, and he did.



At Foxlease the night before the expedition



The group outside Corfe Castle



Meeting with their assessor, Sarah, along the beach on day one.



The group after learning they had passed their expedition at Kimmeridge Bay.



# D OF E BRONZE EXPEDITION



Ninja Warriors



The Butterflies

## D of E Bronze Expedition 5th & 6th July

The Bronze group coped extremely well with a very hot couple of days on their expedition. They used umbrellas for shade and each person had a squirty water bottle to help keep them cool. They all did extremely well considering the challenges they faced. They all passed their qualifier expedition and many of them want to go on to do their silver award next year.



Leaver's presentation evenings took place for those students in Years 11 and 14 who are leaving Manor Green College and going on to new colleges, placements and employment.

We are extremely proud of all of them and know they have very bright futures ahead of them.

Good Luck!

LEAVERS 2018

## COMMUNITY CHOIR

At the Manor Green Summer Fair on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, we had a performance of song and sign by the up and coming 'Manor Green Community Choir'. Their will be a weekly meet-up after school from the week after the October half term break, for six weeks leading to a performance at our annual Winter Lights Festival on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Students will be invited to attend with a member of their family or family friend, and it will include staff and even governors to make-up a true community choir! The signing will be Makaton, a great way to learn this language, and it means you don't even have to sing if you prefer not to. This will be a fantastic opportunity to practice a shared activity with your child and perform together. Watch this space for more news in the autumn.....

## ARMED FORCES DAY

In June we had a visit from creative organisation Samesky to help us make decorations and hand-held banners. 3SN, 3RW, 3KZ, 3MG and some FE students took part in these workshops and had fun creating images to celebrate the army, navy and air force, including the symbol of the dove to represent the peace-keeping activities of the army too. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Armed Forces Day, a procession with a piper and standard bearers kicked off the Crawley Festival, including the decorations our students made.





Sadly the time had come to retire the pond in our sensory garden. There was only one problem. Newts! Fortunately 3SN are experienced pond dippers and came to the rescue with net and bucket; they carefully fished out over 40 Smooth and Palmate newts and rehomed them safely in our main pond.



## COLLEGE FUNDRAISING NEWS FLASH

Manor Green College wanted to inform you all of our current fundraising project for a double width cycle track. So why do we need a double width cycle track? Those who need a companion to cycle with or for them rarely see anyone next to them. Thus, a double width track would enable our young people to have friends beside them to enjoy the experience meaning inclusivity for all.

The track could also be used for walking, running and other sporting events and facilitating community partnerships to work together. A portion of the money raised by the following events has been allocated to this project: The Winter Lights, the 12 Days of Christmas Raffle, the Reigate on Ice shed, the Easter Raffle, the Family Portrait event and Funday Sunday at Horsham Park.

Along with our fabulous friends of Manor Green Summer Fair, we have also been fortunate to receive grants and donations from Ifield Golf Club, Indefest (held at the Capitol Theatre Horsham), Barratt Homes and Nestle.

A number of site visits have taken place with charitable organisations such as The Freemasons and Hall and Woodhouse Brewery Charity Trust, who have received grant applications from the college to support the cycle track.

So far the pupils at Manor Green College and the cycle track project have benefitted from a whopping £10,120. Our bike track target is £35,000 so a huge thank you for all your hard work and support. We would welcome any offers of support from financial or practical support to fundraising ideas.

Coming up in the autumn term we are planning an after school Hallowe'en disc and a Bollywood night. Look out for more information in September!

We wish you all a lovely summer break.



# FISHING WITH MTSFC



The Masonic Fishing Charity, MTSFC, kindly invited a group of students to an interactive fishing day on Tuesday 10 July 2018 at Forest Springs Fishery in Hartfield. The weather was fine and a good time was had by everyone. All of the participants caught carp with one student catching nine of them!

A BIG thank you to MTSFC for a fantastic day!





# EDUCATING ROBSON



The Key Stage 4 Performing Arts group were proud to present 'Educating Robson'. A modern day tale of the life and struggles of being a head teacher at Manor Green College. Will Mr Robson learn how to listen? Will his students and staff listen to him?

'Educating Robson' was written and created by the Key Stage 4 Performing Arts group. Students created the play as a leaving gift for Mr Robson. Students have been preparing the performance for 6 weeks and have kept it a secret. Mr Robson had no idea what they were up too. The students surprised him on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June with a performance to governors, staff and his wife. He laughed, he cried, as did many of the staff.



## WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS

On 18th June students from MGC went over to ICC and took part in a World Cup Football tournament. Students across all year groups were organised into teams and played 5 games before finding out who played who in the knockout stages.

The students had loads of fun and enjoyed being watched by the rest of the college who were cheering on their favourite players. The eventual winners were England who beat Argentina 2-0 in the final. Well done to everyone who took part!



A number of students and staff also took part in an Xbox tournament. The matches were hard fought but the ultimate winner was Jacob, with a 5-0 win over Luke.



# BARRATT HOMES - BEAUFORT PLACE

## LOCAL HOUSEBUILDER WELCOMES MANOR GREEN COLLEGE PUPILS FOR SITE VISIT

On Tuesday 10th July pupils at Manor Green College were invited to attend a site visit at Barratt Homes Beaufort Place development in Crawley. The event was an informative experience for the pupils, aged between 11-17, who were able to learn about the workings of a building site, see building equipment in action and discover the range of careers available within construction.

Split into two groups, the pupils were able to walk around the development and see both completed houses and a construction site in progress. The Site Manager explained the planning process and architectural design involved with creating homes, leading to an interesting discussion surrounding the careers available on site.

The visit was also a cause for celebration, as Barratt Homes donated £500 towards a cycle track that Manor Green College are fundraising for.

Becky Killick, Support Staff at Manor Green College, says: "The visit was a great opportunity for our pupils to gain an insight into the process of housebuilding, from construction right to the finished product. It was also really encouraging to hear about the range of careers available in the construction industry, from bricklaying to interior design. We thank Barratt Homes for welcoming our pupils to the development, and also for their donation to our cycle track."

Lynnette St Quintin, Director of Sales and Marketing for Barratt Southern Counties, comments: "We thoroughly enjoyed welcoming Manor Green College pupils to Beaufort Place last week. It is important to educate pupils in the neighbouring community about housebuilding, and the safety surrounding building sites. We always aim to offer a rounded experience, so also provide useful insights to the careers available in the industry."

Barratt Homes is currently building Beaufort Place in Crawley, West Sussex. Currently available is a collection of two-bedroom apartments, with prices currently start at £257,995 for a ground floor apartment with two double bedrooms and two parking spaces. The development is located just a two minute walk from Manor Green College. To find out more about the homes at Beaufort Place, contact 0844 334 8430 or visit [www.barratthomes.co.uk](http://www.barratthomes.co.uk)





# WAKEHURST PLACE HAWTH ART EXHIBITION

From 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June we had our GCSE Art students and the FE art group exhibit their work at The Hawth. The private viewing was attended by our incoming head teacher Tom Smith and Crawley Mayor Cllr Carlos Castro. Lots of our parents, both current and former, attended and it was a wonderful evening for us all to celebrate and share the immense talent of our students here at Manor Green College.



3EM Science topic this term has been 'The Seasons & Weather'. On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July we took a trip to Wakehurst Place. We acted like scientists and looked at what was growing in the gardens. We also saw a flock of fork-tailed swifts that nest around the Mansion. They have flown all the way from Africa and they only come in summer. We then observed seasonal changes around the Park in photographs as well as other fun interactive sessions led by their education officer. Thank you Wakehurst Place we had a fantastic time!

Vanessa Dell

(Science teacher to 3EM)





On 12th July a group of students travelled to Wembley Arena for Rock Assembly 2018. This is a special music event for schools and the line-up included Mabel, Hak Baker, The Vaccines, Sam Johnson, Georgie, Mina and Dixon Brother. They had an amazing time and we are already looking forward to next year's concert!



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July our Art Teachers, Vanessa and Sally, took the current Year 10 GCSE Art students, several Year 9 students and an FE student to the Jerwood Gallery, Hastings. We went to see an exhibition of abstract landscapes by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (1912-2004) called 'Sea, Rock, Earth and Ice'. After lunch we went to the beach to draw by the fishing boats and nets. We then created large expressive paintings in the gallery's studio space.

"It was inspiring because I saw lots of pieces of work I liked. It makes me want to work with lots of different materials." Hazel, Year 10 GCSE Art student.

It was a lovely day by the sea-side and as usual our students were impeccably behaved and a credit to the College.

Vanessa Dell, Art Teacher



# ROCK ASSEMBLY JERWOOD GALLERY TRIP



### KS3 Class Based

#### Most Improvement in Learning – [Matty Farmer 3SN](#)

Matty has continued to work extremely hard this term. He has done really well with using his words to talk to people and there has been a significant increase in how Matty communicates now, both with adults and also with other students. He now frequently asks questions, passes comment and also makes jokes. The increase in his communication is also helping him develop much stronger relationships with his peers and this has been great to see.

Matty continues to work extremely well in Maths, developing his skills quite quickly. Pleasingly he has also recently taken a greater interest in writing and he has now begun to write his own stories, making up the plot and including some great detail and turns of phrase. Well done Matty on a fantastic year and keep up the brilliant work in Year 8.

#### Personal Development - [Filip Bulawa 3EM](#)

Filip has had a fantastic year in 3EM. His confidence has soared in all aspects of the curriculum. He tries so hard with all his work, listening well and applying himself to the task in hand. He's starting to try and do more of his work without relying on the adults to help him especially in his Maths, of which we are really proud of him. Filip has become a really helpful member of 3EM both to the adults and students, and is keen to please those around him. Well done Filip, you are growing in to a great young man. Good luck and long may it continue in KS4.

#### Personal Development - [Amy Bashford 3MG](#)

Amy has made really great progress this year. She is managing her anxiety more effectively and is therefore much calmer around the college. She is more aware of other people around her and their needs. She has a very caring nature and likes to make sure her peers and staff working with her are alright. She is more tolerant to accepting help and positive criticism when she needs it but is also increasingly able to work independently. Amy is developing a growth mind set and will often self-assess her work and keep on trying until she's happy with it. She has come on so much in this first year in the college. Well done, Amy!



### KS3 Modular

#### Personal Development - [Kiya Morley 3RW](#)

Kiya has not been at the college for long, only starting after the Easter holiday. However, she is 100% a member of 3RW. She has made such good friends with everyone in the class, as well as with students in the other year group. She is kind, helpful, friendly and very funny - she has Mr Wilkins in stitches every day. Kiya was a shy student back in April and she could often be found hiding behind her fringe, but now she is so bubbly and confident - she even occasionally pins her fringe back! I could never have expected the transformation we have seen in Kiya, but I am so pleased to see she is happy and settled and comfortable in her new school. I know she will have a brilliant future at Manor Green College. Well done Kiya and keep up the great work.

#### Consistent Good Work and Behaviour – [Alyssa Fitzpatrick 3RW](#)

**Alyssa is one of those students in the class who is an 'always' student. She always pays attention, always works hard, is always polite and always has a go, even when something is really tricky.** I am so proud of the progress that Alyssa has made this year, and the reason for this is the fact that she is so attentive and determined to improve. Her behaviour is always perfect, she is a model student and I can always point others her way for an example of how to behave in college. She is a brilliant friend to others, especially when they are feeling lonely or in need. She is an asset to our class and she fully deserves this award this term. Well done Alyssa.

#### Most Improvement in Learning – [Jack Willis 3GA](#)

Jack has worked steadily in Maths, completing work from the KS3 curriculum. This has required a lot of self-discipline, as Jack has had to work on a mainly independent basis, once the task has been explained to him. Jack has responded to the feedback given and has not shied away from the challenge.

He has also done very well in all other subjects including English, where he is able to work independently and further challenge himself to extend and improve his writing.

He has been a pleasure to teach in Year 9 and we look forward to seeing him continue to succeed in KS4. He



loves PE and has worked hard on developing his skills and is much better at throwing and catching, as well as improving his bat and ball skills. He has been a pleasure to teach and we look forward to next year teaching him again next year.

#### Consistent Good Work and Behaviour – [Nathan House 3GA](#)

Nathan has worked very hard in all lessons throughout Year 8. He has completed all set homework on time and is keen to try his best. Nathan is thoughtful, polite and reflective. He has also tried his very best in Science and Food Technology, keeping a meticulous food diary.

#### KS4



#### Consistent Good Work and Behaviour – [Hannah Royle 4PF](#)

**Hannah's behaviour is always great, however this term we have really noticed** her coming into her own. She has been much more vocal and expressive in all aspects of school. She absolutely loves going out on school trips and she really blossomed in activity week. Her willingness to take part and join in was noticed by all members of staff. Hannah has loved socialising with other classes and her enjoyment and attitude towards school has been great to see.

#### Most improvement in Learning - [Joshua Williams 4PC](#)

Joshua has worked very hard in classwork and in life-skills. His good attendance has meant he has made good progress too. Despite some difficulties, Joshua has always applied himself to his work, in English, Maths, Science and Computing. We are very proud of him and his hard work.

#### Personal Development - [Ethan Kennedy 4HH](#)

**Ethan is a polite and well organised student who is consistently hard working. Over the course of Year 11 we've seen him** develop into a young adult who is beginning to express his opinions and feelings to others. Ethan is sometimes able to vocalise his likes and dislikes and also explain his reasoning. For example one week he chose freestyle dance for his PE option and said "I haven't tried that before". **Ethan has been sharing his holiday plans with his classmates and it's lovely** to see his growing confidence in engaging with others. We are sure he will continue to flourish in FE. Well done Ethan!

#### FE

#### Consistent Good Work and Behaviour - [Liam McMath 5SM](#)

**Liam's behaviour has greatly improved over the course of the year. He is very accepting of changes to his routines and is not** easily upset by issues that hitherto would have set him off. Most of all, Liam has learnt that he can take himself away from a stressful environment, this has greatly reduced the number of behaviour related incidents. Liam displays great maturity in his interactions with staff and some of his peers. It has been great watching Liam learn to self-regulate and cope within the college environment and in the community.

#### Most Improvement in Learning – [Edward Shaw 5SM](#)

Edward has shown amazing progress in all aspects of his DT work. He has shown a great deal of accuracy and skill when using a range of tools to make very high-quality products for sale. His confidence when working with the machines has also grown and he is beginning to use them more independently. Edward can now confidently and safely use coping saws, Tenon saws, files, and a range of different hand tools from the work shop with independence. This year Edward has completed his entry level in DT for which he created a portfolio to show his ideas and journey in creating a wooden storage box, he has also contributed to the success of the DT enterprise project working with young enterprise and a business mentor. Well done Edward.

#### Personal Development – [Alex Jones 3JBM](#)

Alex has made progress with her routine of walking to the classroom and to other lessons round the school building. She has also been a fantastic model to the other students in class by showing kindness when sharing.





# GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

## KS3

### Abbie Welling 3KZ

When Abbie joined us last September she was quite shy and timid and didn't know anyone here. Over the coming weeks and months she has grown in confidence, both academically and socially. She's eager to learn and encourages her peers to do the same. She's always first with her hand up to share answers, and is enthusiastic to participate in all lessons, even Drama and PE! Abbie is a good example of a growth mind-set and often questions things she doesn't fully understand or she is not certain of. She's had some tricky times, especially with friendships with other students, but has made the right choices and is expanding her social circle. In September Abbie is moving up from a generic to a modular class with more students but also more possibilities to make new friends and we are all confident she will keep flourishing for the years to come



### Callum Hillier 3RW

Callum came to us in September with a genuine dislike of English. He hated reading, despised writing and really struggled to form his words correctly when speaking in front of a group. He said that his main goal for the year was to be able to read and write.

Callum hasn't let his feelings towards English affect his attitude, and he always gives 100% in lessons in order to achieve his goal. As such, Callum is now a confident reader (he volunteers to read *every day!*) and he is able to read increasingly complex words, using both phonics skills and contextual clues to work out words. He writes fluently and joins all his letters - I have never seen such a transformation in someone's handwriting in such a short space of time - and even though his spellings are not perfect, he uses his phonics and always makes phonetically plausible attempts at words. Callum has worked incredibly hard to slow his speech down and think about what he wants to say. He is careful and considered when speaking, meaning that the accuracy of his word formation is also significantly improved from September.

I am so proud of Callum for all his achievements in English, but this is only a small proportion of Callum's successes this year. He has made fantastic progress in every single subject, improving his Maths skills, especially problem solving and reasoning; becoming more analytical in his Science work, even having the confidence to challenge me if he thinks that something might not be correct; and listening intently to advice and criticism to improve his skills in art.

Callum's year has undoubtedly been the most successful in his school career so far, and I know that it will set him up brilliantly for future successes both in the college and beyond.

### Jake Tamila 3JB

Jake always comes into school enthusiastic for the day. He has really gained confidence in himself this year in terms of being able to move between classrooms for different lessons and also going on errands around the building.

Jake always concentrates and works hard in lessons, and is willing to answer questions in-front of others, even though his stammer has become more apparent this year, but he perseveres to make his views known.

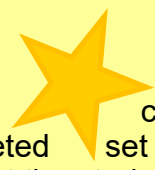
He is a pleasure to teach and is a polite, and organised young man.

Well done Jake on a positive year of school.

### Ella Burrett 3GA

Ella has worked exceptionally well in Maths, Science and Food Technology. She is conscientious and organises her work carefully. Throughout the year she has always completed her set task to the very best of her ability. Ella is always keen to do her best and is enthusiastic about the stories and countries we have studied.

She is popular with the students and staff and is polite and friendly. She is a pleasure to teach and I look forward to having her in my class again next year.





# GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

## KS4

### Thomas Duck 4MH

Thomas Duck is an exemplarily student. He is completely focused in all his lessons and is affiant at completing work He has made outstanding progress in English and Maths and is working hard towards his GCSE's. Thomas has completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh with dedication and determination. Thomas is already thinking about his future and has attended open evenings at college already when he is only in Year 10. Year 11 is going to be a great year for Thomas. Well done Thomas on all your achievements.

### Abdullah Din 4HH

Congratulations to Abdullah on being awarded a Governor's Award for this academic year. Abdullah is an all-around superstar; over the past year (and indeed his previous years at College) he has approached everything, whether it be physical challenges encountered in completing the Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze award or academic challenges presented by Entry Level examinations taken earlier this year with a fantastic positive attitude and determination. In addition to Abdullah's admirable attitude, he is most often the first to volunteer to wipe tables at lunchtime or tidy up his classroom. He's often heard saying *'let's just get on with our work!'* He has been a great role model to new classmates back in September and is well regarded by all staff across the school. Abdullah's 'can do' attitude will surely set him up for greater independence as he looks ahead to joining the FE classes in September. We're incredibly proud of Abdullah and everything that he has achieved congratulations again!

## KS5

### Sam Teles-Amaro 5LC

Sam has had an extremely positive year. He has made enormous progress in being able to self manage his behaviour when he faces difficulties, which would have previously resulted in a more negative reaction from him. He is now able to attend school assemblies without becoming overwhelmed. He shows a great level of maturity when dealing with disagreements with his peers and is often able to recognise when it's wise for him to leave the room and walk away from certain situations. Over the year, Sam has become more integrated with the rest of his class. He joins in discussions and enjoys conversations with fellow students who have similar interests to him. Sam has demonstrated much improved tolerance and patience for others that he may find cause him frustration and has become more adept at communicating his anxieties verbally to others so that problems can be rectified sensibly. Sam's has become more independent over the year. He can confidently use the public bus and we have recently encouraged Sam to have total independence for short periods of time in town. This is something he has expressed a desire to do and is already showing staff that he has the skills to be a responsible young adult.

# HEAD TEACHER AWARD

My last Head Teacher's award goes to two students, Ellie Stephens and Mia Tinston, who showed last week what make MGC students such a special place.

Ellie and Mia were eating their lunch in the hall last week when another student, who is autistic and non-verbal started pacing up and down behind them. I thought that Ellie and Mia might feel uncomfortable so I kept an eye out just in case. But what actually happened had me smiling from ear to ear. Ellie moved over and made a seat available between herself and Mia and invited 'A' to sit down, which he did. The girls then engaged 'A' in 'conversation' which he clearly responded to and enjoyed for the remaining 20 minutes of lunch. Their warmth and openness towards a student with way more difficulties in an inspiration, and they are my role models for how we should all behave towards those less able than ourselves.





Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who can use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately  
**74m**  
users each month

AGE RESTRICTION  
**10+**

# What parents need to know about **MINECRAFT**

## GROOMING

The majority of users who play Minecraft are children, making it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

## CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode, there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. The chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but this varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

## COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

There are thousands of servers to choose from in Minecraft which are a single world or place created by the public, allowing users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each server has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

## VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of different ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information from you or your child.



## AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the ESRB 'Entertaining Software Rating Board', Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that the rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as lighting animals on fire and harming animals with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

## CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning, with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



# National Online Safety Top Tips for Parents

## DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may limit their game play.

## MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to YouTube for video tips on improving their gameplay and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to find the content they want, safely.



## SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give more options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. But while 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec said that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on, and make sure it's up-to-date.

## PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest limiting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

## SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child is playing games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand what 'mode' they are playing on the game. This may help you decide on how much time you would like them to spend playing on it. For example, a mini game will have an 'end', but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode', the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

## CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

Advise your child to only enter servers with people they know and trust to protect them from engaging in conversation with strangers. Your child can also create their own multi-player server and share this with their friends to join in which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

Sources:  
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