



Headteacher's Comment:

Welcome back to the summer term at Chase High School. Our pupils were raring to go on day one, embracing the warmer weather and our continued drive for high standards. The school was bustling over the Easter holidays, with revision clubs run by many staff to ensure pupils are best placed to succeed in the upcoming exams. Finally, a note of thanks to Jemimah Omombo, who has raised over £500 to support orphans in her home country of the DR Congo. This achievement is alongside her gaining four conditional offers to study at Russell Group universities and applying for a summer business internship at Harvard University!

#ProudtobeChase



Waddle's Name Reveal!

Waddle is now complete and was safely delivered back to IPECO yesterday in preparation for the trail. Well done to Liliana for working so hard to finish the design. The final design will be revealed in July but here is a sneak preview!

The competition to name Waddle was a great success, thank you to all those who participated and thought of some excellent names. We can now reveal our penguin is called PUDDLES! Congratulations to Alyssa in Year 8 for her winning suggestion.



Jack Petchey Speak Out:

A HUGE well done to Yasmin in Year 10 who came 3rd in the Jack Petchey Speak Out regional final. She competed against local schools with her speech on 'Colourism' and spoke with confidence and passion!



Mental Health Workshops:

This week, the NELFT's Community Mental Health Team visited our Sixth Form students to talk to them about coping mechanisms when managing stress and sign posting students on strategies they can use if they are feeling in a low mood.





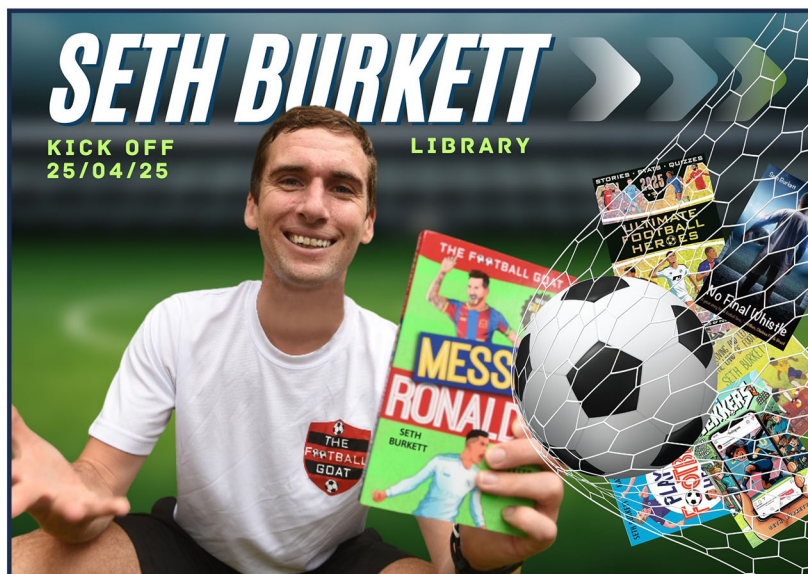
Girls Book Club:

The final book club meeting for Year 11 girls was held on the last day before the end of term. The girls had finished reading 'The Grace Year' which is a dystopian novel which includes themes of gender and empowerment.



Author Visit:

The Chase community were excited to welcome renowned Author, Seth Burkett, to speak to Year 7 and 8 pupils with the aim to inspire a love of reading. During his visit, Seth delivered whole school assemblies where he talked about his career as an author and professional footballer, what inspired him to start writing, and answered any questions about his books. He then led a series of reading and writing workshops to groups of Year 7s, aimed at football fans



and reluctant readers, to encourage them to stretch themselves and think and act outside of their comfort zone. In between all of this, we held a celebratory lunch for pupils that have shown outstanding commitment to reading and their library lessons, at which they were able to get their books signed by Seth. The whole day was a success and the pupils enjoyed the experience.



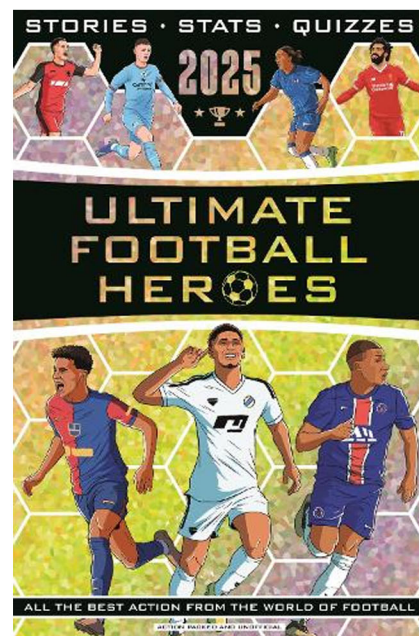
Book of the Week!

Ultimate Football Heroes 2025

Age recommendation: 9+

Short synopsis: Relive the GOALS, GAMES and GLORIES of the 2023-24 season, including titanic three-way battles for the Premier League and Women's Super League, a rollercoaster Champions' League campaign, and all the action from around the biggest European competitions.

By the amazing author that visited the school today to speak to Year 7 and 8 pupils, run writing workshops and sign copies of his books!



Dates for your Diary:

05.05.25 May Day Bank Holiday

15.05.25 Year 8 Community and Curriculum Evening

12.05.25 – 23.05.25 Year 10 Work Experience

22.05.25/23.05.25 Year 8 Immunisations HPV



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Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Reviews

An Event for ParentCarers



Southend SEND Independent Forum (SSIF) invite ParentCarers of Children with SEND to their penultimate Seminar this year. 'Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP) Annual Reviews' is the fifth in a series of valuable and informative events that will run throughout the year.

About the event

This seminar is aimed at ParentCarers who have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) in place for their Child or Young Person but would like to find out more about the Annual Review process. We will aim to answer questions such as:

- What does an Annual Review entail?
- Which services are involved?
- What can I do if my Child's or Young Person's Annual Review is delayed?
- What does the Law say?
- I have never had an Annual Review, should I have?
- What is my role and responsibility as a ParentCarer?

We have a panel of professionals from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Team, Health and Education, who will talk about the assessment process. They will also bust some common myths.

We are inviting ParentCarers to submit any questions they have for the panel by email, by Thursday 1 May 2025, via email, to jody@southendsendindependentforum.org.uk. This is to save time in the room on the day as our speakers will build their presentations around the answers to these questions.

There will also be an opportunity for families to give feedback on a visual routemap about the EHCP annual review process.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note: For insurance reasons and health and safety reasons we apologise but babies, children and buggies cannot be accommodated at these sessions.

Details



Date and time

Monday, 12th May 2025
9.15am to 12.45pm



Venue

Civic Centre
Committee Room 4 (1st floor)
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6ER



Parking

Main Civic Centre Car Park
Civic Centre East SS2 6LR
Beecroft Car Park SS2 6EU.



Refreshments

Refreshments will be provided: Tea/coffee and biscuits



Scan to book



Southend-on-Sea
City Council



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That’s partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as ‘chapters’ – and within these sit shorter ‘seasons’.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There’s no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you’re out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic ‘skins’, music tracks and LEGO items – which don’t really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game’s store for real money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite’s appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. ‘Crossplay’ lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they’re on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the ‘party chat’ feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there’s no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there’s no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game’s developers release content in ‘seasons’ that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment’s map and a different over-arching theme (such as ‘medieval’, ‘pirates’ or ‘party’). These regular renewals help to hold players’ interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child’s social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they’re getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite’s rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite’s seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a ‘battle pass’, unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there’s no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite’s loading screens, they never ask for a player’s account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child’s friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they’re playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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