

Harris Church of England Academy

Spring Term 2, April 2025

www.harris.covmat.org



As we approach the end of another busy term, I'm delighted to share some of the exciting events and achievements that have been taking place at our school.

Our students have once again demonstrated their incredible talents and creativity through the 'Harris Has Talent' show. It's always a joy to witness the diverse range of skills on display, from musical performances to dance acts. The event not only showcases our students' abilities but also fosters a sense of community and mutual support that we value so highly at Harris.

In the spirit of community engagement, our music and drama students recently paid a visit to Overslade Care Home. These interactions between generations are invaluable, bringing joy to the residents and providing our students with enriching experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

As we journey through the Lenten period, I'm proud to report that our charity events are in full swing. It's heartening to see our staff members embracing various challenges to raise funds for worthy causes. Their dedication serves as an inspiring example to our students about the importance of giving back to society.

On the sporting front, Harris Academy participated in the biggest ever girls' football session. This event not only promoted physical activity but also championed gender equality in sports, aligning perfectly with our values of inclusivity and empowerment.

I'm thrilled to announce that Harris Academy has achieved the Quality in Careers Award. This accolade recognises our commitment to providing exceptional careers guidance and support to our students, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future paths.

As we look ahead, I want to draw attention to our Year 11 students who will soon be commencing their GCSE examinations. This is a crucial time, and I encourage our entire school community to rally around these students, offering support and encouragement as they navigate this important milestone in their academic journey.

These achievements and events are a testament to the vibrant, caring, and ambitious community we have here at Harris Church of England Academy. They reflect our commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence, but also personal growth, creativity, and social responsibility.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our students and staff for their hard work, resilience, and the positive impact they continue to make both within our school and in the wider community.



Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable

Term Dates 2024/2025

Half Term	Monday 14th April 2025	to	Friday 25th April 2025
Training Day	Monday 28th April 2025		
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 29th April 2025	to	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th May 2025	to	Friday 30th May 2025
Summer Term 2	Monday 2nd June 2025	to	Friday 18th July 2025
Additional days when school is closed:			
Bank Holidays	Monday 5th May 2025		



Forthcoming Events

	April		May
29-30	Y9 Assessments	1	UK GMT Junior Mathematical Challenge
30	GCSE PE External Moderation	1	Y8 In person Parents Evening
		1-2	Y11 Art Exams
		3-5	Bronze DofE Practice
		1-9	Y9 Assessments
		6	Y11 Exams Start
		12	Wellbeing Day
		15	Online Parents Q&A for Prospective DofE Participants
		15	Y6 Fish and Chips Evening
		19-23	Y10 Work Experience Week
		23-25	Silver DofE Practice
		28-28	Rome Trip

Year 7 Art Crocodile Project

The spring term has seen the return of the clay crocodile project for our year 7 art students.

The students started by designing their crocodiles on paper with pencil adding colour and design ideas. Students were then given a piece of clay to mould into a crocodile head shape. Students were then taught a variety of techniques such as pinching, coiling, sculpting and using the score and slip to attach their pieces such as eyes, tongues, glasses, spikes, hats, hair and other unique design features. These pieces will then be fired in our kiln, before being glazed with colour and then fired again in the kiln.

We look forward to seeing the final results when the project is completed at the beginning of the summer term.



Spring Hope Hall Display 2025

Our spring 2025 Hope Hall display took inspiration from a shop window display we saw in London. We took the creativity from the impressive combination of rolled fringed flowers and linear quilling that resembles quilled teardrops as leaves.

We started by hand painting cartridge paper, creating petals for our flowers, cutting leaves from thin green plastic then layering with tissue paper.

The large flowers were then backed with silver foil, with smaller flowers added for fullness. The display brings lots of colour to the hall and we really enjoyed researching and using some beautiful inspirations for this display.



Biggest Ever Girls Football Session

Friday 7th March

This event is a national event which happens every year around the time of International Women's Day. The purpose of it is to promote women's sport on a large scale and to encourage more girls to get involved in sport and or football.

At Harris the PE department along with our sports partnership organised a big event which was a huge success- we had 71 girls take part on the day. The day consisted of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students engaging in different football drills, communication and invasion games (with a football twist).

The day also gave the 'Game of our own leaders' an opportunity to lead on some activities and put into practice the information they have been delivered in their leadership workshops.

Furthermore, a small group of year 10/11 students put themselves forward to take part in the day for a different reason- they were given the opportunity to take pictures and videos of the event. This allowed female students to see that they can engage with a 'sports event' without physically taking part. This is an insight to careers in sport.

Lucy Day- Ex student (U17's England and Birmingham City u21s Footballer) and Kerys Harrop (Former England, Tottenham Hotspur and Birmingham City Footballer) were invited to share their journey with our students and to lead some of the activities which we ran on the day.



Girls Rugby Festival

Lutterworth RFC invited a group of students from Harris to a Rugby festival ran by Leicester Tigers coaches.

The PE department organised 13, year 7 girls to attend this festival whereby, they engaged with gameplay against other schools and were coached to a high standard.

The festival was a great opportunity for our year 7 students as it encouraged them to develop further skills not just sport specific but also, transferable skills such as Teamwork, Communication, Resilience and Leadership.



Primary Girls Football League in partnership with Harris SSP

On Tuesday 11th March we hosted our first ever Primary schools Girls league. It was the turn of 47 (Y3 to 6 girls) from Bilton Junior, Paddox Primary and Rugby Free Primary to take part in skills and fun games led by our fantastic Barclays Girls Football Activators. This will be a weekly event with different schools and girls attending a variety of formats including 7 a side league games as well as fun-based activities focussed on development of skills.



Music and Drama students visit Overslade Care Home.

In March, students visited Overslade House care home to celebrate World Theatre Day. Having recently held our 'Harris Has Talent' competition we took some of the acts including piano soloists, musical duets, poetry and a Shakespeare reading. The residents really enjoyed the visit and look forward to welcoming us back in the summer term.



Drama Club – Bugsy – Rehearsals so far...

Rehearsals are going fantastically for our summer performance of 'Bugsy.' Students from all year groups are working well together and enjoying the process of creating their characters within the show.

Acting, singing and dancing rehearsals are in full swing and the students can't wait to show parents and friends what they have been up to!

The Harris Performing Arts Department would like to thank students for all their hard work and dedication to the project so far, and to parents for their support, it's a big commitment for everyone.

A date for ticket sales will be confirmed in the summer term however until then these are a few sneak peak photos of how rehearsals are going so far...

'Bugsy' shows evening of 15th, 16th and 17th of July.



Harris Has Talent 2025

On Thursday March the 20th, parents, teachers and friends gathered to watch the first ever 'Harris Has Talent' at Harris Church of England Academy. The students at Harris had been selected through an audition process and had been practicing for weeks in preparation. The winning prize was a £50 voucher and direct entry to the semi finals of 'Rugby's got Talent.'

Our judging panel consisted of Dave Pugh, Head of Music at Kenilworth School. Mike Folly, chair of the Rugby Rotary Music Bursary, which has generously donated equipment to Harris School music department.

We also were lucky enough to have professional musician Benji Kirkpartrick join our judging panel. Benji is a professional folk singer and musician, previously a member of Bellowhead, Faustus and Steeleye Span, he now performs as a solo artist and also as a member of the Seth Lakeman band. Benji wrote that it was "enjoyable to see students performing and doing some creative work."

The evening was opened with our Harris rock band, 'The Coneheads' and their brilliant rendition of 'Mardy Bum' by the Arctic Monkeys. Ee then moved on to some beautiful Irish dancing, followed by three duets; one vocal and piano; a beautiful vocal duet by two year 7 students and then a vocal and guitar duet number, which was awarded our first highly commended prize of the night.

We then had some great commercial dance, followed by Isaac, a year 7 student, on the piano with a self-composed piece called 'My Imagination.' The judges especially appreciated this original piece and said it was "skilfully played"

Things were rounded up with a solo of 'All of me', by John Legend, performed on the piano with added vocals, this was selected for a highly commended award by our judges, then a lyrical dance before finishing with classic rock and roll number performed by a year 10 on guitar with vocals.

The winner of the evening was the solo lyrical dance, the judges agreed the performance had a balance of technical skill and creativity as well as confidence and stage presence as a solo performer.

Judge Mike Folly said, "each one is a winner for getting up on stage and performing to us all," he was very impressed with the performances of all our students and that took part.

The performing arts department would like to thank all the parents and friends who came to watch their children, and to the rotary club who also came to support the event. Finally, we would like to say a huge ‘WELL DONE’ to all the students involved, it takes such confidence to perform in front of an audience and the skill and talent they all showed was incredible to watch.



Student Praise

Krystal D

Please congratulate Krystal who has won 4 golds in the OCO England Leg, this has also guaranteed her a place in the England squad in October.



Laviana P

Please congratulate our student Lavinia on receiving a Grade 2 on her piano exam.



The Harris Band takes part in Live Lounge

On April the 4th our Harris band 'The Coneheads' took part in Warwickshire music's Live Lounge festival hosted by Dunchurch Social Club.

The event is a great opportunity for the students, in years 10 and 11, to get experience of performing live and to see what other local live artists are doing. Appearing at the end of the evening, their confident stage presence and friendly, approachable manner soon had the sell-out audience eating out of their hands. The five musicians played a brilliant set of Arctic Monkeys songs which brought an evening of spectacular music to a close.



STAFF MEMBERS GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR THE HARRIS CHARITY WEEK

Ms Fenson:
Running 21.1 km



Mrs Hummel
Deadlifting 100kg



Mrs Finnemore
Hiking 280 km



Mr Smith
2 parkruns in S.A.
10km



Charity week

To support our annual charity week at Harris, four staff members are going the extra mile to raise money for this year's chosen charities. The charities are Zoe's Place, Mind, Motor Neurone Disease Association and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Mrs Finnemore will hike 280km along the Camino Way in Portugal

Mr Smith will run 2 parkruns in South Africa

Mrs Hummel is taking part in a Strong Woman competition

Ms Fenson is running the Coventry Half Marathon

Collectively they have already raised over £350 towards their target of £600. All money will be split equally between the four charities.

Please support them by donating even just a small amount.

We wish them luck in their endeavours!

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/harriscofe-academy?
utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/harriscofe-academy?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)



Careers Award

We would like to share some exciting news regarding our commitment to providing exceptional career education and guidance at Harris Church of England Academy.

I am proud to confirm that we have been graded as fully meets the standard for the Quality in Careers Award. This award is the national quality mark for overall careers education and guidance provision in secondary schools, colleges, and independent training providers. Achieving the status of fully meeting the requirements is the best possible outcome, and we are truly delighted by this recognition.

At Harris, we take great pride in our careers advice and guidance, and we are dedicated to offering our pupils a wide range of opportunities to support their future career paths. Our superb Careers Adviser, Mrs. Wilson, plays a vital role in this process, ensuring that all pupils have access to the best possible resources and support to help them flourish as they consider their next steps.

We believe that strong career guidance is essential for our pupils to make informed decisions about their futures, and we are committed to continuing to enhance our provision.

One way we are doing this is by building the Harris Alumni Network to inspire and guide the next generation of students. We would welcome ex-Harris students to join as your journey and achievements can be a great source of motivation, showing them the possibilities that lie ahead. As an Alumni member, we would invite you to careers events at Harris and we also have a project to create Alumni Posters to display in the school and on our website.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our careers programme further, please do not hesitate to get in touch via careers@harris.covmat.org



Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities:

- Property Maintenance Apprentice

More details can be found on our website, under NEWS / Vacancies

<https://www.harris.covmat.org/vacancies/>



Car Parking / Safety

For safeguarding reasons, when dropping children off to school or picking them up please can you not drive onto site, and if you are parking in residential streets please be respectful to the neighbours when parking, please do not park in the drive way. Also, please avoid parking in the passing bays down Harris Drive.

If you are picking your child up from a detention or an extra-curricular activity after 4pm, please collect them from the front of the school as Mellish Drive gates will be closed at that time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents =
£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000

2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

Harris CofE Academy Sports Centre

Multi Sport Holiday Clubs for 5-12 year olds



Holiday Club 9am – 3.30pm
Early drop off from 8.15am
Late Pick up until 4.15pm

To book your place or for more information;
Email: pdm@harris.covmat.org
Phone: 01788 818925
Or call in to Harris Sports Centre, Mellish Rd, Rugby, CV22 6BB

Please also ask about our Bikeability
courses that run during holidays.
Cycling Proficiency for the modern age!

All staff are fully qualified,
DBS checked and First Aid
trained

Holiday Club dates for 24/25



October Half Term 2024

Monday 28th Oct to Thurs 31st October 2024 (4 day camp)

Christmas 2024

Thursday 2nd January 2025 and Friday 3rd January 2025
(2 separate day camps)

February Half Term 2025

Monday 17th to Thursday 20th February 2025 (4 day camp)

Easter 2025

Week 1 – Mon 14th to Thurs 17th April 2025 (4 day camp)
Week 2 – Tue 22nd to Thurs 24th April 2025 (3 day camp)

May Half Term 2025

Tuesday 27th May to Thursday 29th May 2025 (3 day camp)

Summer 2025

Week 1 – 28th to 31st July (4 day camp)
Week 2 – 4th to 7th August (4 day camp)
Week 3 – 11th to 14th August (4 day camp)
Week 4 – 18th to 21st August (4 day camp)
Week 5 – 26th to 28th August (3 day camp)

Price per child

£16 per standard day (9am to 3.30pm)
£2.50 per wrap around session or £20 for complete day



WARWICKSHIRE'S YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025:

FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025

10am - 4pm (lunch provided), Warwick University

Sign up to Warwickshire's Youth Conference 2025 at
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/shapingtomorrow

OR scan the QR code:



“The conference is an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and contribute to shaping their community. It is a chance for them to connect with their peers, discuss relevant issues and have fun through interactive workshops and engaging activities.”



**SHAPING
TOMORROW
TOGETHER**

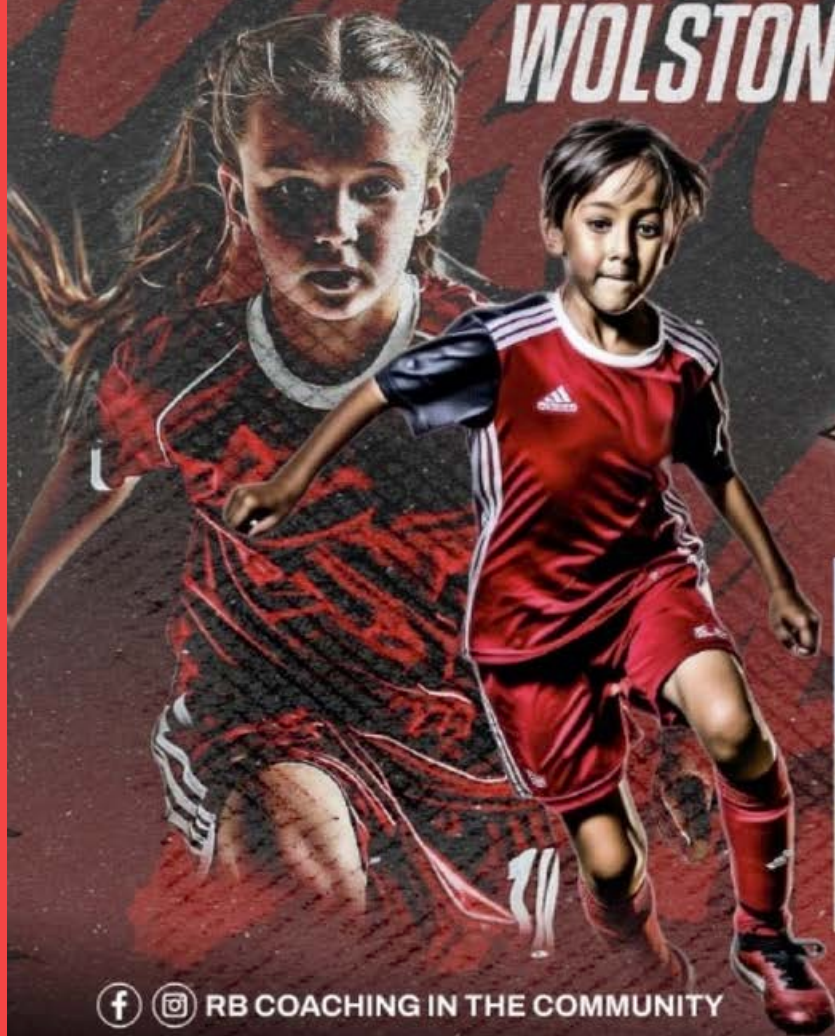


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AGE 5-13 / 5 STAR FACILITY / EARLY DROP OFF AVAILABLE / HALF DAY OPTIONS

FOOTBALL CAMP

WOLSTON LEISURE CENTRE



  RB COACHING IN THE COMMUNITY

RB COACHING IN THE COMMUNITY IS PART OF THE RB COACHING GROUP OF COMPANIES

50% SIBLING DISCOUNT
20% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

RUGBY
Art Gallery
& Museum

Spring Holiday Activities

★ Sculpting the Museum ★
12 – 26 April 2025



Get ready to roll up your sleeves and
CREATE LEARN ENJOY DISCOVER
at our holiday sculpture workshops

Find out more at www.ragm.co.uk/holidayfun

An online talk by Jane Keyworth



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

Thursday 3rd April 10 -11:30am

Tuesday 29th April 7 - 8:30pm

Talks are recorded and available to watch for up to 48hrs after the session £24



Book online
facefamilyadvice.co.uk
 go to **PARENTS**
 on the **Homepage**





Easter Timetable

all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Facing Defiance	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	8 April 10am
Understanding Anger	8 April 7PM
Anxiety Explained	14 APR 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	14 APR 7pm
What is ACT	15 April 10am
Introduction to OCD	15 April 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	22 April 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	22 April 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	24 April 7pm
Improving Family Communication	28 April 10am
Autism Improving Communication	28 April 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	29 April 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	29 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	6 May 7pm



Warwickshire Family
and Relationship
Support

WARWICKSHIRE
**Families
First**

Talking Teens

FREE 4 Week Talking Teens Programme

for parents and carers at:

**Coventry & Warwickshire Mind, 28
Cromwell Road, Rugby, CV22 5LY**

5th June - 26th June 2025

Thursday's 10:00 - 12:30

Talking Teens is a 4-week programme for parents of teenagers with a focus on:

- Relationships within the family
- Communication
- Negotiating
- Decision-making
- Strategies to reduce conflict



Come along to meet other parents and learn about ways to support your teenager

Scan QR Code to
book your place:



For further information please email:

ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk

OFFICIAL

Rugby Workshop and programmes

Eventbrite page:



Date:	Face to Face	Virtual
10 th April		Understanding Children's Behaviour 2hr Workshop
16 th April		Sleep 2hr Workshop
22 nd April		Boundaries and Rules 2hr Workshop
28 th April	Nurture 10 week Programme	
29 th April	Understanding Children's Behaviour 2hr Workshop	
7 th May		Solihull Approach 'Understanding Your child' 10 week Programme
8 th May		Boundaries and Rules 2hr Workshop
17 th May		Routines 2hr Workshop
20 th May	Understanding Your Teenager 2hr Workshop	
27 th May		Understanding Children's Behaviour 2hr Workshop
3 rd June	Parenting Together 2hr Workshop	
5 th June	Talking Teens 5 Week Programme	
17 th June	Understanding children's Behaviour 2hr Workshop	
24 th June	Boundaries and Rules 2hr Workshop	
30 th June	Sleep and Routines 2hr Workshop	
1 st July		Parenting Together 2hr Workshop
8 th July	Understanding Your Teenager 2hr Workshop	



Warwickshire Family and Relationship Support

Solihull Approach Understanding Your Child Parenting Programme

FREE 10 week Programme for parents and carers.

Delivered Virtually

Date: 7th May 2025 - 9th July 2025

Day: Wednesday's

Time: 17:30 - 19:30

Would you like to know more about.....



- Your child's development - Age and Stage
- Your child's behaviours - Being angry, not getting on with siblings, management and strategies
- Your role as a main carer and how best you can support your child
- Meet other parents - share own experiences

Eventbrite
page:



To book please scan the QR code.

For further information please email:

ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk



**Warwickshire Family
and Relationship
Support**

Nurture Programme

10-week programme for parents/carers at:
Cawston Grange Primary School, Scholars drive, Cawston,
Rugby CV22 7GU

Date: 28th April 2025 – 14th July 2025

Day: Monday's

Time: 12:30 – 14:30

Being a parent is exciting and rewarding but there are also times
when children behave in ways that are challenging.

The Nurturing programme helps deal with those challenges so that
you can have a calmer, happier life.

The 10-week Nurture Programme gives parents/carers practical
tools and information to support you to raise happy, confident, and
emotionally resilient children.

Eventbrite
page:



For enquires please contact ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of people representing the life cycle. From left to right: a young girl with red hair and a pink bow, a woman with grey hair holding a baby, a young girl with a red cap, an elderly man with a grey beard, a woman holding a baby, a man with a beard and a cane, a young girl with a cane, a pregnant woman, a man, and a young boy on a skateboard. The background is a solid green color.



Warwickshire
County Council

Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable