

**From:** Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre <8884155@groupcallalert.com>  
**Sent:** 14 March 2019 11:00  
**To:** Mrs E Bateson  
**Subject:** Carr Hill News & Reminders  
**Attachments:** 201903141049\_Operation%20Encompass%20letter%20-%20lancs.pdf; 201903141049\_Apex-Online-Safety-Guide-March-2019.pdf



## School eLetter Friday 15th March 2019

[Term Dates](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Carr Hill High School, our students and staff regularly work with local primary schools engaging their students in a range of enrichment activities. This week, as part of our regular sports partnership initiative, Carr Hill hosted a badminton tournament for Year 5 and 6 students which was supported by our student Sports Leaders. Elsewhere a group of Year 10 students visited Strike Lane Primary School and shared an afternoon of music with pupils there. Our students performed three songs for their audience before giving the younger students the chance to try out the instruments they had been playing. Activities such as these are as beneficial to our feeder primary schools as they are to our students who develop their communication skills, build confidence and gain so much from these experiences.

This week we appointed a number of Year 10 students to the role of Prefect. Over 60 students applied for the roles and I would like to thank all those who did so. Assistant Headteacher Ms Allan and Year 10 Year Leader Mrs Beesley were incredibly impressed with the applications received. Congratulations to our Head Boy James, Head Girl Emma, Deputy Head Boys Ollie and Max and Deputy Head Girls Hannah and Yolanda. I look forward to working alongside you to continue to improve and develop our school community for all students.

As I hope some of you may already be aware, we have recently launched a Careers section on the school website. This has been created to offer our students further help and advice when navigating their future post 16. The section includes information by industry, labour market information, useful resources and more. There is also a section to guide you, as parents/carers, in supporting your son or daughter in the research and decision making process. Over the coming months we will be adding further pages to this section of the website continuing to improve our school's careers offer. If you haven't done so already please do have a look at our Careers section [here](#) The school is also holding a careers fair on Thursday 28th March from 4pm-6pm. There will be a range of employers present including representatives from Lancashire Constabulary, BAE, the NHS and many more. They will be available to speak to students and parents/carers about apprenticeship opportunities.

Attached to this eLetter you will find a letter informing you that Carr Hill High School is participating in the Operation Encompass partnership scheme between local schools, academies, colleges, community health agencies and Lancashire Police. Please take the time to read this letter.

### Important Information

Year 13 Parents' Evening Thursday 21st March 4pm-6.30pm

Year 11 MES (Maths, English & Science) Intervention Evening and Careers Event Thursday 28th March 4pm-6pm

School Closes at 1.25pm on Friday 5th April

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Waller'.

Andrew Waller  
Headteacher



Archie  
Year 7



Katalina  
Year 8



Thierry  
Year 9



Grace  
Year 10



Marco  
Year 11

Well done to all these students who achieved a superb number of merits this week.

## Latest News

[View All News](#)

### Student Author Carr Hill High School

12 March 2019  
Student Author



12 March 2019  
Carr Hill students share music with local primary school



11 March 2019  
World Book Day Celebrations

### CARR HILL HIGH SCHOOL & Sixth Form Centre

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**Dear Parent/Carer,**

This letter is to inform you that our school is participating in the Operation Encompass partnership scheme, between local school, academies, colleges, community health agencies, and Lancashire Police.

Operation Encompass was set up to provide early reporting to schools etc., about any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school hours to which a young person attending our school has been exposed, and which might then have an impact on their schooling the following day. This information will be shared throughout the year, including school holidays and the weekends.

Information will only be shared with the school by the police where it is identified that a young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

Mr Johnstone, the schools Designated Safeguarding has been nominated to act as an Encompass Key Adult and has been trained to liaise with the police, supporting will be Mr Waller, Miss Jordinson and Miss Coulthard as the school's Deputy Safeguarding Leads. They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families. The Key Adults will keep this information confidential, and will only share it on a need to know basis, for instance, to teaching staff for the child or young person. It will not be shared it with other school students.

Operation Encompass was first introduced in Plymouth in February 2011, and has proved very effective in providing appropriate and timely support to young people affected by domestic abuse. This initiative has been implemented across the whole of the Lancashire Police area. If you would like some more information about it, you can view it online at [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org).

We are keen to offer the best support possible for our pupils and a recent review of Operation Encompass showed that it is beneficial and supportive for all those involved.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr J Johnstone  
Assistant Headteacher**

Apex Legends is a multiplayer battle royale video game which is free to play. In this game, twenty squads consisting of three players each are dropped onto an island from a dropship, where they compete against each other to be the last team standing. Each player on the squad gets to choose a 'Legend' to play with; one of eight unique characters with a specialised skillset in either 'Offense', 'Defense', 'Support' or 'Recon'. The players begin with no weapons or equipment and have to comb through an ever-shrinking play area for these, all the while killing enemies to emerge as the victorious trio. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.



# What parents need to know about APEX LEGENDS

## VIOLENCE

Realistic versions of modern day firearms and gunfire, coupled with intense firefights, blood spatter effects on screen and large explosions make this game appear more violent than the less graphic Fortnite, a game similar to Apex Legends. Players use a variety of modern military weapons such as sniper rifles, machine guns, pistols, knives and frag grenades. Besides frantic gun battles, players also get to perform finishing moves on weakened enemies. These include electrocution, stabbing them with knives, beating them with fists, and using chemical gas attacks on multiple opponents before finishing them off. These attacks are often shown up close and from the victims' perspective also. In light of this, PEGI has rated this game suitable for children 16 and older in the UK and Europe, while in the US it is rated 13+. Overexposure to such violence can have a detrimental effect to children's mental health.

## IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Children love to play battle royale games, owing to their competitive nature. However, the chance to play with friends against 57 other players might put undue pressure on your child to play at a certain time when their friends are online. This might also mean that quitting halfway through the game could prove detrimental to your child's team mates. Children thus might become addicted, and feel compelled to play the game until they achieve their desired results. Even though a typical game might last around 25 minutes, children may feel angry if they lose and go for another round.

## PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

Since Apex Legends is an online game with a squad of three players, your child will need two other friends to play with. If the friends are not on the same gaming platform, then your child will have to play with strangers. Players usually communicate with each other through headphones and microphones and this always carries the risk that they might be exposed to unpleasant graphic language or harassment (via the voice or on-screen text chat settings of the game), from people they don't know.

## ABUSIVE PLAYERS & CHEATERS

As with any online game, there is a risk of players using intimidation and abusive language. This risk is increased when children play games with strangers. Another potential threat are the hackers who might encourage children to cheat in the game and make money off them.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES

Although anyone with an EA account can download and play this game for free, it does allow players to make a variety of in-game purchases with real money. Ranging anywhere between £7.99 and £79.99, players can purchase Apex Coins, the primary in-game currency. These in-game purchases allow the players to unlock cosmetic upgrades for characters as well as new Legends more quickly than regular gameplay. Apex coins can be used to purchase Apex Packs containing 'loot boxes'. These allow players to collect rare items. Unlike many other battle royale style games, there are no duplicate items in 'loot boxes', which can incentivise children to purchase them more frequently. Other free in-game currencies such as Crafting Materials and Legend Tokens can also be used to unlock these upgrades through regular gaming.

## GAMEPLAY VIDEOS

In order to better understand and improve their game, children might be tempted to use sites such as YouTube and search for Apex Legends gameplay videos. This might introduce them to obscene language used by gamers in these videos. Many videos on YouTube do not have age ratings and the ones that do display warnings for age restricted content are easy to bypass by signing in. In addition, children may be further exposed to inappropriate content when watching other 'suggested videos' that pop up on YouTube. Watching videos online of players opening their loot boxes on Apex Legends is one of the latest crazes. Although there is little risk attached to this, it may encourage your child to purchase loot boxes.



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Online  
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# Top Tips for Parents

## JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

Before exposing your child to any game involving violence, judge the level and impact of that game by previewing online clips of it first or play the game yourself. If you deem it suitable, only then allow the children to play the game in order to maintain proper child safety. Moreover, you can take steps to ensure that the age restriction set by the particular game is being met and that no underage children are playing the game. You can also carry out regular open and honest conversations with children on the negative effects of violence, so that children have a clear idea of what it entails in real life.

## MONITOR SEARCH ENGINES

In order to prevent your children from falling prey to obscene language online, it is important to monitor social media and search engine usage. Parents can restrict access to inappropriate content by blocking certain websites. With the help of activity log, parents can ensure that their children are not using any app or browsing any website unsuitable for their age. Parents can also look up safe search engines and browsers for children that have age appropriate filters and pre-screened child friendly content. When your child plays games online, encourage them to play without outside help and have open and honest discussions with them regarding the demerits of abusive language online.

## PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Communicating with teammates is an essential and enjoyable part of the game. Parents should encourage children to play the game with friends they know and trust. However, if that is not possible and your child is playing with strangers in their team, you can always mute them on the inventory screen during the game. In addition, the 'ping' feature can be used to allow players to communicate non-verbally i.e. by "pinging" locations, objects, and enemies.

## RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

If you do not want your children to make any in-game purchases or microtransactions, you must ensure that none of your debit/credit cards are linked to their player account or consoles. If your child plays the game on PlayStation 4 or Xbox One, you have the option of creating a child account which will prevent them from registering your credit card. Moreover, if you share your console with your child, you can password protect your account to prevent them from making any undesired purchases. You have to keep in mind that if you don't password protect your account and your child makes any unwanted purchases from an adult account, you would be unable to claim refunds.

## REPORTING ABUSIVE PLAYERS AND CHEATERS

Parents should make their children aware of how to report abusive players and block them while playing Apex Legends. The game's publisher, Electronic Arts (EA) has clear instructions on their website on how to report harassment. PlayStation 4 and Xbox One have their own reporting mechanisms and it is essential that your child knows these to report any untoward behavior by any player. Children should also be told never to share any credit/debit card details with any players and report cheaters at once. The developers of Apex Legends take cheating quite seriously and banned around 16,000 players for cheating in the first two weeks of the game's release. Game developer Respawn announced that over 350,000 players were banned on PC alone through it's through its Easy-Anti-Cheat software.

## LIMIT GAME TIME

With any new game that becomes an overnight success, it is important for parents to keep an eye on their children and see how it affects them. If you think your child is becoming addicted to playing the game, you can use parental controls on PC or on Xbox to limit the time they play the game for. For this particular game, since it would be difficult to leave midway, you can find it more worthwhile to impose a limit on the number of matches your child plays, rather than the time the game is played for. Moreover, you can always have regular open and honest conversations with your children about the negative consequences of playing online games and too much screen time.