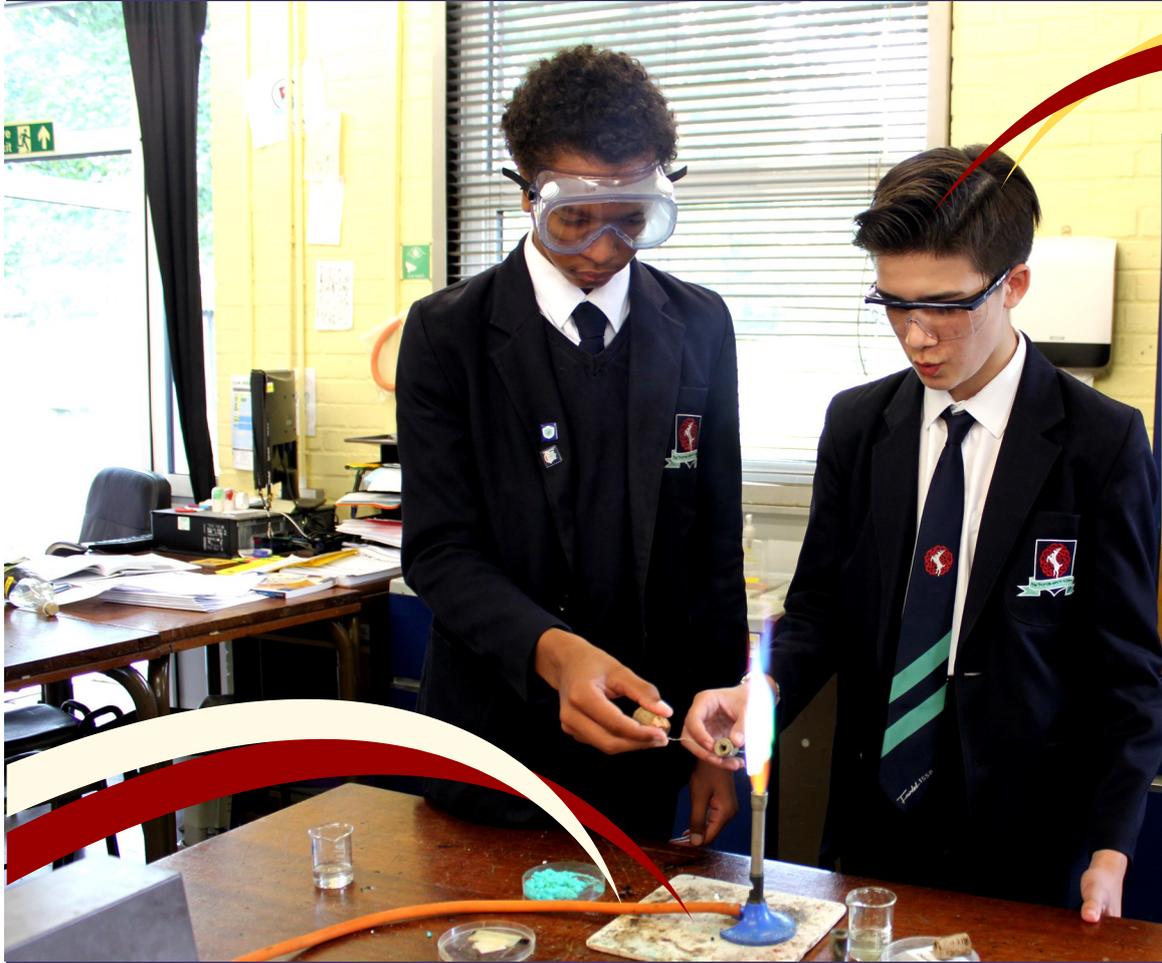


# The Thomas Alleyne Academy

Issue 04 October 26th 2018



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*Founded* 1558

## HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Welcome to the latest edition of our academy newsletter. We have had a busy and rewarding first half term of the 2018-19 academic year. This week I was delighted to hand out a number of core value badges in our celebration assemblies. It is wonderful to see so many students wearing their badges with pride on their blazers and we look forward to issuing more badges at next half term's assembly. I am

looking forward to seeing who will be our first gold badge winner this academic year!

Last night I was fortunate enough to accompany students to see a performance of Private Peaceful at the University of Hertfordshire. We were all completely gripped by the performance – one actor on stage delivering the entire performance himself. It was intense, and moving, and I would recommend it to everyone. At the same time we were also hosting a musical performance from the Shannon Express choir at Thomas Alleyne's. Both events serve to remind us all of the important place the creative and performing arts hold in our school curriculum.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back at the usual time on Monday 5th November.

# CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

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Are you a budding writer? Can you carefully craft a poem? Do you have a secret desire to write a film or playscript? Creative Writing Club is the place you can come for a quiet space to practice these things, get advice and suggestions from people your own age (and older!) and complete as many stories, scripts and poems as you can in the year...or just work on that one single project!

This year, Thomas Alleyne Academy is taking

part in the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) Young Writer's Program. Over the month of November, you will be tasked with writing a full short story, of a word length agreed to by yourself and Mr Fox. Are you up to the challenge?

Students and staff of all ages are more than welcome!

Creative Writing Club takes place every Wednesday in E2, after school.

Mr Fox

# BIOMETRIC CATERING SYSTEM

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From Monday 5th November we will be using a new cashless catering system based on a biometric (fingerprint) security. Previously students used their ID cards to buy food from the canteen or top up their account; from next term they will only need their own finger or unique PIN.

On Tuesday last week we ran a whole-school enrolment session. Children whose parents had given consent gave their fingerprint and those who did not were issued with a PIN. The new system allows our catering provider, Herts Catering Ltd (HCL), to upgrade their tills, to install an extra cash loader in 'C' Block, and to provide a quicker connection so online payments, show at the till almost immediately after the payment is processed.



## FAQ

### **What about students who didn't enrol on Tuesday due to absence?**

Mrs Perry in reprographics can collect fingerprint information or provide a PIN to any students who missed the main enrolment session.

### **If students have been given a PIN and want to get a fingerprint login instead, what do they do?**

If parents have completed the online or paper form to consent to the use of their child's fingerprint that child can register their fingerprint with Mrs Perry next term (they will have to use their PIN until this is done)

### **What happens if the students forget their PIN?**

The HCL catering team will be able to look up PINs on their new till system. When a PIN is used the till shows a photo of the student to verify their identity.

### **Will the cards still work?**

No, from next term the cards will not work. Any money on the student account can be used in the canteen via PIN or fingerprint.

# SIXTH FORM NEWS

Welcome to the fortnightly Sixth Form News. Here you will find everything that has been going on in our fantastic Sixth Form Department and any upcoming events/dates that you may need to know about.

## Create and Succeed: What Career/What Uni Fair, Olympia, October 2018

We were delighted to take our Year 12 students to this important event that helps them focus their minds on the



options available to them after they complete their studies with us. The world of opportunities for sixth form leavers is flourishing and changing very fast. The event provided

information about progressing to university and we were delighted to see our students visit some of the 40 free seminars and workshops on a range of issues that affect sixth formers, including mental health and finance workshops. There were also opportunities to develop practical skills in the CV Clinic and the Cyber Security Challenge Centre.

One of the busiest places to visit was the degree apprenticeship lounge where over forty different companies were ready to talk to students regarding the higher apprenticeship route into graduate studies. The range of degree apprenticeships are growing at an enormous rate and are as competitive as the most prestigious university places. By 2020 companies are committed to spending £2.5 billion on apprenticeship schemes. The attraction for students is the ability to earn while you learn and our students certainly came away with detailed information regarding how best to secure a place after sixth form. The financial advantages are very



## Dates for your diary

### **Wednesday 14th November**

Thomas Alleyne Post 16 Options Evening

### **Friday 14th December**

Deadline for all Year 13 UCAS applications to be submitted

clear; the latest research demonstrates that on average, degree apprentices can earn up to £23,000 during their training and not accrue student debt. After gaining qualifications higher apprentices also have the prospect of earning on average £150,000 more over the course of their working life time than those who do not take this route into employment. For more information and a parent guide go to [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

## Post 16 Options Evening – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 5.45 to 8.00 pm

Letters to parents detailing information regarding our Post 16 Options Evening were issued via Schoolcomms (email) on 11<sup>th</sup> October to all Year 11. The Post 16 Options Evening will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November and will comprise of subject presentations and pathways after GCSE's. We will be joined by our colleagues from Barnwell School who will be presenting courses, including vocational qualifications that are offered through our partnership. Representatives



from North Hertfordshire College will attend to discuss vocational and apprenticeships routes available to students. Interviews for conditional offers into sixth form will take place in December 2018. We look forward to welcoming you all on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October we invited a keynote speaker to our academy, Mr Steve Nash, CEO of the Institute of motor industry. Mr Nash has worked in the Motor Industry, on both the retail and manufacturer sides, since graduating in 1977. He joined BMW in 1986 and was a director of the company from 1997, including a period as Group Aftersales Director, looking after the Rover and Land Rover brands as well. Mr Nash was Chairman of the IMI for five years, before becoming President in November 2009. In 2012 he joined the IMI as Chief Executive Officer. Mr Nash talked to our Year 10 and sixth form students about the fast pace of change within the industry, how the industry has evolved over the years and the future of motoring and careers within the profession. We very much enjoyed his presentation and talk and Mr Nash stayed behind to answer some interesting questions

about fuel emissions, climate change and electrically powered vehicles. For more information, please visit: <https://www.theimi.org.uk/> and <http://www.autocity.org.uk/>

### **Aim High: University of Hertfordshire**

We welcome this week's guest speakers from the University of Hertfordshire Outreach and Widening Access Participation. Lecturers will be delivering a presentation to Year 12 students on the importance of study skills required for A levels, university and employment. Study skills sessions cover a wide range of topics which underpin A level study such as learning how to prioritise time effectively, taking important notes, essay writing and structure which will prepare students for their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) where they are required to write an independent dissertation for their projects. The EPQ is a highly respected qualification at university entry level as it prepares students for undergraduate study in higher education.

## YEAR 8 KIDZANIA

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 135 Year 8 students travelled to Shepherds Bush to visit Kidzania, an indoor city designed for children which encourages them to independently explore real life activities and careers whilst developing important skills such as critical thinking, entrepreneurship, problem solving and team work.

Prior to our visit students completed some form time activities to plan which jobs they wanted to experience, allowing them to make the most of their visit. Whatever they chose, students were able to enjoy a full learning experience as they worked, earned Kidzania money, and played in an interactive environment with activities that support STEM learning, English, PSHE, D&T and a variety of other subjects.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students become midwives, firefighters, news reporters, shop assistants, fashion designers and surgeons!

8D1 found the realism of Kidzania to be educational, in that they could properly appreciate the difficulties of finding employment that would have a good balance of fun and is profitable. They came to understand the importance of higher education, with being unable to enter the "premium" jobs without spending more money. However, some students grew to love doing their jobs. "It was fun collecting money", said Luke B. Other students discovered that they enjoyed manual labour. "Crawling through the vents was fun!", Tom D stated.

Kidzania was a huge success, and taught our students a lot about the adult world of work.



# SHANNON EXPRESS CHORUS

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The Music Department were pleased to be able to host the Shannon Express Chorus on Thursday 25th October for a concert of vocal music featuring our own TAA Choir.

Paul Browne, PR officer for the all-male acapella group, is an Old Alleynian and last sang in our hall a few decades ago. He approached us asking to use the hall as part of a new member recruitment drive and we were delighted to be able to work together to produce a thoroughly enjoyable evening of musical entertainment.

The varied programme included numbers such as The Duke of Earl, Make You Feel My Love, You'll Never Walk Alone and I'm Gonna Live Til I Die. Our own TAA choir sang three songs including This Is Me with a stunning solo from Year 9 Eden. We were also treated to performances from two of the chorus's barbershop quartets and there was even an

opportunity for audience participation, during which our students spontaneously taught the Chorus the actions to Swing Low Sweet Chariot.

The whole concert culminated in a joint performance by both choirs of Elton John's Can You Feel The Love Tonight and the audience were left buzzing after a few hours of excellent music.

Thank you so much to all the families who attended to support this event. We hope to continue our new partnership with the Shannon Express Chorus and hold further similar events in the future!

# YEAR 8 MURDER MYSTERY DAY

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One of our favourite events on the English Department calendar was back yesterday when we ran our ever-successful 'Murder Mystery Day' for all our Year 8 students. This is always a great event where the students spend the entire morning investigating a crime scene to find out who has murdered the cruel and heartless Ms Moody. It seems this head of English had lots of enemies and our suspects (who strangely resembled some of our sixth form students!) were heavily questioned by our Year 8 investigation teams to find out who was guilty of committing the crime.

As the morning progressed, more and more information leading to the real murderer was revealed. Students were able to investigate the scene of the crime and used the skills they have been developing in their English lessons recently to hunt for

clues, weed-out the red herrings and discover all the suspects' motives.

The morning culminated in a 'Big Reveal' performance where the suspects re-enacted the events showing what happened the night the murder was committed. Our Year 8 students had a fantastic experience where they put their investigation skills to the test and I would like to thank all those involved in helping to make the day such a success.

H Russell  
Assistant  
Headteacher  
(Teaching and  
Learning)



# A PRIVATE PEACEFUL THEATRE TRIP

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Last night we were very lucky to be able to take 60 students to see an adaptation of 'Private Peaceful' being performed on stage at the theatre in the University of Hertfordshire.

Andy Daniel played the role of Private Tommo Peaceful in this one-man show and his performance left us all speechless. His captivating delivery as a soldier awaiting the firing squad at dawn during World War One was an experience that will stay with us all for a very long time.

The play focused on his final hours as Tommo reflected on his short but joyful past growing up in rural Devon, including his exciting first days at school, the accident in the forest that killed his father and his adventures with both his beloved brother,

Charlie, and the love of his life, Molly. His memories then took a more sombre tone as he shared his experiences on the front line and made clear the injustices of war and the impact it had on both him and those around him. We won't spoil the ending but I think we can safely say that we were all left with tears in our eyes by the end of the play!

The trip was organised as one of many opportunities we are currently giving all our students as part of this year's Alleyne's Readers programme and we are all looking forward to the whole school event on Friday 9th November when every tutor group will be sharing what they have learnt about the theme of conflict and resolution through our reading of our chosen Michael Morpurgo text after half-term.

# YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

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Year 11 Geographers completed their final piece of fieldwork for their GCSE. We visited two contrasting sites on the edge of London's Olympic Park. East Village which was the athletes village during the Olympics, and has now been converted into a mixture of high end and affordable housing with a focus on environmental sustainability, and the Carpenters estate which is a former local authority estate - which faced demolition but most of which was saved by the residents.

Whilst there, students had to complete a range of data collection techniques, including asking residents about their perceptions of quality of life and carrying out a crime risk assessment. Students had an extremely productive day in the sunshine and are now focusing on collating and evaluating their results ready for their exams next year.

Both staff and students were glad to sit down at the end of the day after walking a total of 10.5 miles! Students behaved impeccably and are now equipped with the skills they need to complete their GCSE course.

Miss Levett  
Head of  
Geography



# GRIEF, BEREAVEMENT AND SIGNIFICANT LOSS.

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It is not a subject we like to discuss, but sadly, part of life is losing people that mean a great deal to us, and that is a painful process. At Thomas Alleyne Academy, if we are informed that a student is grieving, both Mrs Hayman and Mr Crowley offer bereavement support which students find comforting. Because it varies with individuals some students prefer to get through the sad times privately after the initial chat and discreet monitoring, some need a few sessions to talk about their emotions.

In addition, there is a lot of outside support to help young people get through their first experience of death. One of these is Timpsons. Most of you will know Timpsons across the UK, for its shoe repairs and key cutting, but you might not know how much they put into supporting vulnerable people. Here is what they offer for the bereaved

## **Explaining miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn baby to young children (Child Bereavement UK)**

When a new baby is expected in a family, most young children will be looking forward to the birth as much as everyone else. Having to explain the death of an expected baby brother or sister is an incredibly hard thing to do. When deep in their own grief, it might feel just too much to have to start to think about what to say to a toddler or young child.

The charity have produced a leaflet to help parents (and others) to deal with a miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn baby. You can download the leaflet from : <https://childbereavementuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Explaining-miscarriage-stillbirth-or-death-of-a-newborn-baby-July-2018.pdf>

## **Grief Support App**

The charity have also created an app aimed at 11 - 25

years olds, available on both iOS and android. The app has information about bereavement, grief, feelings and how to help. There are stories from people affected, including short films written and made by bereaved young people. The app is also useful for friends, teachers, parents and professionals who would like to know how to support bereaved young people.

## **Grief: Support for Young People (Google Play/Android)**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=bereavementsupport.childbereavementuk.com.griefsupport>

## **Grief: Support for Young People (iOS app)**

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/grief-support-for-young-people/id883195199>

## **Winston's Wish**

Another useful source of support and information around bereavement is Winston's Wish. A useful summary of their support for children experiencing loss is here: [www.winstonswish.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ww-0112-guideforpar.pdf](http://www.winstonswish.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ww-0112-guideforpar.pdf)

## **Help autistic children and young people cope with death (National Autistic Society)**

It can be difficult to discuss death and bereavement, or help a child or adult with autism to cope with a death. Every autistic person, and their level of understanding, is different. The NAS have guidance here: <https://www.autism.org.uk/about/family-life/bereavement.aspx#>

# OPEN EVENT

19th  
NOV  
2018

5PM  
7.30PM

## Upcoming Events

### Friday 26th October 2018

Year 7 Fright Night Disco—7pm

### Monday 5th November 2018

First day of term

### Wednesday 7th November 2018

Year 8 Parents' Evening (Early Close)

### Friday 9th November 2018

Alleyne's Readers Event

## Congratulations!

Did you know we have sent 2400 reward postcards home in the last term?!

We hope you like receiving positive feedback from staff about your child's work in school.

Congratulations to every student who has received one and keep up the good work! We look forward to sending even more.



## Enrichment Programme at The Thomas Alleyn Academy (September 2018)

(Open to all years unless indicated, venue in brackets)



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	Christian Union (F8) –CMR Badminton (Sports Hall) – AWS/TCR Dance (Gym) - AHY Lego Club (C20) –SHL Music Technology Club (D1) - DBT	Dodgeball (Sports Hall) – AHY/TCR Lego Club (C20) –SHL Card Club week 1 only (C5) - AGO	Young Carers (C5) – TRS/LCN Benchball (Sports Hall) – AWS/NHH Lego Club (C20) –SHL Business Homework/Revision Session (C6) - TRN Card Club (C5) - AGO	Basketball (Sports Hall) – KDY Book Club (Library) – SSN Science Club (S1) – JTS/EBY Lego Club (C20) - SHL	Table Tennis (Gym) - PTN Lego Club (C20) - SHL
LUNCHTIME	Home Learning Club (Library) – SSN/TRS/LCN Y7-8 Boys Rugby (AV. FIELD) – KDY/PTN/TCR Y9-10- RD/D/DWY Army Cadets (Main Hall) Cheerleading (Gym) – DKI Girls Rugby (AV. Field) – KHOP/SM Drama Club (DR) – SCO Business Homework/Revision Session (C6) – TRN Romeo and Juliet Rehearsals	Home Learning Club (Library) – SSN/TRS/LCN Netball – AWS/AHY Y7-8 Football - KDY/PTN/TCR Orchestra (F8) - CMR DoFE Y9&10 (C5) – ML/S/MCY GCSE Art Club (D5) – BGS Robotics Club (D6) - SME	Home Learning Club (Library) – SSN/TRS/LCN Choir (F8) - CMR Y9-10 Football – PTN/MCX Girls Football – NHH Army Cadets (Main Hall) Creative Writing Club (E2) – BFX	Home Learning Club (Library) – SSN/TRS/LCN Computer Game Design Club (C7) – MAS American Football - AHY Drama Club (DR) – SCO Polish GCSE Club (E1) – EOL Romeo and Juliet Rehearsals	
3.15 A.15pm	FIXTURES	FIXTURES	FIXTURES	FIXTURES	

# CHEERLEADING CLUB

MONDAY

AFTERSCHOOL

3.00-4.30pm

TAA GYM



THE THOMAS ALLEYNE ACADEMY  
PRESENTS

YEAR 7

# Fright Night

BE PREPARED TO BE  
SCARED

Friday 26th October 7:00-8:30pm

Tickets £3 from the library

Hot dogs and slushies £1 each, other tuck also available at a small  
cost. Fancy dress and pumpkin competition and scare dares for 20p  
each!

# YOUNG CARERS CLUB

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH

### TIME C19

**Young Carers:  
Who are they?  
What do they do?**



#### Who are young carers?

A young carer is someone **under 18** who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol.

#### How many young carers are there?

- There are about **700,000 young carers in the UK**. (BBC 2010)
- That's about **1 in 12 secondary aged pupils**.
- There are likely to be young carers in every school and college.

\*The Census identified over 200,000 young carers, but many remain hidden.



#### Which one is the young carer?



Young carers are just young people – with caring responsibilities! They look the same as everyone else but they can lead very different lives!

#### Who do young carers care for?

Young carers care for someone:

- With an illness or disability.
- With a mental health condition.
- Who misuses drugs or alcohol.

Being a young carer can have a big impact on the things that are important to growing up

- It can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence.
- Many young carers struggle to juggle their education and caring which can cause pressure and stress.
- In a survey, 39% said that nobody in their school was aware of their caring role.
- 26% have been bullied at school because of their caring role.
- 1 in 20 miss school because of their caring role.

But young people can learn lots of useful skills by being a young carer.



The average age of a young carer

**= 13**

“Don't stereotype us, we are all individuals.”  
Young carer

#### What might a young carer do?

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters.

**1 in 3 young carers** spend between 11-20 hours each week caring.



#### Information and support

[babble.carers.org](http://babble.carers.org)  
[matter.carers.org](http://matter.carers.org)



#### Young carers should have:

- The time to be a young person.
- The same opportunities as their friends.
- Good support for the person they help look after.
- Their rights acknowledged so that they can discuss their needs for support.

**Who cares?**

**We do!**

**Do you look after or help look after someone?**

**Want somewhere to go at lunch to do some homework?**

**Need a chat?**

**Want some time out to do some arts and crafts?**

Please feel free to bring a friend.

**0808 800 2222**  
[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)



**Tuesday 1.00 – 3.00**

**6, 13, 20, 27 Nov and 5, 11 Dec 2018**

## **Getting on with your Teen**

**The Living Room, 8 –10 The Glebe, Chells Way, Stevenage, SG2 0DJ**

Come and gain a new perspective on parenting your children by:

- Understanding your Teen's behaviour
- Helping your children manage their feelings
- Negotiating your way through conflict
- “Why does my child do that?” From risky behaviour online, to the attraction of gangs – understanding the challenges of parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Contact Louise on 01163 666087 for more information or to book a place.

Professionals - please send completed referral forms direct via HertsFX to [support@familylives.org.uk](mailto:support@familylives.org.uk) and do not send personal data using an unencrypted email system. If you do not have a HertsFX account, contact [CSS@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:CSS@hertfordshire.gov.uk) for assistance.

**This course is provided with funding from HCC Children's Services**



**0808 800 2222**  
[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)



**Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30**

**6, 13, 20, 27 Nov and 4, 11, 18 Dec 2018**

# **Bringing Up Confident Children for Parents of Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Fairlands Primary & Nursery School, Pound Ave, Stevenage, SG1 3JA**

Come and gain a new perspective on parenting your children by:

- Understanding your children's behaviour
- Helping your children manage their feelings
- Learning new strategies to address challenging behaviour
- Exploring helpful and unhelpful discipline strategies & how these can help make a difference in your family life.

Contact Louise on 01163 666087 for more information or to book a place.

Professionals - please send completed referral forms direct via HertsFX to [support@familylives.org.uk](mailto:support@familylives.org.uk) and do not send personal data using an unencrypted email system. If you do not have a HertsFX account, contact [CSS@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:CSS@hertfordshire.gov.uk) for assistance.

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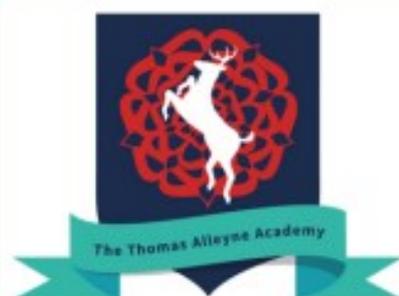
DATCHWORTH RUGBY CLUB

# GIRLS RUGBY OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 4TH NOV AT 1PM

- Welcoming all Year 7 & 8 girls to our rugby club to experience this fantastic sport
- Make new friends, learn new skills, boost your confidence and have great fun in the process.
- RFU qualified and DBS checked coaching team
- Register for free at:

[girlsrugby@datchworthsportsclub.com](mailto:girlsrugby@datchworthsportsclub.com)



**HALF PRICE**  
membership for all  
**THOMAS ALLEYNE**  
girls who attend this  
Open Day.



**Datchworth Sports Club, Datchworth, SG3 6TL**

