Colchester County High School for Girls
Parent Weekly Bulletin
15 November 2024

Term dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term
Monday 2 September
Friday 20 December
Half Term
Monday 28 October
Friday 1 November

Spring Term
Monday 6 January
Friday 4 April
Half Term
Monday 17 February
Friday 21 February

Summer Term
Tuesday 22 April
Tuesday 22 July
Half Term
Monday 26 May
Friday 30 May

Bank Holiday
21April
5 May

Non–Pupil Days 2024/25
Thursday 24 October
Friday 25 October
Friday 20 December
Monday 21 July
Tuesday 22 July

Term dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term
Monday 1 September
Friday 19 December
Half Term
27 October – 31 October

Spring Term
Monday 5 January
Friday 27 March
Half Term
16 February – 20 February

Summer Term
Monday 13 April
Monday 20 July
Half Term
25 May – 29 May
Bank Holiday
4 May

Non–Pupil Days 2025/26
Monday 1 September
Monday 22 September
Tuesday 30 September
Thursday 23 October
Friday 24 October
Friday 19 December
Friday 17 July
Monday 20 July

Safeguarding:
Never Acceptable
to report a concern:
Click Here to make an Anonymous Report
Link to Whisper an anonymous third-party service for CCHSG.

Dates for Your Diary

Week A Monday	Nov	18	Y13 Assembly in the Hall Y11 Mock Examination results to parents Y9 PC1 to parents Y10 RE Mock Examination to parents
Tuesday	Nov	19	Y11 Assembly in the Hall Y9 Psychology Trip (Groups A and C) Y12/Y13 Physics Talks Cambridge University 16.00-20.30
Wednesday	Nov	20	Y9 Assembly in the Hall Senior Maths Kangaroo Y13 Science Live A Level Chemistry lectures
Thursday	Nov	21	Y7 Assembly in the Hall Y7 e-Safety P1 7CO, P2 7LH, P3 7ES Y7/Y8 Parent e-Safety information evening 18.30-20.30 (online)
Friday	Nov	22	DofE Bronze B Introductory session 15.45-16.45
Saturday	Nov	23	PTFA Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale 10.00-12.30

A parent calendar is available on the school website (link)

The Sixth Form at CCHSG

Applications for Sixth Form are now open and can be submitted using this LINK. The deadline is Friday 13 December.

Nut Free School

We ask everyone to ensure that no nuts or nut products are brought into school. This includes during travel to and from school via public or shared transport. Thank you.

Measles in Essex

Please see below a letter from the UK Health Security Agency and Public Health colleagues at Essex County Council.

Severe Weather arrangements

Please find attached information for the event of severe weather or an emergency which requires that the school needs to have a late start or be closed. Please keep this information for future reference; we hope that it will not be necessary.

500 Club

If you would like to support the 500 Club fundraiser and take part in the remaining 9 draws for this academic year, tickets can still be purchased via https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DRUD
The next draw will take place on Monday 18 November.
Thank you to all those who have already purchased tickets.

Winter Concert

CCHSG Music Department invites you to the annual Winter Concert. Performances take place on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December at 19.00. Tickets at £8 are available via https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DZST We hope to see you there!

e-Safety Talk

On 21 November, we are pleased to announce the return of the renowned e-Safety trainers, John, and John to CCHSG. They will be presenting to all Year 7 students and selected students from different Year groups during the day. They will also be running an online parent workshop in the evening that can be accessed by a link that will be issued next week. The evening presentation will run from 19.00 until 20.30 and will cover:

- General information that will help support parents keep their children safe online
- Information about the most popular platforms and how they are used and misused by young people
- Advice on how to open discussions and how to encourage your children to be open and honest about their Internet use
- Practical advice on how to improve the safety of certain applications and what settings should be enabled / disabled

For those parents who are unable to attend the event live online, the link distributed will also allow you to watch a recording of the event up to 28 days later.

Votes for schools
The topic for discussion this week is: Do you know how to resolve conflict respectfully?

Lost Property
Students should ensure that all their belongings are clearly named, including a surname. Un-named lost property that has been handed in is photographed and displayed on SharePoint via CCHSG Lost Property Items can be collected from Reception and will be kept for two school weeks before being recycled.

Curricular and Enrichment Activities

The summary of the extracurricular clubs for this term is available on the website at Current Extracurricular Activities – Colchester County High School for Girls (cchsg.com)
Students have the opportunity to sign up for clubs via their Edulink One app. Please note that students can only sign up for clubs that have been allocated to their Year Group.

Sports Fixtures

Date	Time	Event/Fixture	Against	Location	Years
18/11/24	3.35-5.15pm	NEESSA Netball	Stanway	CCHSG	11
19/11/24	3.25-5.15PM	NEESSA Football	St Helena	St Helena	U14
20/11/24	11am-3pm	Essex Indoor Cricket	Various	Essex Indoor Cricket Centre	U13
20/11/24	2.35-5.30pm	Essex Cup Netball	Appleton	Appleton	Year 7

Year 13 Chemistry Revision Schedule
Chemistry revision sessions for Year 13 take place on Monday lunchtimes in G17

Date	Topic
18 November	Rates of Reaction
25 November	Haloalkanes
2 December	Equilibrium
9 December	Organic Synthesis
16 December	General revision

Year 11 Physics Revision Sessions
Physics revision sessions for Year 11 take place on Friday lunchtimes in G0 at 12.45

Date	Topic
22 November	Magnets and Magnetism
29 November	Electromagnetism
6 December	AC Electricity
13 December	Transformers and the Grid

Year 13 Physics Revision Sessions
Physics revision sessions for Year 13 take place on Tuesday lunchtimes in G2 at 12.45

Date	Topic
19 November (A)	Work and Energy
26 November (B)	Springs and Materials
3 December (A)	Interference of Waves

Y11 and Y13 revision schedule.
Please find the Y11 and Y13 revision schedule at the end of the bulletin.

Correspondence Sent out this Week
Year 12 Forward Thinking Day
A Level Trip to the British Museum
Y12/13 STEM Physics Trip to Cambridge
End of Term Celebration Y8-13
End of Term Year 7 celebration

Word of the Week for w/c 18 November
Word of the week is **Rhetoric** *meaning* a language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect, but which is often regarded as lacking in sincerity.

Colchester Teacher Training Consortium
Do you know a graduate, or current undergraduate interested in training to teach primary or secondary with an Ofsted Outstanding provider? Pastoral support and mentoring is a strength of the programme and local schools are keen to employ trainees from the partnership. The starting salary for teachers is now £31,650 and many former trainees have moved quickly into leadership and management roles. Tax-free bursaries of up to £29,000 are available for trainees in certain secondary subjects. Now also offering apprenticeship training routes – why not find out more? For further information see www.colchesterttc.org.uk

e Safety
Lead - Mr Nachman

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday
Gone are the days of Black Friday only existing in the physical environs of the high street. Now, both this retail landmark and its sister event, Cyber Monday, see deals and discounts displayed across almost every online retailer. The array of reductions makes this an ideal moment to treat a loved one (or yourself!) to those treasured items for considerably less than their usual cost.

The frantic dash for the best bargains online, however, also harbours several risks: chiefly, cybercriminals hoping to exploit people's excitement and defraud them out of their hard-earned cash. The attached guide has some expert pointers on keeping both your money and your personal information safe while still making the most of the sales.

Wellbeing Information
If a student feels they need wellbeing support, they should contact any member of the pastoral team or any of the following:

EWMHS: 0800 953 0222
Young Minds: https://www.youngminds.org.uk/
Kooth: https://www.kooth.com/
Sexual abuse or harassment can also be reported to neveracceptable@cchsg.com or see the anonymous reporting link on the front of the Bulletin.
Childline: 0800 1111 NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
The School Nurse and School Counsellor are available for student appointments.

Careers Lead – Miss Clark
Students can book an appointment with our impartial careers advisor Ms Poyser via this link:
https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CCHSGCareersAppointment@cchsg.com/bookings/
Students will be emailed with confirmation of their appointment time and date.

Career Of The Week – Biomedical Scientist
How to become a biomedical scientist: Hannah's story - BBC Bitesize

All Year Groups:
Take the Quiz on Unifrog to explore careers and subjects related to your interests!
Quiz Profile - Student - Unifrog

Remember to record any activities you have done and skills you have demonstrated throughout the year on Unifrog to help with future applications: Activities - Student - Unifrog Skills - Student - Unifrog

Join Unifrog for the following upcoming 45 minute webinars:
Webinars - Student - Unifrog
Business taster: exploring Elon Musk - visionary, disruptor, or controversial leader?
Date: Tuesday 19 November 16:30

Where can a degree in biological sciences take me?
Date: Wednesday 20 November 16:30

The power of data
Date: Wednesday 20 November17:30

University taster session: social anthropology
Date: Thursday 21 November 17:30

Prisons: as punishment or for punishment?
Date: Monday 25 November 16:30

Media studies taster: exploring TV crime dramas
Date: Monday 25 November 17:30

Cambridge University Subject Masterclasses - Year 12

Cambridge University are holding various Subject Masterclasses that offer students in Year 12 the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at the university, and to learn more about a topic of interest. The masterclasses are open to individuals at a cost of £12.50 for online and £20 for in-person.

Each Masterclass includes:
- two taster sessions delivered by academic staff from the University
- the opportunity to ask questions
- an introduction to the Cambridge admissions process
- the chance to hear about life as a Cambridge student from current undergraduates

The events are open to individuals at a cost of £12.50 for online and £20 for in-person. Funded places are available for eligible students-use the link for more information see Funded Place webpage

Please see below current masterclasses that are open to book:
- Education, 19 November 2024, 16.15-19.00, online
- Theology, religion and philosophy of religion, 26 November 2024, 16.15-19.00, online
- Sociology, 27 November 2024, 16.15-19.00, online
- Music, 28 November 2024, 16.15-19.00, online

Use Subject Masterclasses | Undergraduate Study for more information

Oxford University Subject Masterclasses

Oxford University are holding online subject masterclasses to give students a taster of what learning at Oxford is like. All masterclasses are free of charge but do need to be booked in advance. Please see below upcoming masterclasses and links to book:

Year 12 Physics Taster Morning, 23 November 2024, 10.00-14.45, available for Year 12 students
Year 12 Physics Taster Morning - November 2024

History Skills Workshop, 23 November 2024 10.00, available for Year 11, 12 and 13 students
Online History Skills Workshops | Faculty of History

History Skills Workshop, 25 November 2024 17.00, available for Year 11, 12 and 13 students
Online History Skills Workshops | Faculty of History

Access to Banking, 25 November 2024 12.00, available for Year 12 students
Access to Banking - Pupil Application Form 2024

Chiral Chemistry Workshop, 26 November 2024 15.45-17.00, available for Year 12 and 13 students
Chiral Chemistry

An Introduction to History of Art: Visual Analysis, 26 November 2024 17.00, available for Year 11, 12 and 13 students
Online History Skills Workshops | Faculty of History

Dining Room Arrangements

Breakfast: Served between 08.00 – 08.35, accessed via the Dining Hall Extension Doors outside the servery.

Breaktime: Years 7 – 11 Break service in Dining Hall.

Lunchtime: Hot food in the Dining Hall at allocated time for each Year Group, cold food and pre-ordered paninis and sandwiches available from the Snack Shack 12.35 – 13.00.

Years 12 & 13 pre-ordered food in Sixth Form Refectory from 12.15.

Packed lunches
The hall is available from Monday 18 November – Friday 22 November.

- **Please ensure that that the Civica Eats APP is up to date.**
- **Please ensure that ParentPay meal accounts are in credit.**

Students to Dining Hall for Lunch:

Week A		**Week B**	
12.35	Y13, 12, 11	12.35	Y13, 12, 11
12.50	Y8 & 7	12.50	Y9 & 10
13.00	Y9 & 10	13.00	Y7 & Y8

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef in Black Bean Sauce & Rice	Spaghetti Bolognese & Sweetcorn	Burger Chips & Beans	Sweet & Sour Chicken Noodles	Breaded Cod Potato Wedges & Green Beans
Cheese & Tomato Tart & Salad	Vegetable Thai Green Curry & Rice	Macaroni Cheese & Peas	Halloumi Burger & Salad	Ratatouille & Cheesy Bread
Syrup Sponge Pudding & Custard	Apple Cake & Custard	Pavlova	Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce	Bakewell Tart
Soup of the Day (changes daily) £1.30 with Homemade Bread £0.40				
Panini £3.30				
Soup Tomato & Basil	Soup Butternut Squash & Sweet Potato (Vegan)	Soup Leek & Potato (Vegan)	Soup Vegetable (Vegan)	Soup Minestrone

Please let a member of the catering team know of any allergies.
Full allergen information is available upon request.

PTFA
Registered Charity No. 1110464

Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary

- Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale: Saturday 23 November
- Christmas Market 2024: Saturday 30 November
- Winter Concert: Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December

1. Nearly New Uniform and Book Sale

This term's Nearly New Uniform and Book Sale will be held on Saturday 23 November in the Main Hall, from 10.00-12.30. Thank you to all the parents who have donated uniform items. We have a large amount of stock, so do come along and pick up some bargains!

We urgently require volunteers to help set up and run the sale. If you would like to help, please sign up via the link at the bottom of the page. All help is greatly appreciated.

2. Annual Christmas Market - Volunteers Urgently Required

Saturday 30 November, 12.00 – 15.00

The Annual Christmas Market is the biggest event in the PTFA's calendar. The market will only be a success if everybody supports the event in whatever way they can. Whether it's running a stall, assisting on the day, baking cakes or biscuits for our cake stall or helping with post-event cleanup, your involvement makes a huge difference. We are currently urgently seeking volunteers to run stalls and help in our café. If you have any time that you can spare, please sign up via the link at the bottom of the page and join us for a day of festive fun!

3. Winter Concert - Call for Volunteers

The Winter Concert will take place on the evenings of Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December 2024 in the Main Hall. The PTFA are providing refreshments prior to the event and during the interval. There will be a licensed bar, plus hot drinks and cakes. Popcorn and candy floss will also be available. The PTFA are asking for volunteers to support with the catering at this event. Please sign up via the link at the bottom of the page.

Christmas Market Volunteers Saturday 30 November	Christmas Market Volunteers
Nearly New Uniform Sale Saturday 23 November	Nearly New Uniform Sale
Winter Concert Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December	Winter Concert -Tuesday Winter Concert-Wednesday

PTFA CONTACTS:
PTFA Chair: Mrs Anni Cullen
https://www.cchsg.com/parent-carers-hub/cchsg-ptfa/
For all enquires related to the PTFA, please email cchsgptfa@gmail.com

PTFA

Christmas MARKET 2024

Saturday 30 November 2024

12 Noon - 3PM

- Amazing variety of stalls
- Christmas crafts
- Seasonal gift ideas
- PTFA cafe with food, snacks, drinks and cakes
- Live Christmas music
- Santa's Grotto- last year's sold out Santa experience back by popular demand!
- FREE parking

Proud to be sponsored by

Fenn Wright

THE HOME OF PROPERTY

Y13 Revision sessions

Day	Lunch / After school	Room	Subject
Monday	Lunch	G24	Psychology Extension
	Lunch	G17	Chemistry Revision
Tuesday	Lunch	T20	History NEA support
	Lunch	T20	History Revision
	Afterschool	M11	Maths interventions (invited students only)
	Lunch	F13	Biology revision
	Lunch	G24	Physics Revision
Wednesday	Lunch	M6	Maths Mechanics Revision
	Afterschool	G24	Psychology Revision
	Lunch	M10	Maths Surgery
	Lunch	M10	Problem solving SBR
	Afterschool	G2	Oxbridge Physics
Thursday	Lunch	H3	PE Theory
	Lunch	M10	Pure Maths Revision WEEK A
	Lunch	H2	RS A level Clinic
Friday	Morning	M10	Further Maths Revision WkB SBR
	Morning	M10	Statistics Revision Week A SBR
	Lunch	G3	Economics Clinic (Week B)
	Lunch	H2	RS Clinic
	Lunch	M10	Transition Year 12 Maths
	Afterschool	T2	Geography Revision
	Lunch	G26	A level Art - Support and Intervention

Revision Sessions Y11

Day	Lunch / After school	Room	Subject
Monday	Lunch	M11	MST / JWA Maths Revision
	Lunch	T4	Computer Science Revision
	Lunch	M10	11YDE Maths GCSE revision
	Lunch	F14	English Peer Mentoring (Invite Only)
Tuesday	Lunch	M9	11PBU Maths Revision
	Lunch	M12	11BRO Maths Revision
	Afterschool	G24	Psychology Revision
	Lunch	G5	Latin Language revision
	Lunch	H4	RS GCSE Clinic
	Lunch	F14	English Peer Mentoring (Invite Only)
	Lunch	M11	Add Maths Yr 10 - 11
	Afterschool	T4	Computer Science GCSE Revision
	Afterschool	T14	GCSE Music Composition Clinic
Wednesday	Lunch	T20	Year 11 History Revision
	Lunch	M10	Maths Surgery
	Lunch	H2	RS GCSE Clinic
	Lunch	G24	Oxbridge Physics
	Lunch	G7	French Essay writing (KOL)
	Lunch	F12	Chemistry Revision
	Lunch	F14	Yr 10-11 English Essay Writing Clinic
	Lunch	M9	Add Maths Yr 11
	Lunch	G26	GCSE Art - Support and Intervention
	Afterschool	G24	Psychology Revision
Thursday	Lunch	H3	PE Theory
	Lunch	G7	French GCSE Grammar (SSN)
	Lunch	T13	German Support
	Lunch	F13	Biology Revision
Friday	Lunch	T14	GCSE Music Composition Clinic
	Lunch	G0	Physics
	Lunch	T13	Listening Practice (SSN/KOL)
	Lunch	H4	RS GCSE Clinic

UK Health Security Agency

Essex County Council

12 November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Measles in Essex

Measles is circulating in Essex. Most cases of measles have been in school children and preschool children not protected by a full course of the MMR vaccine.

Measles is very infectious and spreads easily amongst people who are unvaccinated. It can be a very serious illness and can sometimes lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases, can cause death.

If you or your child have symptoms of measles, seek medical attention. Be sure to phone ahead before you visit your GP surgery or other healthcare setting. This allows arrangements to be made to prevent others from being infected. Do not send a child with these symptoms to school unless they have been medically assessed and told they can go to school.

Measles signs and symptoms

- cold-like symptoms (runny nose, sneezing or coughing)
- sore, red eyes
- a high temperature (fever)
- A few days later, a red-brown blotchy rash will appear. This usually starts on the head or upper neck, before spreading outwards to the rest of the body.

Protection against measles

The best way to protect yourself, family, and friends, is the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination. MMR is a highly effective and safe vaccine and protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Anyone who has missed a dose of MMR should contact their GP surgery to get vaccinated. 2 doses of the MMR vaccine gives long-term protection.

If you are not sure if your child has missed an MMR dose (or any other vaccination) you can contact the Essex Children's Immunisation and Vaccination team on 0300 790 0597. You can also ring this number to have your child vaccinated in a community vaccination clinic.

Vaccination clinics:

All clinics listed below are from 10am – 3pm.

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Sydney House Clacton

UK Health Security Agency

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Timberlog Youth Centre, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Maple Lodge, CM16 6TN (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Livewell Hub Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich, CO12 4EX

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Crouch Vale Medical Centre, CM3 5QP

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital RM16 2PX

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at The Lodge, Wickford, SS11 7XX

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Timberlog YC, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Orchard Day room, CM16 6TN (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Hermit YC, CM15 8AG

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Livewell Hub, Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Clough Road, Colchester, CO4 9QS

Parents should Call 0300 790 0597 to book MMR appointments.

For further information about measles, please visit
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/

Information about the MMR vaccine can be found here:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

Kind regards,

Dr Smita Kapadia, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control,
UK Health Security Agency

Dr Danny Showell, Consultant in Public Health,
Essex County Council

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy *can* lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably *is*. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they *look* legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert



Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.11.2023