

Huish Episcopi Academy Parent Newsletter

House Update

The house competition remains tight as we move further into the term.

The current standings for the houses are as follows:

Merchant
6542

Pennard
6394

Lambrook
6328

Bailbrook
6327

Chelston
5712

An Update From Mrs Boyes

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to congratulate all of our students on the fantastic work they have completed across their lessons. We are incredibly proud of their efforts, commitment, and the progress they continue to make. This has been recognised through the Golden Tickets issued throughout the term, and the excitement around the draws has been a joyful way to celebrate their achievements.

As you will see in today's letter, the range of enriching opportunities available to students this half term has been vast. The updates included reflect just some of the highlights from the last two weeks, showcasing the breadth of experiences that support both academic learning and character development.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mr Tindal, who will be joining us as Teacher of Maths after the half term break. We look forward to him becoming part of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all families a restful and enjoyable half term break, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 3rd November.

Warm regards,

Mrs Boyes
Principal

Sixth Form Applications Now Open!

Applications for Huish Episcopi Sixth Form are now open! We have already received lots of fantastic applications. After half-term, students who have applied will be invited to attend an interview to discuss their application in more detail.

You can find more information and submit your application on our website: [Huish Episcopi Sixth Form](#)

Parking Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers to be considerate to our neighbours in the community when dropping off and collecting children.

Please do not block or turn around in private residencies or driveways.

If the school car park is full, the church car park is available to drop off and collect students. Please try to avoid having to use residential roads nearby.

H1 Taylors Bus

There are a few spaces left available on the H1 private bus, run by Taylors Coach Travel. The route is as follows:

Yeovil (Larkhill Bus Stop), Chilthorne Domer (Halfway House), Ilchester (North Over Layby), Tintinhull (Old Post Office), Ash (Opposite Borough Street), Ash (Old Post Office), Huish Episcopi Academy.

If you would like to enquire, please call **01935 423177** or email info@taylorscoachtravel.co.uk

PSHE Drop-Down Day Wednesday 22nd October

On Wednesday, our students took part in a PSHE drop-down day, where they were off timetable and taking part in valuable PSHE sessions both with their teachers and external speakers.

Years 7-11 received an engaging workshop from SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) on racism and discrimination, which the students responded to with lots of excellent questions and contributions. Years 9, 10 and 11 had some talks with the Somerset Police on Consent (Years 9 and 10) and understanding the dangers of alcohol (Year 11), which sparked up some interesting questions and reflections back in their classrooms with their teachers. Over in Sixth Form, they took part in some external sessions but also had the opportunity for some creative tasks in the afternoon, with Year 13 looking at online dating profiles and Year 12 preparing for a school community project on supporting our younger year groups with topics such as friendships and cyberbullying.

All of the external speakers commented on the excellent behaviour and attitude they saw from our students and it was great to see how engaged they were with the sessions both in the classroom and with the speakers.

There will be two more drop-down days throughout the year, one in the Spring Term and one in the Summer Term, where exact dates and content will be released closer to the time.



Attendance Matters

As we come to the end of this half term, we would like to thank all our families for your continued support in helping students attend school regularly. We know that good attendance is not always easy and appreciate the effort many of you make each day to overcome challenges and reduce barriers to attendance. Working together makes a real difference to the outcomes of our young people.

Recent research from the Department for Education (2025) reinforces the importance of regular attendance; the study found that pupils who miss more school tend to achieve lower GCSE grades, and that this can have a lasting effect on future opportunities.

Key findings also include:

- Each day of absence between Years 7 and 11 is linked to an estimated £750 reduction in lifetime earnings.
- Pupils who are persistently absent (missing more than 10% of school sessions) may see around £650 less in future earnings for each additional day missed.
- Pupils with 95–100% attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve strong passes in English and Maths as those attending 90–95%.

While there are many factors that shape a young person's success, it's clear that consistent attendance helps students stay connected to learning, build confidence, and prepare for their next steps in education and employment. Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure that every young person in our care has the best chance to succeed.

If you would like to read the full Department for Education report, it is available here:

[The Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings \(DfE, 2025\)](#)

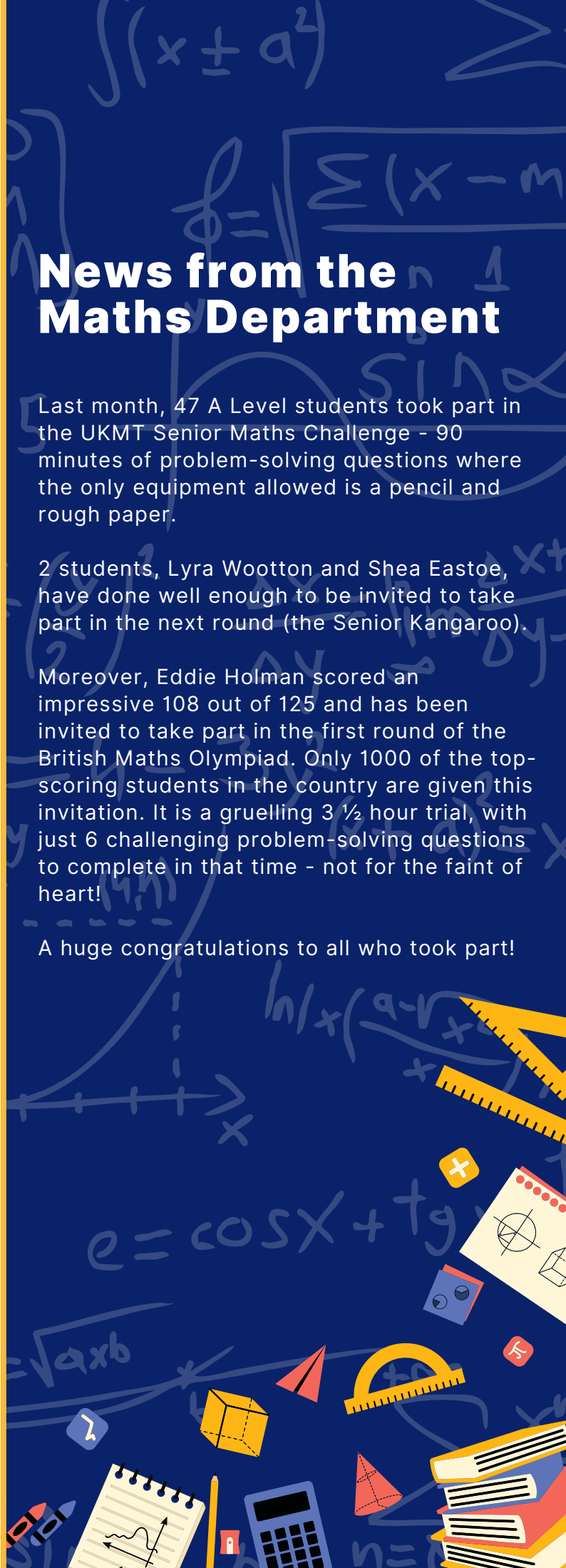
News from the Maths Department

Last month, 47 A Level students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge - 90 minutes of problem-solving questions where the only equipment allowed is a pencil and rough paper.

2 students, Lyra Wootton and Shea Eastoe, have done well enough to be invited to take part in the next round (the Senior Kangaroo).

Moreover, Eddie Holman scored an impressive 108 out of 125 and has been invited to take part in the first round of the British Maths Olympiad. Only 1000 of the top-scoring students in the country are given this invitation. It is a gruelling 3 ½ hour trial, with just 6 challenging problem-solving questions to complete in that time - not for the faint of heart!

A huge congratulations to all who took part!



Character Education Update

As we approach the end of the first half term, we would like to share an update on our Character Education focus and highlight some of the fantastic achievements from across the school community.

This term, our core values of **Respect**, **Ambition**, and **Resilience** have been at the heart of everything we do. We are incredibly proud of how our students have embraced these values, particularly **Ambition**, which has been our key theme for Term 1.

Ambition in Action

One of the standout moments this term has been our partnership with the Rotary Club on their ambitious global project to help eradicate polio. This inspiring cause has given our students a real-world example of what ambition can achieve, and we thank the Rotary Club for their ongoing support. We look forward to continuing our involvement with this important campaign, including student-led fundraising later in the year.

We are also grateful to Kelways Plant Centre for their generous contribution to the school. Their support has made a tangible difference, and we appreciate their commitment to helping our school community thrive.



The Biggest Quiz

Another exciting event this term is the culmination of our House Quiz Competition. The grand finale takes place today, with a live broadcast being shown to all students. The final round promises to have a major impact on the overall house standings, and we are looking to a fun and competitive end to the first half of term.

Looking Ahead: A Focus on Respect

Next half term, we will be turning our focus to **Respect**. As part of this, our students will be writing letters of appreciation to members of our local community, including primary school staff, a local homeless charity, local community projects, and residents and staff in local care homes.

In addition, we will be launching a school-wide initiative to support those facing hardship by collecting donations for local food banks. More information will be shared with shortly about how to get involved. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement at home. You play a vital role in helping us embed these important values into everyday school life.

Huish Careers

It has been a busy half term for Careers at Huish, with the launch of our Careers Programme in tutor time. Students have been enjoying *Job of the Week*, learning about roles such as watchmaker and drone pilot!

Year 11 have had a series of speakers to support them in considering their post-16 options. These have included presentations from Huish Sixth, local FE colleges, the Army, and Train 3 All - a local training provider based in Somerton.

Year 10 and 12 students have been updating their CVs in preparation for Work Experience and Year 13 have been completing applications for apprenticeships and university. We have also had visits from Exeter and Swansea University.

Details of Work Experience for Year 10 and Year 12 students will be shared after half term. Please be aware that the dates for Work Experience are as follows:

Year 12 | **Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July 2026**

Year 10 | **Monday 6th July - Friday 10th July 2026**



Unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we are using Unifrog; an award-winning online careers platform. All students have access to this website, but we will be using it mostly in school with Year 10 upwards.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account (via their school Microsoft account) that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- **Exploring Pathways:** Personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars.
- **Recording:** Self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills.
- **Opportunities:** Search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience, and much more.
- **Applications:** Tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g. CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. The sign-up code you need is: **HEASfamily** and you can sign up here: **[Code - Unifrog](#)**.

For more information, visit **www.unifrog.org**.

We are continuing to update the **[Careers section](#)** of the Academy website, so please take a look at this for further information and resources.

Updates from the Science Department

Thank you to those who attended the recent SLT Coffee Morning and asked about Science Club. Up to now, we have offered this to Year 7 as they settle into their new school. It is clear from parents and carers that other year groups are also keen for the opportunity to extend their science curriculum experience. Therefore, we are delighted to announce that Science Club will be open for other Year Groups to attend! We do have a couple of different opportunities available, but they will all take place **after school** on **Thursdays** in Sc11 and/or Sc12.

Science Club

It has been another fantastic 2 weeks in Science Club! Students were given the opportunity to use microscopes to observe every day objects and creatures in a whole new way. For our Year 7 students, this links to the next part of their curriculum, which is the study of cells. On this page are some of the photos they took of crystals, daisies, water fleas, and dragonfly wings through the lens of the microscope.

CREST Awards

CREST Awards are a globally-recognised programme run by the British Science Association that empower students to explore STEM through flexible, hands-on investigation projects. Students in any year group can work towards their Bronze, Silver, or Gold CREST Award, and includes subjects and projects outside of the taught curriculum.

Students take ownership of their projects, making decisions and learning from trial and error. This hands-on experience builds confidence, creativity, and resilience. CREST Awards are designed to be flexible, allowing students of all ages and abilities to participate, whether individually or in teams. If your child is interested in participating, please encourage them to speak to a member of the Science Department, who would be delighted to assist.

Pictured right are our now Year 8 students who were presented with their Bronze CREST Award certificates this week. Their fantastic projects included looking at the best conditions for plant growth, the best antibacterial cleaning product, and the best way to keep cheese fresh!



HPQ Opportunity: Investigative Science

We are looking to run a HPQ (Higher Project Qualification) in Investigative Science this year. This will lead to a qualification worth half a GCSE. It is aimed at older students or those who want to formalise their work. It is similar to the CREST Silver Award (in fact, once completed, they can also be entered for the Silver Award). This is quite different to Science Club, as it requires attendance at formal taught lessons after school and a formal scientific write-up. There will also be plenty of time in the laboratory completing practical work. These will be advertised to students after half-term.

For more information on any of these opportunities, email SueBrammield@hea.ac.uk or ImogenJameson@hea.ac.uk

Trip Report: A Level Textiles

London Museums

Last Thursday, A Level Textiles students had the opportunity to visit world-class textile and clothing collections in London to fuel their project research.

Students first enjoyed the 'Dress Codes' exhibition at Kensington Palace, which explored how formal and informal dress codes define what we wear, and how the rest of the world perceives us. The collection featured clothing worn by members of the Royal Family, including Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Margaret, and Diana Princess of Wales, who all curated a unique aesthetic and style.

After an Autumnal walk through Hyde Park, students then visited the V&A to complete research related to personal project work. There, students were able to view a wealth of inspiration, including the work of William Morris, famous photographers, architects, jewellery designers, and film and theatre costume designers.



Trip Report: Huish at the High Court!

Earlier this week, students in Year 12 and 13 visited the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Organised by Miss Elphick as part of the Criminology Level 3 course, students from Criminology and Sociology were invited to learn about one of the highest courts in England and to play their part in the re-enactment of a real murder case.

Assisted by first-year Law students from King's College London, who acted as solicitors and advised our students before they presented their case and interviewed witnesses in the stand. Our students had a fantastic experience learning about the trial process and the importance of each role in carrying out justice.

Level 3 criminology is equivalent to an A Level and students learn about all aspects of crime and the justice system.



INTRODUCING OUR SIXTH FORM STUDENT LEADERS



ELEANOR ADAMS
HEAD GIRL



ZACH SPIKE
HEAD BOY



KATIE WALL
DEPUTY LEADER



FREDDIE PHILLIPS
DEPUTY LEADER



TAISIE BYRNE
DEPUTY LEADER

We are delighted to introduce this year's Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, who are already playing an active role in representing the student voice across the whole school community.

All five Leaders are Year 13 students who have already shown outstanding commitment, responsibility, and enthusiasm in their new roles. They are busy working alongside staff and students to support the Student Council, contribute to whole-school events, and strengthen communication between the Sixth Form and wider school.

We are very proud of their leadership and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make this year.

A Message from our Police School Link Officers

Dear parents and carers,

Our names are PCSOs Ian and Abby from your local policing team, and we are the school link officers for Huish Episcopi Academy.

You or your child may have noticed our presence at the school, and we would love to take this opportunity to let you know who we are and what we do by answering some FAQs.



What is a PCSO?

PCSO stands for Police Community Support Officer. We are uniformed, operational members of the police service. We work in many ways, like Police Constables, to reduce and solve crime, as well as doing other jobs to keep people safe.

Unlike Police Constables, PCSOs do not arrest people and do not carry items such as handcuffs. Although we do have a lot of designated powers to help us do our jobs, our role is focused on preventing crime from happening in the first place and helping to solve it through local knowledge.

What are School Link Officers?

School link officers (normally PCSOs) are assigned schools in their local area. This can be anything from nursery and primary schools, through to secondaries and colleges. As well as often being present at the school, we also have our day-to-day role outside of the schools, conducting general policing in the community.

What do School Link officers do at the school? Should I be worried that police are at my child's school?

No, you do not need to be worried - quite the opposite. As school link PCSOs, we are not there to 'police the school'. The school takes its own responsibility for behaviour and safeguarding that we just help to support. We are lucky that we have a great cohort of students and dedicated members of staff that already make the school such a safe and happy place. That's why we love being the school's officers!

We do, however, police the community outside of the school and whilst we are lucky to live in a safe area, there are dangers that face your children that we look to protect them from. This can be anything from dangers on the road to dangers online. This is where the work of the school link officer comes in. Alongside the school, we help educate children on what those dangers are. We work with the children and the school about how to recognise these and educate on how to protect themselves. This can take the form of assemblies, workshops, assisting during PSHE sessions, or just being present at the school.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ian and Abby

ian.cromey-hawke@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Abby.Linaker@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Sporting Fixture Round -Ups

Year 9 Hockey Match Report:

Huish vs. Westfield

The Year 9 Hockey team had a fantastic match this week, with a 1 - 0 victory against Westfield! Well done, Year 9!



Year 7 and 8 Football Match Report:

Huish vs. Holyrood

The girls kicked off their league campaign with a very assertive performance against Holyrood last Tuesday. The match served as a great opportunity to put into practice what has been implemented in training so far and gave the girls game time in preparation for the forthcoming matches in November.

Outstanding team cohesion and great fluidity between player rotations throughout means that Huish was victorious, securing a staggering 9 - 2 win against Holyrood. Well done, girls. Keep it up!





Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to be working with Camps International, offering our students the opportunity to join us on a 4 Week expedition to Cambodia in July*, 2027.

Come along to our informal presentation evening where you can learn more and ask questions about this exciting opportunity. We expect the presentation to last around 45 minutes.

Date & Time: **Tuesday, 4 November - 18:00**

Location: **Main Hall**

To ensure you receive an information pack, please confirm your attendance online via this link.

<https://register.campsinternational.com>

Your School Code is **13534**

Who are Camps International?

Camps International are award winning global leaders in ethical and sustainable school expeditions. They offer fully supported school expeditions, to industry leading safety standards, across Africa, Asia and Latin America, providing an authentic cultural experience for every travelling student.

Where will they be going and what will they be doing?

This expedition is packed full of culture and adventure. Play an active part in important community development work and experience Cambodian culture in its two largest cities, before learning to scuba dive surrounded by tropical marine life.

Cambodia is a truly incredible country to explore. Living alongside local communities, you'll get to experience the real heart of this South-East Asian gem, learning about its traditional culture and fascinating history and sampling some of its delicious cuisine. Not only will you be playing an active part in vital project work to improve the lives of rural communities, you will get to take on the challenge of mastering the fundamentals of scuba diving, surrounded by an array of colourful marine life in crystal-clear waters.

What will they get out of the experience?

This fully supported expedition will provide our students with a unique opportunity to live alongside rural communities, broadening their perspective on the world. It will allow students to push boundaries and step outside of their comfort zone, embarking on a personal development journey. It will enable them to reach and exceed their academic and personal potential, develop valuable life skills and gain key extra-curricular experience highly regarded by universities and employers.

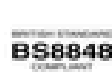
How much does it cost and how will we pay for the expedition?

This all-inclusive expedition costs £5230 and can be paid via scheduled payment plans. Payment plans facilitate both fundraising activities and financial management. All students are encouraged to fundraise the cost, teaching them important life skills such as money management, problem solving and event planning. If fundraising is new to you, then don't worry, the Camps International crew will support you and our students every step of the way.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the presentation. **Can't make it?** Register anyway and we will send you more information.

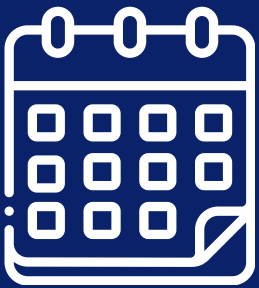
Kindest regards,

Huish Episcopi Academy



* Pending your schools preferred travel dates.

The all-inclusive expedition costs are protected by ATOL (6608)



Dates for your diary for this term

- **27th October – Half Term**
- **4th November – Camps International Information Evening (6 - 7 pm)**
- **6th November – Year 12 Parents' Evening**
- **11th November – Year 10 BTEC Information Evening**
- **12th November – Music Trip: BSO KS4 Schools Concert**
- **18th November – SEND Coffee Morning (9:30 - 11 am)**
- **28th November – INSET Day**
- **3rd December – Music: Primary Carols**
- **4th December – SLT Coffee Morning**
- **4th December – Year 11 Parents' Evening**
- **5th December – Year 11 Winter Formal**
- **8th December – Music: Wells Cathedral Choir Concert**
- **11th December – Music: Christmas Concert**
- **18th December – Music: Christmas Carol Service**
- **19th December – School finishes at 12:30 pm, with all students to be off site by 1 pm**



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Families Learning About Self Harm (FLASH)

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

Any adult who has shared responsibility for bringing up a child (11-17 years old) can attend the group including stepparents, grandparents and carers. We welcome parents on their own or with a partner or adult family member. Please note, this group is not intended for families of young people currently under care of Tier 3 CAMHS. For families currently care coordinated by CAMHS East or West teams, please speak to your keyworker who can discuss other FLASH groups with you.

Friday's Nov 7th-14th- 21st - 28th & Dec 5th (9:30-12:30am)
The Balidon Centre, Yeovil - Booking Essential



WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME COVER?

This is a 5-week programme which aims to create better communication and personal relationships between parent/carers and young people. FLASH allows parents the opportunity to discuss the self-harm with people who understand and learn how to manage concerns within your home.

It will include:

- Exploring what self-harm is, what the risks are and what is the function of self-harm
- Listening and self-esteem enabling skills
- Managing self-harm within the family environment
- How self-harm impacts on parenting and ways to manage under stressful circumstances
- Coping strategies for parents and carers

FEEDBACK

"I feel more comfortable addressing things with my YP. I am not always fearful of her harming - I recognise triggers more effectively."

"I felt very comfortable opening up with the other parents and not judged"

"It has helped me to understand a bit more, and know how to respond and when to step back and allow her to come to me if she wants/needs."

IMPORTANT
Due to limited availability and safety your place needs to be booked. We will not be able to accommodate anyone who is not pre-

registered.

Contact us
for more information



0300 124 5012



camhsspa@somersetft.nhs.uk