

[Click here to access the Student Navigator.](#) The student navigator page contains links to all the pages you will need if you are learning from home.

[Click here to access a guide to INSIGHT,](#) our student information system.

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## Welcome Back

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It was wonderful to see our students again last week. The school was alive with students reconnecting with their friends and staff; with students thoroughly engaged in their lessons and with the normal happy sounds of a school full of students again. Our students must be commended for the maturity with which they approached the 3 covid tests in school. These are unusual times, but it made me very proud to watch them take testing in school in their stride - the resilience our students have shown over the past months is inspiring.

On Tuesday, we will write to you with the details of home testing (and students will come home with their home testing kits on Tuesday too). If a student tests positive using a test at home, we need you to do 3 things:

- Inform the school, so we can begin tracing any close contacts
- Isolate
- Book a confirmatory PCR test
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Then let us know the outcome of the PCR Test. If it is:

- positive, you child, family and any close contacts in school will continue to isolate
- negative. Everyone stops isolating and can continue to come to school.

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## Signal

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Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) that provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so attackers cannot read any intercepted communication. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2021 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as a false sense of security, vulnerability to hackers and disappearing messages.



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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

# SIGNAL



Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) which provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so any intercepted communication cannot be read by attackers. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2021 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

### Disappearing Messages

Messages on Signal can be set to disappear (from both the sender and the recipient's devices) a specified time after they are first opened – potentially as little as five seconds. So it is difficult to monitor the app and see what your child is talking about. Should someone behave inappropriately towards them, unless they record evidence instantly there is no way to prove what has happened – making it difficult to take the proper action.

### Risk of Screenshots

Because messages can be set to disappear on Signal, some young people assume that nobody else will ever see them and let their guard down as a result. But a recipient could still capture a screenshot of your child's message before it vanishes from their device. This screenshot – which might be of something inappropriate or deeply personal – can then be shared with others or even made public on the internet.

### False Sense of Security

The feeling of total privacy and security within the app can make young people feel like they are invulnerable – and possibly that they could get away with behaving in ways they normally wouldn't. This behaviour could range from the harmful (such as participating in cyber bullying or sharing age-inappropriate images or videos) to the extremely dangerous: perhaps chatting to strangers, who might potentially be predators.

### Vulnerability to Hackers

Like virtually any piece of software, Signal has been shown to have flaws in its security. One hacker was able to make a call to a target device using the app and could then listen in on the victim through their phone – without needing them to even answer the call. Afterwards, the hacked user was completely unaware that the eavesdropping had taken place.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Gather Any Evidence Quickly

If your children are old enough to use Signal, they will likely already know how to take a quick screenshot on their phone. It's best to confirm this with them, however, because if they're sent something inappropriate or offensive, they will only have a very short opportunity to screenshot it as evidence of misconduct before the message disappears. Once they've captured the screenshot, they should then come to you or another trusted adult.

### Talk about Online Bullying

Before your child downloads Signal, have an open discussion about the potential risks of this app and others like it. Ensure your child is aware of the possibility of bullying or hurtful messages on such platforms. They should understand that the app makers themselves do not help with investigating incidents – and that it may be difficult to prove someone has done something to upset them.

### Think before Sending

The messages a young person sends on Signal don't last forever, but the effects of those messages very well might – for your child and for others. You could suggest to your child that, if they're unsure whether to send a particular message, they should ask themselves if they would be comfortable showing the content to you. And if they wouldn't, should they really be sending it at all?

### Stay Updated

It's wise to make sure your child knows how to keep their software up to date by downloading the latest version. Developers will often release software updates that (as well as occasionally adding new features or improving functionality, etc.) help to fix any security flaws and stop hackers from exploiting possible weak points in the app.

### Consider Online Reputation

Talk to your child about the implications if a message they sent was made public without their consent. Remind them that once an image (for example) is out there, there's no way to control what happens to it or erase every single copy. It's a good way to get young people to start considering how their digital footprint might have repercussions on their future prospects.

### Meet Our Expert

Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher. She delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.



Sources: <https://natsocial.com/signal-app/>, <https://www.signal.org>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.03.2021

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### *What is my child learning?*

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One of the areas that most often comes up in the parents surveys (which we send out after each Parents' evening) is 'What is my child learning?'

During lockdown, some parents have fed back that they feel they have a much better understanding of what their child is learning as they have been doing their lessons at home. Whilst we cannot re-create that as school reopens, we do have two key areas of information in the curriculum section of our website that I want to bring to your attention:

*Curriculum Maps:* <https://johncabotacademy.clf.uk/curriculum-statement/>

For every subject taught in the school there is a curriculum map. These documents show exactly what topics are taught and when during each term of the academic year. For example in year 8 right now in Spanish, students are studying the topic holidays, however in year 10 in Religious Studies, students are studying Islamic Beliefs.

*Exam Boards:* <https://johncabotacademy.clf.uk/curriculum/curriculum/>

For every course we have running in years 10 & 11 there is a list of the exact exam board studied (along with links to the exam specification and exam board website). If do you want the exact revision guide though, we sell them, so please do email [jcainfo@clf.uk](mailto:jcainfo@clf.uk) and we can order it for you.

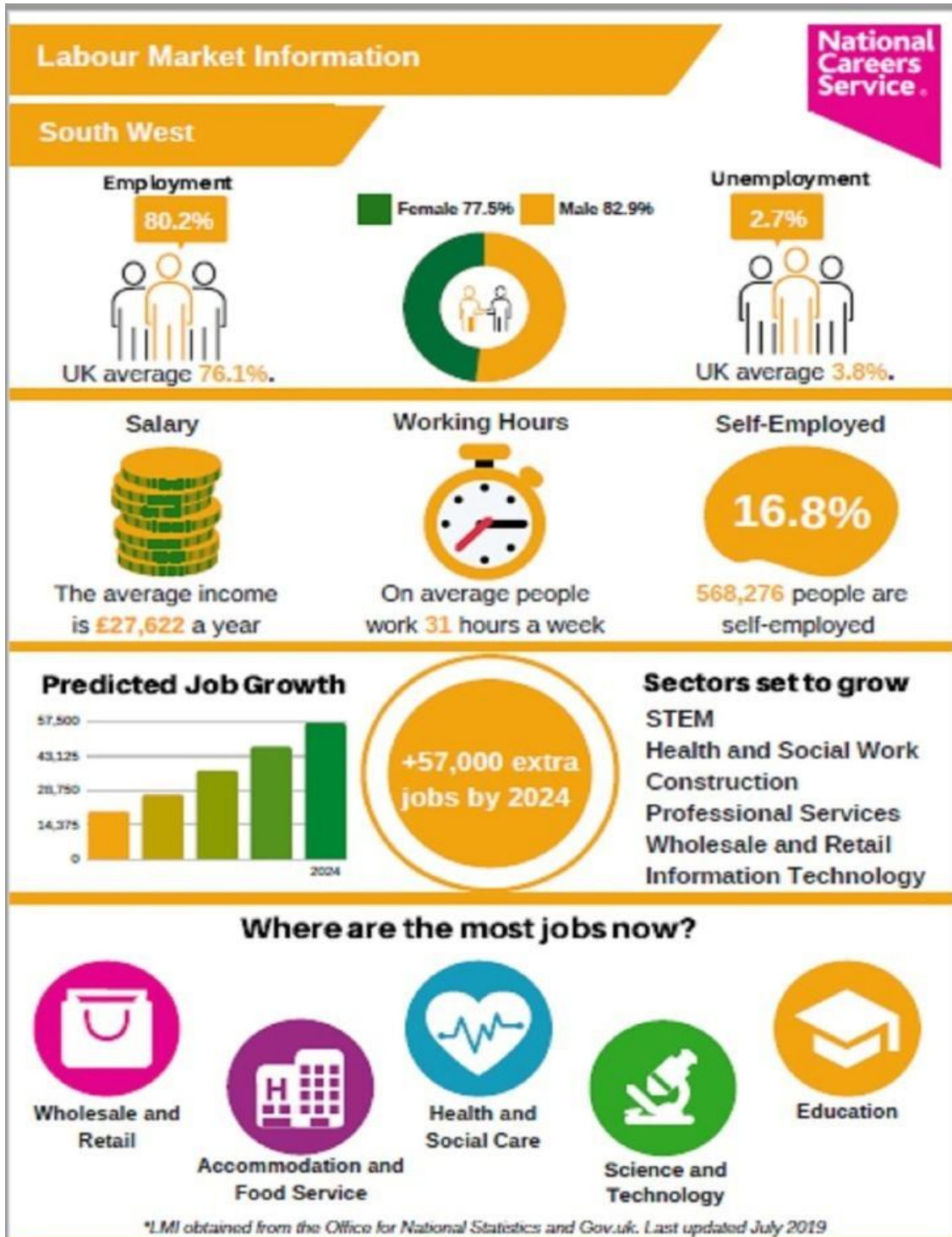
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### *Labour Market Information*

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Current Labour Market Information for the South West highlighting information around salaries, which sectors with the highest employment and which sectors are set to grow.





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### *UK Maths Challenge Successes*

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Well done to the all the seventy students who, in term 3, took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. This exceptionally challenging test organised by the University of Leeds, was done online by students and really tests your mathematical thinking and logic. We are delighted to announce that the following JCA students have gained these awards from the challenge:

#### **Gold awards:**

Harry Bowley (best in Y11, best in school), Antoni Byczynski (best in Y10) and Jacob Kendall (best in Y9)

#### **Silver awards:**

Jun Hao Chen, Joshua Barrett, Aneesah Ikram, Caitlin Kallarachully, Brook Morgan, Ruby Saunders and Curtis Vickers

#### **Bronze awards:**

Tom Joel, Claudia Bartkowiak, Eliza Bellamy, Emily Bishop, Max Buckingham, Nathan Lee, Manaal Sheikh, Musa Torofdar, Sekandar Wahidi, Kayla Adlom, Hussien Bare, Zayd Choudhury, Munasar Mahamud and Louis Rainey.

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### *Finance*

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#### **SCOPAY - Online Payment System - Preferred Method of Payment**

SCOPAY is our preferred method of payment for all transactions when making payments to the academy.

This system allows you to make payments for trips, events, music tuition and learning resources plus your child's school lunch account can also be topped up using this system. The system can be used on a desktop computer or you can download the App to use on your mobile phone or tablet meaning that you can access your account at any time.

If you have not already received a link code or require an additional link code(s) to enable another Parent/Carer to also set up a SCOPAY account and make payments for your child(ren), please send an email to [JCAFinance@clf.uk](mailto:JCAFinance@clf.uk)



### **SCOPAY - Payments for School Lunches**

Please remember to check if your child's School Lunch account requires topping up with funds to enable them to purchase food from the canteen.

If you would like to set up alerts so that you will know when their balance is getting low and requires topping up, please go to the John Cabot Academy website - Our Academy - Canteen and Online Payments, where you will find the 'SCOPAY Parent Guide - Alerts' at the bottom of the page to help you.

Alternatively, you can copy and paste the following to your browser: -

<https://johncabotacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/canteen-and-online-payments/>

There are two further SCOPAY Parents Guides, one for Managing Your Account and another for Making Payments, that you may also find useful on this page.

### **Purchase of School Ties**

The option to purchase a school tie for £6.00 via SCOPAY is available for every student and SCOPAY continues to be our preferred method of payment. If your child has lost their tie, you can purchase a replacement via your SCOPAY account, and it will be available for collection by your child the following morning.

Alternatively, *for ties only*, a cash payment can be accepted – please send your correct payment of £6.00 in an envelope with their full name, year group and tutor group detailed. Please ask your child to collect their tie from the Finance Office.

The Finance Office is open to students every day before school and during break time.

### **Purchase of Calculators**

The option to purchase a calculator from the academy continues to be available to all students via SCOPAY.

If you wish to purchase a calculator for your child, there are two types available and currently in stock: -

- Casio ClassWiz FX991EX Scientific Calculator @ £19.50 each, or
- Casio FX83GT Scientific Calculator @ £8.50 each

When you have made your SCOPAY purchase, your child will be able to collect their calculator from the Finance Office. The Finance Office is open to students every day before school and during break time.



### ***Purchase of Memory Cards for GCSE Photography***

The option to purchase memory cards from the Academy continues to be available on SCOPAY for all GCSE Photography students.

There are currently two types in stock:-

- HAMA 16GB SDHC Card @ £5.50 each, or
- HAMA 4GB SDHC Card @ £4.00 each

When you have made your SCOPAY purchase, your child will be able to collect their memory card from the Finance Office. The Finance Office is open to students every day before school and during break time.

### ***Year 11 Leavers Hoodies***

Year 11 students will be invited to purchase a Leavers Hoodie this week to celebrate their time at John Cabot Academy. The hoodies cost **£17.00** and come in four different colours with the option of either black or white embroidery and a range of six sizes.

All payments and orders will be accepted **via SCOPAY only by Friday 26 March 2021**. Please ensure that you indicate your child's hoodies colour, embroidery colour and size preferences when making your payment.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any late payments as we would like to place the order before the Easter holidays so that we can supply the hoodies towards the end of April. If your child is unsure of the size, they should go to see Mrs Allen in the KS3 Office (SF1) to try on the sample hoodies.

### ***SCOPAY - Link to Login Page***

You can find a link to the SCOPAY Login Page if you go to the John Cabot Academy website - Our Academy - Canteen and Online Payments.

Alternatively, you can copy and paste the following to your browser: -

<https://www.scopay.com/john-cabot-ac>

### ***Finance Queries***

If you have any finance queries, please contact the Finance Office by emailing [JCAFinance@clf.uk](mailto:JCAFinance@clf.uk)





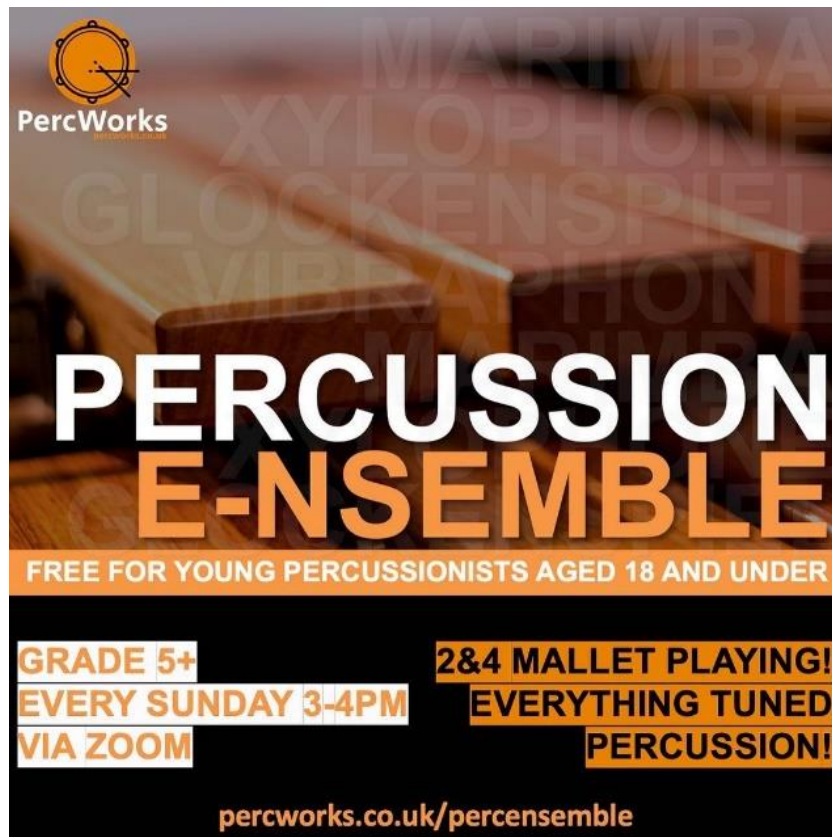
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*Percussion & Digital drumline*

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***Percussion e-nsemble***

Every Sunday - 15.00-16.00



The poster features a background image of a xylophone. In the top left corner is the PercWorks logo, which is a stylized orange circle with a compass rose and the text 'PercWorks' below it. The main title 'PERCUSSION E-NSEMBLE' is written in large, bold, white and orange letters. Below the title is an orange banner with the text 'FREE FOR YOUNG PERCUSSIONISTS AGED 18 AND UNDER'. At the bottom, there are four white boxes with orange text: 'GRADE 5+', 'EVERY SUNDAY 3-4PM', 'VIA ZOOM', '2&4 Mallet PLAYING!', 'EVERYTHING TUNED', and 'PERCUSSION!'. The website 'percworks.co.uk/percensemble' is listed at the very bottom.

Open to all percussionists aged 11-18 and grade 5+, our PERCUSSION E-NSEMBLE rehearses weekly via Zoom, to join email us at [director@percworks.co.uk](mailto:director@percworks.co.uk). We focus on all things tuned percussion!



## Digital drumline

Every Sunday - 16.00-17.00



THE FREE ONLINE DRUMLINE

# PERCWORKS ALLSTARS

For Drummers & Percussionists aged 11-18 in the UK



Weekly sessions via Zoom || Sundays 16:00-17:00

**What's involved?**  
Warm Ups | Technique (including Traditional Grip) | Rudimental Exercises | Technical Exercises | Drumline Pieces | Stick Tricks | Back Sticking | Visuals | Choreography | Marching

**First Session:** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
**Standard:** Grade 5+  
**Equipment:** Sticks & Snare Drum or Practice Pad



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LOTTERY FUNDED

**TO JOIN TODAY!**  
Email: [director@percworks.co.uk](mailto:director@percworks.co.uk)  
[PercWorks.co.uk](http://PercWorks.co.uk)

Open to all percussionists aged 11-18 and grade 5+, our Digital Drumline rehearses weekly via Zoom, to join email us at [director@percworks.co.uk](mailto:director@percworks.co.uk). We focus on all things drumming!



# Face coverings need to cover your mouth and nose

- ✓ you are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in all communal areas\*
- ✓ if you cannot keep two metres apart, you should wear a face covering in class
- ✓ wear it properly - cover your mouth and nose - to help keep everyone safe
- ✓ keep your face covering in a clean (sandwich) bag when not required to wear it
- ✓ take a spare to school so you can change it throughout the day



Stop the spread. Do the right thing.

[www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus)