Carshalton High School for Girls

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

Dates for your diary

Week A

09.11.26 - Pineapple studios trip
09.11.26 - Year 12 careers trip
10.11.26 - Year 11 Careers morning
10.11.26 - Year 8 & 9 Hades Town trip
11.11.26 - Sixth Form Open Evening
12.11.26 - Late start for all students, registration at 9.35am, gates open at 9.15am
13.11.26 - Year 7 Samba workshop
13.11.26 - Year 13 Philosophy trip

Week B

16.11.26 - Year 7, 10 and 12 exams begin
17.11.26 - Year 12 History Trip - Auschwitz, Poland
18.11.26 - Year 13 Film Studies trip
19.11.26 - Meet the tutors evening

Welcome Back to a New Half Term!

It has been wonderful to welcome students back for what promises to be another exciting and successful half term.

We were delighted to celebrate an important moment for our Trust this week as Weald of Kent School officially joined us as our fourth school. This expansion strengthens our community and creates exciting opportunities for collaboration, shared learning and innovation across all Trust schools.

We started the week with my whole-school assembly focused on the theme of Daring to Be Different. Taking inspiration from the remarkable artist Frida Kahlo, students reflected on the importance of embracing their individuality, celebrating what makes them unique, and recognising that resilience often comes from overcoming challenges and setbacks. The assembly encouraged everyone to have the confidence to be themselves and reminded us that we are often far more resilient than we realise.

On Wednesday, many of our students represented the school at the Borough Cross Country Championships. They performed exceptionally well, demonstrating determination, perseverance and teamwork throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of their achievements, with some outstanding individual performances and fantastic team results. Well done to all who took part and represented the school so positively.

On Thursday, students enjoyed our PD Day, which was a great success. The day provided valuable opportunities for students to develop their personal, social and future-focused skills through a range of engaging activities. We look forward to sharing more details and celebrating the impact of the day later in this newsletter.

As we look ahead, we are excited to be hosting our Sixth Form Open Evening on 11 November, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. This is an excellent opportunity for prospective students and families to learn more about the exceptional opportunities available in our Sixth Form, meet staff and students, and experience our vibrant learning community. Further details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We look forward to another half term filled with ambition, achievement and opportunity for all our students.

Mrs Norman
Director of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher

Notices

Meet the Tutor Evening
On Thursday 19th November, we will be holding our first Meet the Tutor Evening. This will provide an opportunity for you to meet individually with your child's form tutor to discuss her progress, involvement in school life and wellbeing.

There will also be an opportunity to meet informally with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Appointments can be booked through the Parents' Evening booking system on the school website from 6pm on Friday 16th October. Carshalton High School for Girls - Parents' Evening

We look forward to welcoming you.

Thursday 12th November - 9.35am Start
Please remember that there is a late start for students on Thursday as there is Sixth Form Open Evening the night before. Students need to arrive by 9.30am and ready for registration at 9.35am.

Borough Cross-Country competition

18 students proudly represented the school at the annual Borough Cross-Country competition at Sutton Grammar playing fields on Wednesday 4th November. A huge well done to all those who took part, demonstrating our values of sisterhood and resilience through their determination in their races while encouraging and supporting one another throughout the event. A special congratulations and shout out to the students who secured a place in the top 15 and have earned an invitation to the Pathway Cross Country events! We can't wait to hear how you get on, and a special mention goes out to Summer-Lilly who placed 3rd and Ruth who placed 4th in their races.

Top 15 results below:
Summer-Lilly A - 3rd place
Ruth H - 4th place
Kristina N - 12th place
Eilidh P - 5th place
Matilda G - 6th place
Frances H - 14th place

A huge thank you also goes to our three sixth formers, Eva W, Sienna P and Sophie J who supported the students at the competition. They kept the girls motivated and encouraged throughout their races, helped capture valuable GCSE footage, and offered their support wherever needed.

Well done to all students who took part: Ruth H, Libby H, Poppy S, Zoë L, Kristina N, Summer-Lilly A, Eilidh P, Maliha K, Frances H, Matilda G, Isla B, Delilah P, Alexis B, Eden M, Isabelle G, Izzy W, Sienna P, Phoebe M, Sophie J and Eva W.











YEAR 7

It has been lovely seeing your daughters back in school this week. I do hope that they had a restful break.

We had a wonderful 'PD day' yesterday, with really interesting topics, designed to support your daughter's personal development. Topics such as leadership, anti-bullying, careers and youth homelessness to name a few, were delivered by our staff and external speakers. I was most pleased with comments about our Year group's behaviour and engagement: one external speaker commended our students on their stand-out enthusiasm and interest in the topics.

As the weather becomes colder (there is already a decided nip in the air) please note the following:

- All students should be wearing a blazer between lessons and to and from school. It is in lessons that they may request permission to remove the blazer.
- Coats need to be plain navy or plain black only
- One single pair of earrings may be worn, only.
- Scarves are to be plain black or dark navy blue only
- Skirts need to be a hand's width from the knee. Short skirts are not permitted

As we head into our assessment week soon, please do check with your daughters that they are aware of exactly what they need to revise and when. I refer you to a communication that came from the School Office on the 12th October. Please also remember to book your meeting time with your Tutor in our face to face Meet the Tutor evening - details are in the notices section above. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th November.

Mrs Macallister
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

Welcome Back, Year 8!
We hope you all had a lovely half-term break and are feeling refreshed, recharged and ready for the exciting weeks ahead! We have lots to look forward to, with new learning opportunities, exciting activities and plenty of opportunities to learn new skills, develop our knowledge and be our best!

During our assembly this week we went through the expectations and we are focusing on -

- Arriving at school and lessons on time and fully prepared.
- Bringing the correct equipment every day.
- Completing our homework to the best of our ability.
- Participating positively in lessons and using our voice.
- Not being involved in “Gossip”
- Being proud of our achievements.

Let's continue to demonstrate our school values by:

- Showing kindness, respect and consideration and supporting each other.
- Making positive choices.
- Being responsible and organised.
- Taking pride in our school community.

Attendance Matters!
We know this half term is a difficult term as it is cold and we often become unwell. Try your best to come into school as every school day counts. Excellent attendance and punctuality help us make the most of every learning opportunity, so let’s make everyday count!

Celebrating Success
We are looking forward to celebrating all Year 8 achievements this term, whether these are academic successes, sporting accomplishments, acts of kindness or personal milestones. If your child has achieved something outside of school, please let us know so that we can celebrate their successes with them.

Looking Ahead
This half term we have some important events/activities-

- 16th to 20th November – Anti Bully Week
- 19th November - Meet the Tutor evening
- 30th November – INSET Day
- 1st December – Launch the Christmas Hamper event
- 7th December – Year 8 Assessment booklet to parents
- 18th December – Last day of term

Year 8, this is your opportunity to shine! Keep challenging yourselves, supporting each other and making the most of every opportunity.

Let's make Autumn Term 2 a fantastic half-term!

Ms Brice
Head of Year 8

CHSG HALF TERM HOUSE COMPETITIONS

There's still time to enter some of our house competitions. Find out more here: www.chsg.org.uk/half-term-house-comps-2026



Diwali Competitions



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS/ DAY OF THE DEAD COMPETITIONS

The UK Bebras Challenge

The 2026 Bebras challenge will take place in November 2026.

What is the UK Bebras Challenge?

The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. This exciting challenge takes place in schools, under the supervision of teachers, over a two-week period every November. Last year, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participated!

LOGIC
PROBLEM SOLVING
CREATIVITY

In the UK, the challenge is open to all young people aged 6 to 19. Each participant has **45 minutes** to tackle a series of **interactive tasks,** designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. The challenge is conducted online, and tasks are marked automatically by our competition system.

The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not.

The UK Bebras Challenge is organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

Pop in to register your interest with Mrs Ononogbu in B19.

The Challenge will take place on Wednesday 18th of November 2026 from 3:15pm to 4:00pm in B19.

Raspberry Pi Foundation

YEAR 9

China Trip

Over half term some of our Year 9 students had the amazing opportunity to travel to China







Here is a selection of some of the photos from the trip and some student accounts of how they enjoyed the experience. Thank you to the teaching staff who accompanied the trip and made this possible for our students.

We all had a fantastic time in China. Travelling from Beijing to Shanghai on the bullet train was such a good experience. Each day we did multiple things such as climbing the Great Wall of China, tea ceremonies, visiting various temples like the Temple of Heaven, going to Tiananmen square and so many more things. Personally, I have made bonds with so many people that I would never usually talk to, I love all of the friends I have made and gotten closer with during the China trip. The toilets being a hole in the floor was so weird but at least they were clean! I have learned so much on the trip thanks to our tour guides-Bruce, Richard and Jasmine- like that the Temple of Heaven is the world's largest existing imperial sacrificial building and how to use chopsticks! Even though we had an amazing time I don't think I can ever eat Chinese food again because we ate it for 10 days straight... Thank you to all of the teachers who went on the trip as it was such a surreal experience to go to China and especially thank you to Miss Copeland for organising the trip. I truly did have the best time.
- Pollyanna W 9H2

My trip to China was such an amazing and unforgettable experience. I really enjoyed exploring all the different places and seeing so many incredible sights. One of my favourite parts was visiting the Great Wall of China, as it was amazing to see something so famous in real life. We also visited the beautiful Temple of Heaven, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, and some lovely gardens. I loved getting to experience a different culture, see the beautiful buildings and learn more about China's history. It was a special trip, and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to visit so many wonderful places and make memories that I will treasure forever. - *Cheyenne M 9C1*

Our school trip to China was an incredible experience that I will remember for a long time. The best part of the trip was visiting the Great Wall, where we hiked up the very steep steps to take in the amazing views from the top. We also spent a fun day at the zoo, where we saw giant pandas and polar bears up close. We learned a lot about Chinese culture, including the different types of traditional food they enjoy and the history behind their customs. We even picked up a few phrases in the local language . Overall, it was a great trip and I would love to go again! - *Emily G 9G2*

Mrs N Devaney
Head of Year 9



















YEAR 10

It has been another positive and productive period for Year 10, with pupils engaging in a range of opportunities to develop their confidence, broaden their experiences and contribute to our school community.

Student Parliament
We are excited to be holding our first Year 10 Student Parliament meeting on Monday 9th November in D13. Pupils have already had the opportunity to share their ideas, suggestions and feedback with their Student Parliament representatives, who will bring these forward for discussion at the meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to have their voices heard, contribute to decisions and help shape positive changes within the school community. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of our first meeting!

Personal Development Day
Pupils recently took part in a range of engaging workshops and talks as part of our Personal Development Day. These included careers sessions with professionals from the police and medical sectors, an online safety workshop delivered by Split Banana, and leadership development programmes. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for pupils to explore potential career pathways, learn more about different professions and the skills and qualifications they may require. The online safety workshop encouraged pupils to reflect on their digital lives, relationships and how to make safe and informed choices online. The leadership programmes also supported pupils in developing important skills such as communication, teamwork, confidence and responsibility.

Year 10 Work Experience – Planning Ahead
A reminder that Year 10 pupils should now begin thinking about and making arrangements for their work experience placement, which will take place later in the academic year. Work experience is a valuable opportunity to gain an insight into the world of work, develop transferable skills and explore potential future career interests. We encourage pupils to start researching possible placements, speaking to family and friends about potential opportunities and making initial enquiries with employers. Getting started early will help ensure that pupils have time to find a placement that interests them and provides a worthwhile experience.

Upcoming Exams and Revision
With examinations beginning on 16th November, it is important that pupils are making revision a regular part of their weekly routine. We encourage pupils to use their revision materials, knowledge organisers and class resources to revisit key topics, practise answering exam-style questions and identify any areas where further support may be needed. Short, focused revision sessions spread across the week are often more effective than leaving preparation until the last minute. Parental encouragement and support with establishing a manageable revision routine can make a real difference.

Uniform Reminder
Finally, a reminder about our school uniform expectations. In particular, pupils should ensure they are wearing the correct socks and tights combination. White socks should not be worn over black tights. Additionally, just a reminder that fake nails are not permitted. Likewise, hair colours must be natural. We appreciate parents' support in reinforcing our uniform expectations and ensuring pupils arrive at school looking smart and ready to learn.

Meet The Tutor
Meet the Tutor evening is on the 19th November. More information can be found above in the Notices section.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in encouraging pupils to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Mr Osborne
Head of Year 10

Miss Cardoso
Assistant Head of Year 10

YEAR 11

This week, we have welcomed our Year 11 students back after the October half term, where they have continued to work exceptionally hard as they completed the second week of their mock examinations. These exams are an important opportunity to assess the grades students are currently working at and identify any areas of their learning that may need further attention. The results will also help students make informed decisions about their post-GCSE options, including which courses they may wish to study and at which school or college.

During this week's assembly, Mrs Norman and Ms Robinson delivered a presentation about studying in the Sixth Form at CHSG and they are looking forward to welcoming students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 11th November, from 5–7pm. Current Sixth Form students and subject teachers will be available throughout the evening to answer questions and provide further information about the courses on offer. This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 students to find out more about life in the Sixth Form at CHSG and explore the options available to them.

The application process for our Sixth Form opens today, and all Year 11 students who are interested in continuing their studies with us are encouraged to complete their application as soon as possible.

Apply here: https://chsg.applicaa.com/year12

Year 11 students are also encouraged to explore the different options available for their post-GCSE studies and attend open evenings at other schools and colleges. This will ensure they are fully informed and able to make the best decision for their future education.

For students who have already applied to other schools or colleges, a reference from the Year Team may be required. Please ensure that all reference requests are submitted to the Year Team as early as possible, as these can take some time to complete.

Now mocks have finished, students will be returning to normal lessons next week and should be bringing all the correct equipment and booklets for the day. As always, attendance is key, and any missed lesson is a missed opportunity for learning. Therefore, please ensure students are in every day and on time.

I hope Year 11 have a well deserved rest this weekend and we look forward to seeing them all on Monday.

Mrs Pearce and the Year 11 team

Carshalton High School for Girls

SIXTH FORM Open Evening

Wednesday 11th November 2026

5.00pm to 7.00pm



Sixth Form Introduction and Welcome Talk at 6.15pm

Sixth Form Open Evening - 11th November 2026- 5-7pm

We are looking forward to welcoming you next Wednesday at our Sixth Form Open Evening. Students and parents are all encouraged to come along. If parents cannot make it, students are more than welcome to attend with their friends.

Why CHSG Sixth Form?

- Experts in girls' education – empowering students to achieve their ambitions in a supportive, inspiring environment.
- Exceptional pastoral care – our experienced team ensures every student is known, valued, and fully supported throughout Sixth Form.
- A wide range of A Level courses – taught by specialist teachers who are passionate about their subjects and committed to helping you achieve excellent outcomes.
- Outstanding BTEC results – with excellent performance across our strong vocational pathways, opening doors to university and career success.
- Specialist Sixth Form block and facilities – a purpose-built space designed to foster independent study, collaboration, and personal growth.
- Personalised careers and post-18 guidance – expert support to help students explore opportunities and plan your future with confidence.
- The Aspire Programme – tailored preparation for competitive routes, including Oxbridge, Medicine, and Russell Group applications.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Norman, Director of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher..

YEAR 12

It has been a focused and engaging start to the half term as Year 12 took part in mock interviews with members from different sectors as part of PD Day.

Students spent the time preparing with role play activities and chances to explore post-18 options, before attending an interview. All students received feedback of which will be used in future sessions. Students interested in working within the medical field in some capacity, had an additional prep session with two fantastic medical students who shared valuable knowledge and resources. The day ended with a Q&A panel, where students could dig deeper for information and top tips.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hrouda for the wonderful contacts provided, Miss Robinson for overseeing the panel session and all tutors who delivered interview refresher sessions.

Last, but not least; well done to all students for the effort put into preparing and the good conduct throughout the day.

Miss Ishola
Head of Year 12

YEAR 13

Year 13 have worked exceptionally well throughout this week's mock examinations. Students have been punctual, focused and mature in their approach, and we are pleased with the attitude they have demonstrated. We look forward to receiving the results over the coming weeks, which will allow us to celebrate individual strengths, identify areas for development and set new targets to support their progress.

There is also some exciting news regarding UCAS applications! We remain on track with the application process, and some of our students have already started receiving offers from universities. It is fantastic to see their hard work beginning to pay off.

Our aim remains to have all UCAS applications submitted by 17th December, comfortably ahead of the official January deadline.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and encouragement at home.

Miss Robinson
Head of Year 13

CHSG CAREERS NEWS

Celebrating a Fantastic Day of Careers Education!

It has been a fantastic day for careers education, with students across all year groups taking part in a wide range of exciting and valuable careers-related activities. We are committed to helping our students explore the world of work, discover their interests and develop the skills and confidence they need for their future pathways.

Our Year 7 students were introduced to Unifrog, our online careers platform, which will support them in exploring different career options, discovering their interests and beginning to think about their future aspirations. To celebrate Green Careers Week, our Year 8 students explored the growing range of opportunities within green careers. They learned about careers that contribute to a more sustainable future and considered the important role they could play in protecting our planet. Our Year 9 students benefited from informative talks delivered by representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and SES Construction. These sessions provided valuable insights into the world of work and helped students develop a greater understanding of employment opportunities and the skills employers are looking for.

It has also been an action-packed period for Year 10, who have enjoyed a variety of careers experiences. These included an engaging RISE workshop, an informative talk about careers in medicine, and the fantastic opportunity to take part in a panel discussion with representatives from PWC, the Met Police, DWP and SES Construction. These experiences allowed students to hear directly from professionals, ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of different career pathways and industries. We were impressed by the level of questioning posed to the panel from our students.

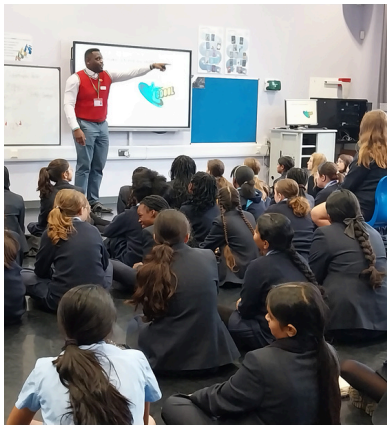
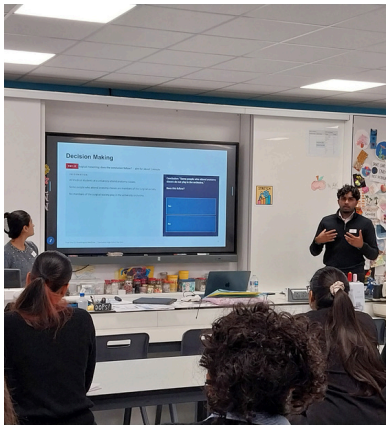
Finally, our Year 12 students took part in mock interview practice, giving them the opportunity to develop their interview techniques and build confidence when presenting themselves to potential employers. They received valuable feedback from a range of employers, helping them to recognise their strengths and identify areas for further development.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and engagement shown by our students throughout these activities. A huge thank you goes to all the employers, organisations and external speakers who have generously given their time and expertise to support our students. These experiences play a vital role in preparing our young people for life beyond school, and we look forward to providing many more exciting careers opportunities in the future!







Curriculum Focus: Music



Year 7 have started off their CHSG musical journey with a singing topic. As they've explored different types of songs, they have become more confident in singing with each other and expressing themselves. Their first performance at CHSG involved them rewriting the lyrics to a song learnt in class –topics including favourite foods, animals and holiday destinations. Year 7 have also begun to learn about using different dynamics (volumes) and combining different rhythms in performance, skills that will serve them well in their upcoming Stomp and Samba topic.

Year 8 have continued to build their musical skills with a Blues unit. They have explored how the Blues was pivotal in the development of much Popular music and practiced the 12-Bar Blues chord sequence. They have worked in pairs to produce a performance where they have improvised their own music around the Blues scale at the keyboard. They then concluded the topic with an introduction to playing chords on the Ukulele, an instrument they will return to later in the year.

The Year 9 Extended Curriculum have been exploring Dance Music across the ages from Baroque to Electronic, via Waltz, Bhangra and Disco. They've performed at the keyboard, produced small group percussion pieces, enjoyed recreating the sounds of the synthesiser and have created their own Electronic Dance Music tracks.

The Year 9 GCSE group have been working through their Step Up to GCSE topic which helps them developing their listening, performing and composing skills. They have been working hard in and outside of lessons to get their first ensemble performances ready for the sharing lesson before half-term. They have returned to musical elements covered in KS3 and begun to discover more language that can be used to describe them when listening and have been introduced to a new music notation software, Musescore.

Year 10 have continued to build on their success in Year 9 and started the year working on a class performance of their GCSE set work Africa by Toto. They have started delving into this piece learning about the composition context, rhythm, melody and harmony used in the song. Year 10 are also receiving regular composition lessons to help them prepare to start their GCSE coursework after Christmas.

Year 11 started the year with a quick deadline – their Free Composition (15% of the GCSE) was completed in September. They are now focusing on the Musical Forms and Devices area of the course, learning about the second GCSE set work, Badinerie by J.S.Bach. They are also hard at work preparing their Solo Performances ready for the exam later in November and are just about to start their second GCSE composition, which is to a brief set by the exam board.
Year 13 continue to be invaluable in the running of the music department, helping out regularly with auditions, events and rehearsals. In their academic lessons they have been revising their Musical Theatre topic and delving further into Western Art Music at the turn of the 20th century. They have also continued to develop their listening and aural skills through the study of symphonic music. Like Year 11, Year 13 are also developing their compositions and preparing for their A-Level recitals in front of a visiting examiner in the Spring.

Outside of academic lessons the music department continues to flourish. Co-curricular clubs are proving popular and we are continuing to offer Choir, Instrumental Club and Songwriting clubs. Year 12 students are also running a Musical Theatre club for Years 7 and 8. Last half-term saw several students perform excellently in the Piano Salon concert. The music department is now working hard to prepare for the Winter Concert on Tuesday 8th December with auditions for solo/small ensemble slots taking place next week. Working closely with Drama we have now auditioned and cast all roles for the school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in July 2027. Rehearsals are already sounding fabulous so keep an eye out for tickets when they go on sale later on in the year. Recent trips have included Year 13 to see Martin Guerre at the Old Vic and the Music Scholars to the Royal Albert Hall. More trips are planned for later in the year. There has been an increase in students wanting to start individual musical lessons this year. We still have places available – to find out more about this, please email egravenor@carshaltongirls.org.uk.

CHSG ONLINE SAFETY

Understanding AI Companions

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly familiar part of young people's lives. Alongside tools that help with homework or answer questions, there is a growing number of AI companions designed to hold personal conversations, offer emotional support and even simulate friendships or relationships.

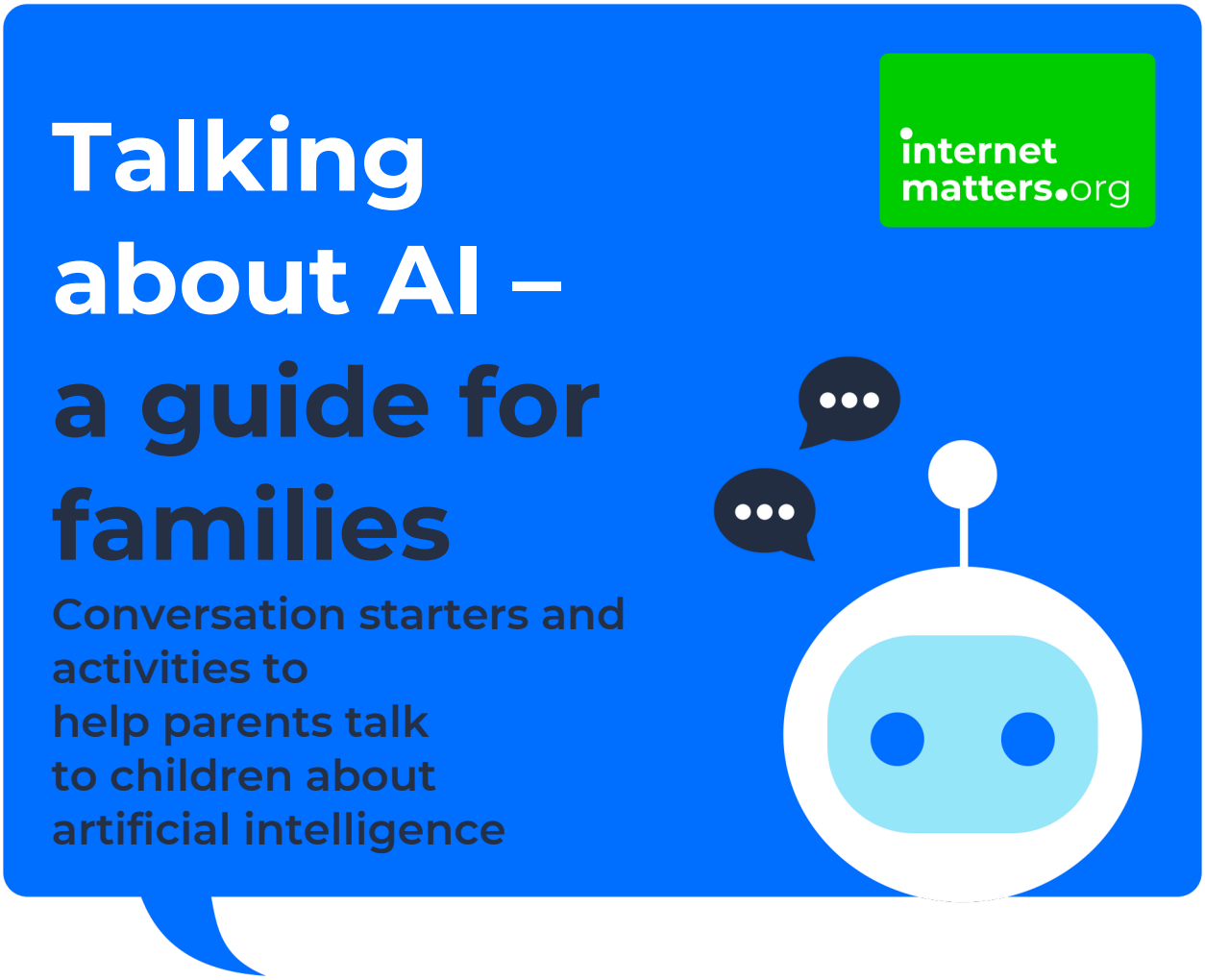
For some young people, these interactions can feel reassuring, particularly if they are experiencing loneliness, anxiety or difficulties with friendships. However, AI companions are not real people, and their responses may not always be accurate, appropriate or in a young person's best interests.

One concern is the potential for emotional attachment. AI companions are often designed to be engaging, responsive and available at any time. Young people may begin to rely on them for reassurance or advice, potentially reducing opportunities to develop real-world relationships or seek support from trusted adults.

What can parents do?

- Talk openly with your child about their use of AI and the conversations they may be having.
- Remind them that AI can appear caring and understanding but does not have genuine feelings or human judgement.
- Encourage them to maintain friendships and seek support from trusted adults.
- Discuss privacy and the importance of not sharing sensitive personal information with AI chatbots.

Children and Screens has produced a useful research overview exploring the opportunities and risks associated with AI companions and young people. [Chatbots, AI Companions, and Youth - Children and Screens]



NHS South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Education Wellbeing Service

Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Understanding and Supporting Teen Sleep

This webinar will look at some of the research and science around sleep hygiene, teenage sleep and thinking together about the challenges with some options for supporting from the perspective of parents or carers.



DATE / TIME

Tuesday 17th November
12.30-1.30pm

Scan the QR code or click here

LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to either event for free on Eventbrite by scanning the QR Code.

You can also check out our other events by clicking here

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 17th November
7.00-8.00pm

Scan the QR code or click here