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# NORTH STAR 82°

Issue number 8.

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## Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

At the end of my first two weeks I am writing to introduce myself and to say how very excited I am to be joining North Star 82. I have loved my time with your children already and I am looking forward to meeting you all too.

I have come from Aspire Academy in Bath – a specialist SEMH school working with young people between the ages of 6 and 18 who have struggled within mainstream settings. I have led the Primary Centre for the last 9 years and have loved every minute to supporting children very similar to your own.

I hope those of you I have already spoken with have learned that I believe wholeheartedly in working in partnership with parents and carers, building a team with you to best support your children so they have a positive time in school. Many of our pupils have had difficult times in education and I know that the 82 team are fully committed to giving them the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We have had a lovely start to the summer term, with the sun shining for nearly all breaktimes so the children can go outside. I know the staff have other exciting events and experiences for your children to share with you – both things which have happened this week and events planned for the coming times. I will let them tell you themselves below!

Please feel free to call or email any concerns or queries you may have to  
[Amanda.Tapsfield@northstar-academy.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.Tapsfield@northstar-academy.co.uk)

I will be organising myself a work mobile phone and then you will also be able to text to me direct if you so wish.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Tapsfield'.

*Amanda Tapsfield*  
*Interim Headteacher*



## Science with a bang!

We sat sensibly in assembly and listened to the sixth formers from Badminton Girls school as they explained how molecules behaved differently in gases, liquids and solids. We learnt about a gas called nitrogen and how it is very cold and boils at room temperature. This was tested by putting it into a kettle and the kettle whistled to show us the liquid was boiling and turning into a gas. At the same time the outside of the kettle went frosty showing us how cold it was. We thought carefully about the experiments they conducted. When they used nitrogen to cool the gas down inside a balloon we were surprised to find the balloon shrank as the air got colder and then got bigger as the air warmed up again. Finally, We didn't know what would happen when a flower was put in nitrogen, We were all surprised to find that the petals became crunchy when we touched them.

A big thank you to our visitors for showing us some amazing experiments and teaching us some new science!



## Football shirt Friday

Thank you to everyone who came to school today in a football shirt to fundraise for the Bobby Moore Fund, with 100% of the money raised going towards funding pioneering bowel cancer research. It was lovely to see the pupils celebrate their love of sport and there were lots of conversations about their love of football and lots of the adults in school decided to join in too!

The current online and offline funds raised by North Star 82 is £165.90 and our fundraising page is still online, the link is available in the email sent earlier this week.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These ingenious sales are sometimes aided by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outweigh any suspicions they may have.

### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BcyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps)

#WakeUpWednesday

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