

> Headteacher Rachel Henocq

26 September 2025

Dear PCS Families

Reminder - KS3 Planners

To help support our KS3 students with their organisation, we are asking that all students have a planner as part of their 'Ten for Success'.

We have distributed planners to all students in years 7, 8 and 9. We are asking parents and carers for a donation of £2.50 to cover the cost of these. This is available for you to pay on ParentPay.

We would like to thank you in advance for supporting this initiative. As well as their timetable, students have stuck into their planners a Home School Agreement. Please see attached. Please could we ask that you read through the two sections in the planner that are relevant to you and your child and sign, confirming our mutual support in working together to support the best outcomes for your child.

PCS Uniform Donation Station Reminder we are accepting donations!

This is a reminder of the email that went out at the end of last term. If you have any uniform that you are able to donate, we would be very grateful. As you can see from the attached poster, in the first instance we are inviting families in on Friday 26 September to pick up any donated items.

'PCS School Uniform Drop and Swap - Message from the PCS Climate Ambassadors
In response to lots of interest by our parents and carers, we are delighted to be able to inform you of our PCS Uniform Drop and Swap donation station which will be up and running in September.

See the attached poster for details. Please feel free to donate any unwanted/outgrown items of school uniform to our school Reception any time, any day of the week that suits you. Leave your name with our Reception team and come back on the last Friday of the month to take your pick from our donated uniform items.

As we come to the end of this term we will be collecting for the first few days of the summer holidays as well.

Not only will this help with costly uniform expenses as your child grows out of items, it will also support our school sustainability plan.'

Premier League Kicks - Message from Brighton and Hove Albion Foundation

The sessions will be delivered by our UEFA qualified coaches who endeavour to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where young people can thrive both on and off the pitch. Their strong understanding of both football and the needs of young people ensures sessions are positive, engaging, and tailored to build confidence, teamwork, and personal development.

Every Wednesday:

Newhaven Girls Kicks (7-18yrs), 3.30pm-4.30pm Newhaven Kicks Mixed (14-18yrs), 4.30pm-5.30pm Peacehaven Mini Kicks Mixed (8-13yrs), 5pm-6pm

Please scan the QR code on the attached flyer to register a place for your child.











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Lost Property

We encourage students to check at our Student Support Desk if they have lost any personal items.

Winter Music Concert 2025!

Please see the attached poster for our upcoming Winter Music Concert taking place on Wednesday 26 November!

Tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay now for adults and under 16s. Please complete this Google Form if you would like to reserve free PCS student tickets.

Reminder - Food Hall, Topping Up Accounts

Please note that if students do not have money in their dinner accounts they will not be served by staff in the Food Hall.

We would like to remind parents/carers of the following:

- dinner accounts can be topped up via ParentPay (if you are having difficulties accessing ParentPay, please email us at pcs-enquiries@swale.at)
- in your account settings a notification can be set up to alert you as to when your child's ParentPay account balance is low
- students with biometric (fingerprint) consent can check their account balance daily using our balance checker, located by our Student Support Desk at Reception
- students entitled to Free School Meals should budget their allowance across break and lunch (if their entire allowance is spent at morning break time, no more purchases can be made at lunch)
- if students' accounts cannot be topped up for the following day in order to make a purchase in the Food Hall, they should bring a packed lunch instead

If your child purchases their lunch from the Food Hall, please ensure their accounts are topped up the day before as balances in accounts do not update instantly.

Thank you for your support.

Student Support Desk

We would like to remind all students that our Student Support Desk is located in the Reception area, where a member of our team is available during the school day to answer any student queries.

We also have a Student Information Board located next to this desk, with key information for students such as:

- Food Hall menus
- School timings
- Extra curricular/homework clubs
- Upcoming school events

We ask students to please not go directly to the front desk with any queries unless there isn't a member of staff at the Student Support Desk, as the front desk can be very busy with visitors and incoming calls.











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Miniature Railway Open Taster Day - Message from Bentley Miniature Railway

Please see this fantastic opportunity sent to us by the Bentley Miniature Railway on the attached leaflet.

We are excited to invite your students, staff, and families to our Miniature Railway Open Taster Day on Sunday 26th October.

This is a fantastic opportunity for your young people who are:

- Interested in engineering or mechanics
- Looking for volunteering opportunities
- Train enthusiasts curious to learn more

During the day visitors can:

- See locomotives up close
- Take guided tours of our railway
- Watch live demonstrations
- Meet our volunteers and discover how the railway is run

Date: Sunday 26th October 10am to 2pm

Location: Bentley Miniature Railway, Harvey's Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5AF

Cost: Free – all welcome!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Youth Violence

Please see the attached poster.

PCS First Ever Cinema Experience - An Invitation to all of our Families!

Come and join us on Thursday 2 October for the screening of *Big Hero 6*. It's a family event so students must bring along a parent or carer (or more than one!!).

Please see the attached poster for more information. If you wish to purchase popcorn prior to the event, doors will open at 5.15pm. The film will start at 5.30pm promptly.

No need to reserve a space, just turn up!!











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Rationale for <u>Peacehaven Community School Uniform Consultation</u>

At Peacehaven Community School, our values of Aspire, Believe, Contribute, and Achieve underpin everything we do. Our school uniform is an important part of how these values are lived out in daily life. We are undertaking a consultation on our school uniform to ensure it continues to serve our community well and reflects both our ethos and the needs of our families.

A consistent school uniform provides a sense of belonging, identity, and connection for all students. It unites us as a community, helping students feel part of something bigger than themselves, and reinforces pride in being a member of Peacehaven Community School. Wearing the same uniform helps to create a shared identity that reflects our values and our commitment to being Polite, Committed, and Safe.

We also recognise the need to balance this sense of identity with the realities of the cost of living. Affordability is a key concern for many families, and we are committed to ensuring that our uniform policy is fair, accessible, and does not place unnecessary financial burdens on parents and carers. In line with the UK government's guidance on school uniform affordability, we are reviewing the number and cost of branded items required, so that our policy offers value for money while maintaining a smart and distinctive appearance.

Importantly, we believe that school uniform plays a central role in promoting equality. It helps to level the playing field so that young people are not judged on what they wear, or what they and their families can afford, but instead on their actions, words, and contributions to the school community. In this way, uniform supports inclusion, reduces peer pressure, and fosters respect between students. This consultation is an opportunity for students, parents, carers, and staff to share their views on how our uniform can best reflect our values, promote pride in our school, and remain affordable for families.



Messages from PCS Careers Team

FAO Year 9-11 Parents/Carers - Young Leaders Programme Please see the attached flyer.

FAO Year 11 Parents/Carers - PCS Post 16 Choices Event, Weds 1 Oct 2025 Please see the attached information.

College Open Days List Sep 2025
Please see the attached information.











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Upcoming Key Dates

- Wednesday 1 October PCS Post 16 Choices Event
- Thursday 2 October PCS First Ever Cinema Experience! (Details as above)













YEAR 11 POST 16 CHOICES EVENT

WHEN:

Wednesday 1st October 4.30 - 6.30pm

Student surname visiting time:

A-L: 4.45-5.45pm

M-Z: 5.30-6.30pm

WHERE:

PCS Main Hall



BRING PARENTS AND CARERS ALONG TO SPEAK WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL COLLEGES, TRAINING PROVIDERS AND EMPLOYERS ABOUT YOUR POST 16 OPTIONS!

COME AND SPEAK WITH ADVISORS

FROM:

EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE

VARNDEAN

BHASVIC

PLUMPTON

GB MET

CARDINAL NEWMAN 6TH FORM

SEAFORD HEAD 6TH FORM

SUTTON AND DISTRICT AND

MANY MORE POST 16

TRAINING PROVIDERS





Aspire • Believe • Contribute • Achieve

When students leave PCS, there are numerous pathways they can follow. This evening provides an opportunity to find out more about what is available and to support in making informed decisions about next steps.

There are many different qualifications you can study whilst at college. These include:

A Levels

An A Level is an advanced level qualification. A Levels are a 2 year course, subject based and can lead to university, further study, training or work. Most students take 3 A Levels.

T Levels

A T Level is a 2 year course which is studied after GCSEs. T Levels are industry specific qualifications providing students for entry into skilled employment. They are broadly equivalent to 3 A levels.

BTEC

A BTEC can be studied at level 1,2 and 3. A level 3 BTEC is equivalent to an A Level. Subjects studied at BTEC are work related. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid job which offers hands-on work experience alongside off-the-job training.
Colleges can support the educational side of an apprenticeship, not all colleges offer this.

Students would be expected to source their own work placement to attach to the college apprenticeship.

Here are some of the providers that will be attending our Post 16 evening:

Colleges



https://www.escg.ac.uk/about
/prospectuses/

East Sussex college offers an extensive range of courses including A Levels, T Levels, Technical and professional programmes, Apprenticeships, and inclusive Learning Options. East Sussex has multiple campus venues which include Newhaven, Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings.



https://varndean.ac.uk/

Varndean College has approximately 2000 students. It is in the top 10% of UK schools and sixth-form colleges for value-added, meaning the students who study at Varndean achieve much higher than expected of them based on their GCSE grades. The campus is in Brighton.



https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk

BHASVIC is based in Brighton, has approximately 3500 students and offers A Level and BTEC courses. Students have the opportunity to join college societies outside of their lessons.

In previous years students results have placed BHASVIC in the top 1% of schools and colleges nationally for best results.



https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/

Plumpton is based in the heart of the South Downs and offers a wide range of courses in agriculture, animal care, horticulture, fisheries management or machinery or one of our other many exciting courses.

Students have opportunities to gain lots of hands-on experience and the chance to develop an extensive range of skills.



https://www.brightonmet.ac.uk/

Brighton Met is based over multiple campuses within Brighton and Hove. It offers students a wide range of vocational BTECs, diplomas and T-Level courses.

The Facilities available include state-of-the-art workshops, studios and classrooms—which have been specifically designed for creative and digital specialisms—as well as a suite of new hair & beauty salons that are open to the general public.

Met college also has a campus based in Worthing called Northbrook College which offers a range of vocational qualifications.









Dv8 Sussex is a creative college offering young people aged 16-18 personalised, industry-led courses in the most vibrant & exciting creative sectors. Through practical project based learning students gain real life experience to develop skills in a supportive and ambitious environment, where there are continual opportunities to work and think differently.

Private Sector Colleges



OXFORD International College Brighton

https://www.oicbrighton.com

Oxford international College (OIC) is based in Brighton. It offers students A Level courses in core subjects as well as Chinese, Russian, Business and Politics. OIC offers tailored academic programmes based on talent and ambitions. Scholarships and bursaries can be applied for.



https://roedean.co.uk/

Roedean offers a bespoke curriculum offering A Levels in four pathways including STEM, Business, Economics and Performing Arts. Roedean offers places to female students only. Scholarships and bursaries can be applied for.



https://www.brightoncollege.org.uk

With close proximity to the South Downs, Brighton College offers students a variety of A Levels delivered in a sixth form setting.

Scholarships and bursaries can be applied for.

Sixth Forms



https://seafordhead.org/

Seaford Head school opened a Sixth Form Centre in September 2014 and offers a varied academic curriculum.

This curriculum supports students to follow a variety of pathways at university. Students follow a timetable that includes enrichment, tutoring and discrete intervention.

It also offers a wide choice of advanced (level 3) subjects which lead on to a full range of all university courses.



https://www.baca-uk.org.uk/

BACA offers a post-16 diverse range of academic, vocational, and technical qualifications, enriched with programmes and extensive collaboration with employers. It also offers BTEC and A Level courses. BACA offers small group settings which are beneficial to students needing additional support.



https://www.newmancollege.co.uk/

Newman College offers a diverse post 16 course of BTEC and A Level qualifications. It also has a varied programme of activities including trips, university visits, external speakers, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Sports Leadership and the Debating Society.

Training Providers



https://www.army.mod.uk/

If you're 16 or 17 you'll train first at AFC Harrogate as a Junior Soldier. You'll learn all the skills you need, from map reading to how to handle a weapon. Once you've finished the course at Harrogate, you'll be old





enough, trained and ready to join your unit, as a soldier in the Regular Army.



https://stevewillis.com/

Steve Willis Training Centres have two first-class facilities in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, and Portchester, Hampshire.

Both centres offer high-quality training with a full range of the latest equipment in the workshops with modern classrooms tailored to gas, electrical, oil and renewable training courses.



https://www.bsms.ac.uk/

Brighton and Sussex medical school provides higher education for those wishing to work in the medical profession.

They have a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate schemes.

BSMS offers a variety of medical outreach opportunities for students at PCS starting in year 9.



https://www.suttondistrict.co.uk/

Sutton and District Training are a training provider that supports students to gain practical skills for employment, prepare for further education, or develop personally.

They accept students no matter their ability or attitude to education. Sutton and District training offers students a small group environment which would be beneficial for school refusers or students with additional needs.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid job which offers hands-on work experience alongside off-the-job training.

>CAREERS EAST SUSSEX

https://www.careerseastsussex.co.uk/information/young-people/apprenticeships



https://amazingapprenticeships.com



https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Universities



University of Brighton

https://www.brighton.ac.uk





https://www.sussex.ac.uk/



We work in close partnership with University of Sussex and the University of Brighton and have strong links with their outreach teams.

Both universities will be present at our Post 16 event.

If you have any questions regarding Higher Education please do speak to the ambassadors who will be able to answer any questions you may have.





To support you with your conversations this evening, you may wish to ask some of the following questions:

How easy are you to get to from Peacehaven?

What are the admission requirements for the pathways I am interested in?

What are the deadlines for applying for the pathways I am interested in?

How do I know what is the right pathway for me?

What resources and support does the college offer for students to succeed academically?

Can you provide any insights or advice for incoming first year students to help them succeed?

Can you provide information about the campus community and extracurricular activities available?

Are there any opportunities for internships, research, or study abroad programs?





lotes:	





WHAT ARE 'EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS'?

It's a term used to describe the skills that have been identified as the most useful skills for any job. They can be broken down into 3 groups:

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

This includes the more practical skills, such as being able to use IT and numeracy effectively. 2

PERSONAL SKILLS

This category
features
skills like
working well
in a team,
being a good
communicator
and time
management.

ATTITUDES, VALUES & HABITS

This is all about how you think and behave - are you confident and enthusiastic about the job?
Employers need to see that you would be a good fit for their company.

Our Careers Team

Are always on hand to help



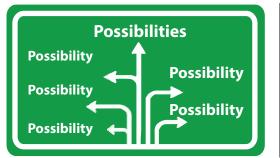
Mrs Lane
Work Experience Coordinator
& Library supervisor
emma.lane@swale.at



Ms Newman
Careers Advisor
jemma.newman@swale.at



Corinne Holden MSc External Careers Advisor pcs-careers@swale.at









\$16080

Cinema Night

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

5:30 - 7:30

Everyone welcome but students must come with a parent

More than one person per family can come

We will start the screening at 5.30pm & aim to finish by 7.30pm

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

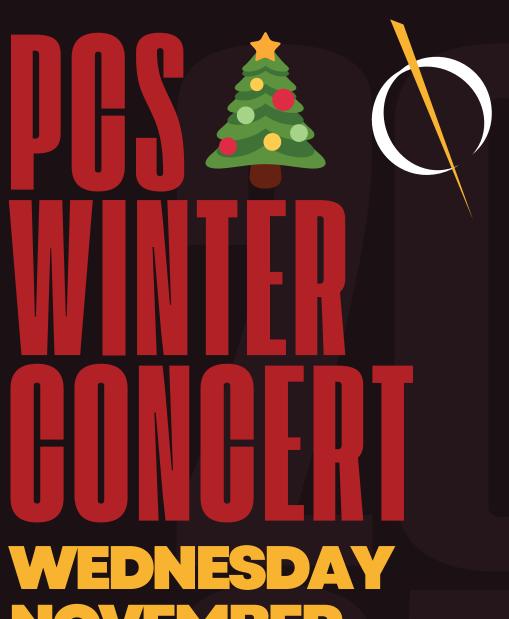


Big Hero 6 - PG

\$16080

Synopsis:
Talented Hiro is initially reluctant to hone his robotics skills at university, preferring instead to take part in shady backstreet botfights.

Encouraged by his older brother to challenge himself and expand his skills, Hiro's newfound ambitions are nearly shattered when tragedy strikes. With the support of his new lab mates, Hiro finds a way through his grief in action.



Peacehaven Community School

Aspire • Believe • Contribute • Achieve

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH 6PM

ADULTS - £6 UNDER 16'S - £4 PCS STUDENTS - FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON PARENTPAY





College and Sixth Form Open Events Autumn 2025

The events are listed in A-Z order by town - click the links below:

Bexhill	
<u>Brighton</u>	
Crowborough	
<u>Eastbourne</u>	
<u>Hastings</u>	
Haywards Heath (West Sussex)	
<u>Heathfield</u>	
<u>Lewes</u>	

<u>Seaford</u>

<u>Plumpton</u>

Tonbridge (Kent)

Ashford (Kent)

<u>Uckfield</u>

Location	College	Time	Booking/registration
Ashford (Kent)	East Kent College Elwick Rd, Ashford TN23 1NN	• No details available yet	*Register to find out when the open day is taking place: East Kent Colleges Group Open Days

Bexhill	Bexhill College Penland Road Bexhill-on Sea East Sussex TN40 2JG	 Wednesday 22nd October Thursday 23rd October 2024. 6 - 8:30 pm. 	No need to book More info here: Bexhill 6th Form College
Bexhill	DV8 (specialist college for creative sector) Dv8 Sussex 41 St Leonards Road Bexhill TN40 1HS	• Wednesday 8th October 5pm - 7pm • Saturday 11th October 10am - 12am	As far as we know, there is no need to register. But check DV8 website before the day Dv8 Sussex: Creative College and Education in Brighton and Bexhill For any questions or if you need assistance, phone DV8 (between 9 and 5) 01424 213890 (Bexhill)
Brighton	BACA (Brighton Aldridge Communi ty Academy)	• Thursday, 16 October 2025 • 6-8 pm.	*Book here: Brighton Aldridge Community Academy - BACA College Open Evening
Brighton	BHASVIC Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College 205 Dyke Road, Hove BN3 6EG	 Wednesday 12th November Thursday 13th November 4pm - 8pm 	No need to book, but register to receive info: BHASVIC Open Evenings 2025
Brighton	BIMM Music Institute (Brighton)	• 11 th October 10:30-3 • 8 th November	*Book here - 11 th Oct: BIMM Brighton Open

Location	College	Time	Booking/registration
	38-42 Brunswick St West Hove BN3 1EL	11-3	Day - BIMM Music Institute *Book here - 8 th Nov BIMM Brighton Open Day - BIMM Music Institute
Brighton	BN1 Arts New England Street Brighton BN1 4GW	 Saturday 27 September 10- 12 Saturday 18 October 10-12 Saturday 29 November 10-12 	*Book before attending: Open Days and Events
Brighton	Brighton	• Wednesday 15 th October - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm • Saturday 22 nd November 10 am - 1 pm Check the address: For: Creatives Industries, Business, Travel & Cabin Crew, Computing & Digital Technologies, Games Design & Animation, Catering & Hospitality, Health & Social Care, Early Years & Childcare and Hair & Beauty go to: Brighton MET Pelham Campus: 1A Pelham St, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN1 4FA For: Construction & Trades, Sport &	*Book before attending: Brighton MET Open Evening - Wednesday 15 October 2025 Brighton MET Brighton MET Open Morning - Saturday 22 November 2025 Brighton MET

Boxing Academy, go to:	
Brighton MET East: Wilson Ave, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN2 5PB	

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Location	College	Time	Booking/registration
Brighton	DV8 Dv8 Sussex Victoria House 125 Queens Road Brighton BN1 3WB	• Wednesday 8th October 5pm - 7pm • Saturday 11th October 10am - 12am	No need to book For any questions or if you need assistance, phone DV8 (between 9 and 5) 01273 550432 (Brighton)
Brighton	Varndean Sixth Form College Surrenden Road Brighton BN1 6WQ	 Saturday 27 September: 11am - 2pm Thursday 6 November: 4pm - 8pm 	No need to book: https://www.varnde an .ac.uk/events/
Crowborough	Beacon Academy Beacon Academy Sixth Form, Green Lane, Crowborou gh East Sussex TN6 2DY **note this is different address from main school site	• Sixth form open event: Saturday 4 October 2025, from 10:30am to 1:30pm • Sixth Form Taster Sessions: Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 October 2025 (booking essential)	No need to book for the 4 October open day *BUT you do need to book for the taster sessions - register here: Open Events and Induction - Beacon Academy

Eastbourne	East Sussex College Group Ecat House, Cross Levels Way, Eastbourne BN21 2UF	 Wednesday 15th October Thursday 20th November 3:45pm - 6:45pm 	No need to book: More info here Open Events East Sussex College
Hastings	East Sussex College Group, Station Approach,	 Thursday 16th October Thursday 20th November 3:45pm - 6:45pm 	No need to book: More info here Open Events East Sussex College

Location	College	Time	4 Booking/registration
	Hastings TN34 1BA		
	Constructi on /trades at Ore campus: 42 Parker Rd, Hastings TN34 3SU		
	Motor vehicles at: Unit 17-18, Northridge Industrial Estate, St Leonards, Hastings TN35 4PP		

Haywards Heath	Haywards Heath College Harlands Road Haywards Heath RH16 1LT	• Monday 20 October 2025 • Tuesday 21 st October • 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm	*Book here for 20 th Oct Haywards Heath Open Evening - Monday 20 October 2025 Haywards Heath College *Book here for 21 st Oct Haywards Heath Open Evening - Tuesday 21 October 2025 Haywards Heath College
Heathfield	Heathfield Communi ty College	• Thursday 23 rd October, 5.30 - 7.30 pm	No need to book: <u>September 2026</u> <u>Application - Heathfield</u> <u>Community</u> College
Lewes	East Sussex College Group Mountfield Rd, Lewes BN7 2XH	 Tuesday 14th October Thursday 20th November 3:45pm - 6:45pm 	No need to book: More info here Open Events East Sussex College
Plumpton (near Lewes)	Plumpton College	• Saturday 11 th October	*Book before attending:

Location	College	Time	Booking/registration
	Ditchling Road Lewes BN7 3AE	• 9am - 12 pm	Visit us at our Open Event on 11 October 2025 - Plumpton College

Seaford	Seaford Head School Sixth Form Arundel Road Seaford East Sussex BN25 4LX	 Thursday 9th October 6 pm - 8 pm This is the main event with talks and tours and an opportunity to meet subject teachers and students Saturday 11th October 10 am - 12 pm. This is more informal and an opportunity to meet Mrs Alvarez, Head of Sixth Form, Mr Ross, Head of Years 12 & 13, and Clare Callard, Assistant Head 	*Book here: https://outlook.offic e. com/book/SixthForm O penEvening@seaford he adschool.onmicrosof t.c om/?ismsaljsauthena bl ed
Tonbridge, Kent	North Kent College Brook Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 2PW	Years 12 & 13 • Saturday 27th September • 10am - 4pm	*Book here: Events at_North Kent College News & Upcoming Activities
	Hadlow College (Part of North Kent College) Tonbridge Road Hadlow Kent TN11 0AL	• Saturday 15 th November • 10 am - 1 pm	*Book here: Hadlow_Open Morning November 2025

			6
Location	College	Time	Booking/registration

Uckfield	Uckfield College	• Wednesday 12th November	No need to book
		• 5.30pm-8pm	



COME TO OUR VOLUNTEERING OPEN DAY AND SEE WHAT WE DO!

Alongside running trains for the public (and for fun!), we look after a vast site with over one mile of 7 ¼" gauge track. Our dedicated team of volunteers come from all walks of life, so why not have a go?

DEMONSTRATIONS AND TOURS | FIND OUT WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU SEE SOME OF THE LOCOMOTIVES UP CLOSE | LEARN HOW IT ALL WORKS



LEARN NEW SKILLS - MAKE NEW FRIENDS

| enquiries@bentleyrailway.co.uk | www.bentleyrailway.co.uk | Bentley Estate, Harveys Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5AF |



Come and join us for Premier League Kicks, our free football sessions for young people aged 7-18 years old.

Scan the QR code to find and join a session in your area.



WEEKLY SESSIONS ACROSS SUSSEX





For more information, please call: **01273 878265** or email: **premierleaguekicks@bhafcfoundation.org.uk**





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

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TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

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AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a

weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A

conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault,

encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk





The **National** College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence





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