



Park Hall Academy

Weekly News

6th March 2026



SENECA SUCCESS: Maintaining pole position AND hitting 1 MILLION



This week our students continue to take charge of their own home learning and as a collective have completed an **additional 426 hours of study time** with **year 8 spending the most amount of time completing SENECA assignments** – well done and keep it up! The continued effort and enthusiasm for learning has placed us again at number one – a fantastic achievement for the whole school community

ALL students are expected to achieve our **minimum standard of 80%** on each assignment.

Special mention to our SENECA STARS for last week. The students with the highest usage are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Chigozirim	Beau Brown	Lilly Clarke	Aj Rhodes	Madison Wall
Ikechukwu-Obi	Amelia Sheppard	Ayesha Nazir	Summer Giffin	Rafe Parry
Emilie Ganly	Emily Baldock	Oumie Ceesay	Ceejay Bridges	Arturs Preijers
Tincuta Ciobanu	Zayaan Asim	Max Thomas	Holly Hayton	Harry Coward
Erin Jones	Millie Peverelli	Billy McLeod	Frankie Collins	Kye Mills
Phoebe Lloyd	Isabelle Meechan	Frankie Davis	Marvelous	Ellie Male
Martins Okungbeni	Taylor Bagley	Lexi Turner	Andoh	Rachel Thompson
Emily Skelcher	Timothy Adeosun	Jorgie Bright	Darcey Foyle	Lily Neish
Kherys Bench	Mal	Jessica Whelan	Alarnah	Teagan Reeves
Archie Tyler	Mwedziwendira	Faith Johnson	Carrington	Rafael Dennant
Emily Starkey	Heidi-Louise Southam-Beebee		Toby-Jay Amphlett	
			Aston Martin	

Special mention to those achieving 100% on all assignments

Year 7 - Jesse Ataria, Aaliyah Bell, Sophie Mullins, Marlei Bignot, Indi Bishop, Andras Imre, T'Varni Harris-Williams, Aiden Edwards, Leo-James Cobley and Lily Crew

Year 8 – Coryn Horne-Macdonald, Myles Henry, Niamh Watkins, Amelia Duchnowska, Noah Coleman, Jcob James and Logan McCormack

Year 9 – Summer Gauntlett

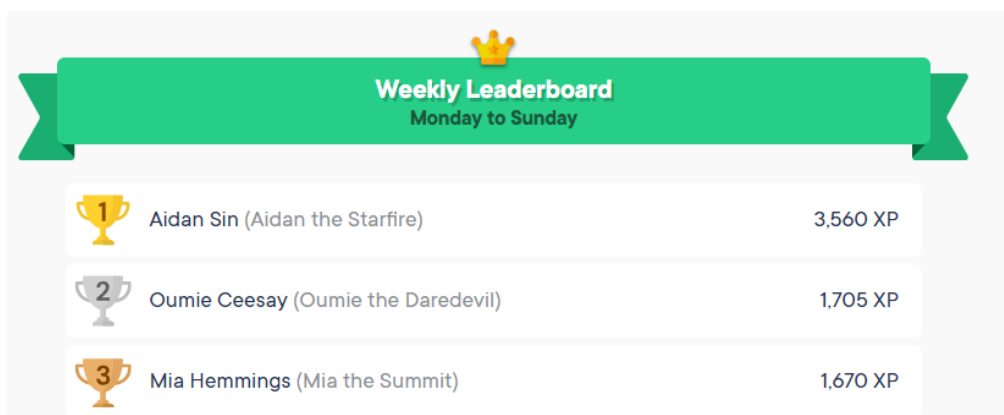
Year 10 – Roxi Steward, Holly Dickinson, Nicholas Billingsley, Ariella Savage, Maya Naheed and Mille Chambers

Year 11 – Evie Moore, D'Arcy Gardner, Eisa Imran, Lamees Mahmoud, Paige Flint, Ryan Bevan and Leah Williamson

SPARX Maths Leaderboard



Well done to all our students who are engaging with SPARX maths and making real progress in their maths lessons. A huge well done to Aidan, Oumie and Mia for making the top 3 for XP across the whole school this week. Keep it up!



Our highest XP students from last week are...

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Renayah Roberts 1,620 XP	Mia Hemmings 1,670 XP	Oumie Ceesay 1,705 XP	Aidan Sin 3,560 XP	Teagan Reeves 1,115 XP
Maria Alberici 1,415 XP	Scarlett Asprey 1,190 XP	Ethan McAleenan 1,635 XP	Jing To So 1,274 XP	Ismael Khalil 1,090 XP
Kherys Bench 1,190 XP	Toby Lea 1,190 XP	Lilly Clarke 1,405 XP	Logan Kesterton 1,190 XP	Shayleigh Degville 815 XP
Leo Robotham 1,140 XP	Olivia Firth 1,190 XP	Maria Avram 1,115 XP	Alexia Cuffe 1,124 XP	Leah Williamson 730 XP
Lily Crew 1,135 XP	Cheryl Ng 1,165 XP	Rosie Faultless- Hodgson 1,090 XP	Summer Giffin 1,100 XP	Madison Wall 615 XP

World Book Day

Happy World Book Day! Park Hall has been a hive of activity this week: competitions, author visits, butter beer, double PRIDE points, Kindles to be won – we've even seen some famous faces (more in next week's newsletter). Young people are more likely to read if they see it as a fun, entertaining and social thing to do.

That's what World Book Day is all about, inspiring them to see reading differently. Students should all now have their World Book Day vouchers entitling them to a free book (or £1 off) from supermarkets and book shops before the 15th March.



Girls' Rowing Competition

On Thursday 3rd March, a group of our girls represented the school in a highly competitive indoor rowing event. The competition required students to take part in both individual races and team relay races, with the aim of achieving the greatest possible distance within a set time.

All of the girls demonstrated outstanding resilience, determination, and teamwork throughout the day. At no point did their effort fade, they showed grit from start to finish, pushing themselves physically and mentally in every race. Their hard work, positive attitude, and refusal to give up did not go unnoticed.

A special congratulations goes to our Year 7 and 8 team, who delivered an exceptional performance. Their combined effort secured second place, earning them well-deserved silver medals. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their commitment and competitive spirit.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took part. Their behaviour, teamwork, and dedication were a credit to themselves and to the school. Well done, girls!



Science Fair!

We are running a science fair to celebrate British science week. The Park Hall Science fair will be taking place on **Friday 13th March 2026, 3:30-5pm.**


Students can enter as teams or as individuals but must sign up with Mrs Cooper in L14

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place


If students want to get involved but need support every Wednesday Lunchtime in L14 there will be support available to help them plan and create their entry.

Art Trip to Rome!

There is one remaining space available for the upcoming Art Trip to Rome!

 Dates: Friday 23rd October – Monday 26th October 2026

 Total Cost: £980

 Deposit Required Now: £300

If you are interested in securing this final place, please see Miss Kennedy as soon as possible or email rkennedy@parkhall.org

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY

Mar 6 2026



WORLD BOOK DAY:
Yesterday was great fun for everyone! Students enjoyed using our Harry Potter photobooth, drank lots of butterbeer and over 80 books were checked out! Don't forget to send your photos to pbakewell@parkhall.org



A big well done to our Library Competition Winners:
1st - Mikail Hafeez
2nd - Poppy Kinloch-Williams
3rd - Airin Khan



893

Books
Checked out

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY



7	8	9	10	11	12
Peer pressure Part 2	Consent Part 2	Sti'S Part 2	Coercive, Controlling and abusive relationships Part 1	Sextortion and spotting AI	Pornography and sexual ethics



Update: What happens if a student misses a PSHE/RSE lesson

Even if a student misses a PSHE or Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) lesson, we make sure they still have access to all key information.

Here's how we support students:

- **Registers checked:** We identify students who missed a lesson.
- **Parental communication:** Following feedback from our Parent and Carer Forum, we will be posting home an overview of the RSE lesson, along with top tips to support conversations at home about the topics covered.
- **Lesson access:** All RSE overviews will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams for students and parents to review.
- **Support & follow-up:** Form tutors check understanding with students to answer any questions.

Coming soon: Weekly PSHE drop-in sessions will be available for students to ask questions and discuss PSHE content.

Year 7 Overview: Understanding Peer Pressure
PARENTAL / CARER SUPPORT GUIDE

Purpose of this resource:
This overview supports PSHE learning at Park Hall Academy and helps Year 7 students build confidence in managing friendships and social situations safely.

It aims to:

- Help children recognise unhealthy pressure
- Encourage strong decision-making skills
- Promote open communication at home
- Reduce risk-taking behaviour

How to use this resource at home

- Read the sheet together.
- Ask your child to explain peer pressure in their own words.
- Discuss real-life examples (school, online, friendships).
- Role-play how to say "no" confidently.
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you without fear of judgement.

What is Peer Pressure?
Peer pressure is when someone tries to influence you to think, say, or do something because they want you to fit in or be accepted.

This can happen:

- At school
- In friendship groups
- Online or in group chats
- In sports teams or clubs

Peer pressure can be:

- **Positive** – encouraging you to try your best or do something good
- **Negative** – pushing you to do something unsafe, unkind, or against your values

Sometimes it can feel subtle, like:

- "Everyone else is doing it."
- "Don't be boring."
- "If you were really my friend..."

What should you look out for?
Be aware if someone:

- Makes you feel uncomfortable about saying no
- Laughs at you for your choices
- Threatens to leave you out
- Dares you to break rules
- Encourages risky behaviour (online or offline)
- Pressures you to keep secrets

If something makes you feel worried, anxious, or unsafe — listen to that feeling.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS & SCENARIO GUIDANCE
CONVERSATIONS MATTER

If you want to understand what your child is learning or feeling, the best approach is to talk about it with them and have an open, calm conversation. Ask questions with curiosity rather than judgement, listen fully to their answers and let them explain their thoughts and experiences. Creating a safe space for your child to feel heard and encouraged them to share not only helps you understand their views, growing interest and being supportive makes a real difference.

Possible difficult questions & scenario guidance

Scenario 1
"What if I lose my friends if I say no?"
Explain that true friends respect your choices. Friends who call on pressure are not healthy or safe.

Scenario 2
"But everyone else is doing it."
Let your child know that the crowd can sometimes lead to poor choices. Help your child think about long-term consequences.

Scenario 3
"What if I already joined in?"
Stay calm. Focus on learning and moving forward. Encourage honesty and seeking support if needed.

Scenario 4
"Will I get into trouble if I tell?"
Reassure your child that speaking up is the right thing to do. The focus is on safety and support.

Key message for families

- Confidence grows through conversation
- Children who feel heard and supported at home are more likely to make safe choices and take help only.

- **Reinforcement:** Termly PSHE assemblies recap key topics for all year groups.
- **Safeguarding:** Any concerns are handled in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Parents and carers: We encourage you to review the Teams lessons and the materials sent home with your child to support their learning and conversations—your involvement makes a real difference!

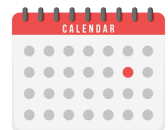


P.R.I.D.E Points

Our students have the opportunity to earn PRIDE points in a variety of ways here at Park Hall. Well done to these students for receiving the most PRIDE points in their year group this week.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Marlei Bignot	Aiden Tong	Macie Veitch	Jayden Badger	Hayden Murrain Kyle Pearson Grace Mcleod Rebecca Hill Reuben Barnes Suzanna Otton Ryan Bevan Kian Naven Scarlett Kayola Ahmad Butt Mason Bowen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Friday 13th March – Science Fair – 3.30-5pm
- Thursday 26th March – Yr 11 Parents Evening – 3.30-6.30pm
- Friday 27th March – Last day of term for students

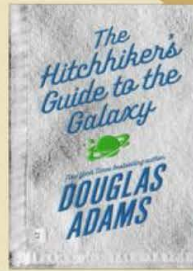
EASTER HOLIDAYS – Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

- Monday 13th April – Students return to school

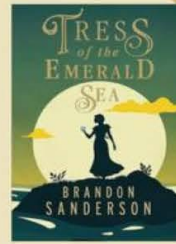
Reading Recommendations



Books I'd Hand to a 15-Year-Old Boy



A witty, British, sci-fi classic.



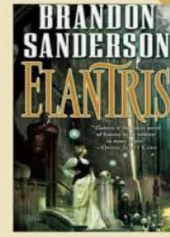
For Princess Bride vibes. Anytime I recommend this to a teen boy I get rave reviews.



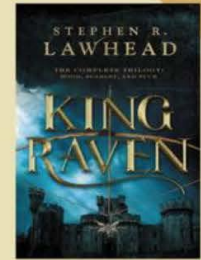
One of my all-time favorite reads from my teen years. Hand this to your teen and then watch the classic Sean Connery movie, First Knight.



Move over, Jurassic Park. Michael Crichton is so much bigger than dinosaurs. Get set for a spaceship under the ocean.



Brandon Sanderson's debut novel - a great stand-alone if you're not ready to dive into a series.



My nephew strongly recommends.



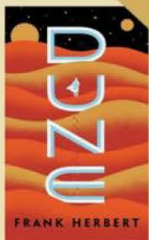
My 15-year-old was like, "MOM." That's the emphatic one-word response I'm looking for these days to know a rec was a hit! Content warnings. My daughter recommends it as a stand-alone.



Recommending to just stick with book 1 as a stand-alone.

Recommendations taken from Holly Mackle books

Please follow ParkHallEnglishdepartment on Instagram for more book recommendations!



A sweeping, epic, coming-of-age science fiction tale, according to a trusted recommender. First suggested to him by his 8th grade English teacher.

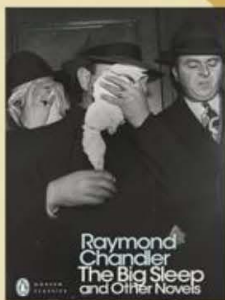


Just one more Brandon Sanderson.

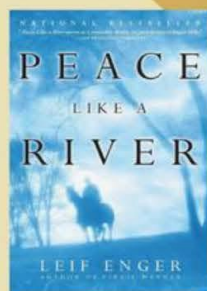
Guess what - the trusted gave so many great recs - this is just part 1 of 2! Stick around for that list, coming soon. What did I miss? Any more fiction you think would be great for a 15-year-old?



Same and same - read the book then watch the Matt Damon movie.



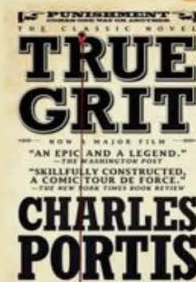
Double-crossing detective noir just perfect for your favorite wise guy.



I've read this book twice and would reread it again today. Would make for a great listen-along or read-aloud with teens on a road trip. Great for conversation.



Hunger Games plus one on the maturity scale - content warnings. Do your homework before handing over, but it comes to me highly recommended.



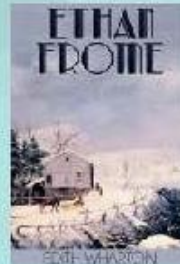
Vengeance and consequence - my friend said, "it's from the perspective of a young girl, but she's no delicate flower."



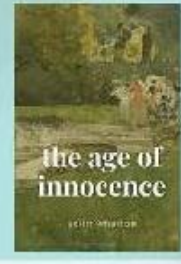
Books I'd Hand to a 15-Year-Old Girl



Sleeping Beauty all grown up.



I read this at 15 in English class and again at 43 - not sure which time I enjoyed it more.



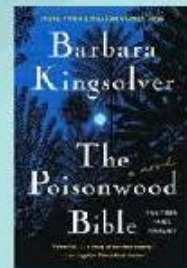
Many people hand Jane Austen to a 15-year-old - I do them too - but don't forget classic Edith Wharton. From a connoisseur's perspective, this one's a great place to start.



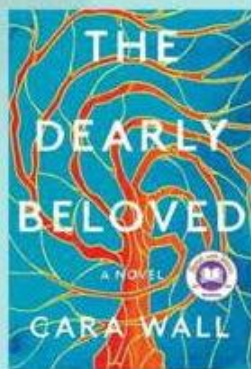
Clever and witty--by far the best in the series. IMO you could read this one and call it a day on the series.



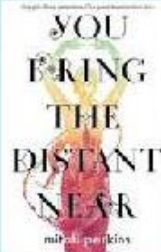
Totally brilliant and beyond complicated. Such a great one to talk through. Content warnings waving wildly.



Read it and then read it again - my favorite book of all time. A wonderful introduction to an author who never shies away from the hard, yet makes us see beauty of the same.



Gentle, complicated, layered--such conversational fodder, but your 15-year-old would have to be down for a super quiet read.



Miral Peric depicts family in the most loving, thoughtful, yet complicated ways. Loved it - just loved it.

Recommendations taken from Holly Mackle books

Please follow ParkHallEnglishdepartment on Instagram for more book recommendations

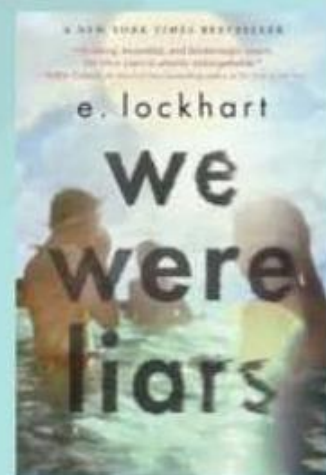


E. Lockhart shows up twice on this list...mostly because my 15-year-old said, "Mom, this one is hilarious. You HAVE to put it on there."



Geez we both loved this book.

What did I miss? Any more fiction you think would be great for a 15-year-old?



My 15-year-old asked me to read this and I'm so glad I did. Content warnings on this one and big time on the TV adaptation.

Kooth – Year 11 Exam Stress

Please find below information from Kooth regarding exam stress.

I'm delighted to let you know we are offering two webinar dates for parents, carers and family members who are supporting children through exams this year. Please find more details below and do please share with families in your networks.

How you can support your child to manage exam stress

Join Kooth for a free 45-minute webinar and you'll hear from one of our community engagement team, alongside a clinician from Kooth.

They will offer expert tips on:

- When to take action
- Share practical ideas to help children manage their anxiety
- Discuss how Kooth can provide extra support.

The content has been written predominantly for families with secondary and higher aged children sitting GCSEs, A- Levels or Nationals and Highers in Scotland.

Book 9th March, 6:00pm

Book 16th March, 7:00pm

West Midlands Police Message

Police Message:

'West Midlands Police are aware of the current 'trend' across social media platforms relating to 'School Wars. Whilst the origin is not clear, the reach of this is nationwide and not isolated to Solihull... The police want to offer reassurance that Solihull Police are conducting patrols across the borough, monitoring intelligence, and will act upon any information around disorder/under 25 violence. We are asking that parents/carers have open conversations about the risks of being involved in 'violent acts', along with critical thinking in relation to social media posts and information shared online. We would dissuade anyone from creating or sharing such posts, as to do so could run the risk of committing offences under the Malicious Communications Act 2003.'

Afternoon				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Health in the hearts of our community – 13:00-15:00 Help and advice around weight management, smoking, physical activity and much more. Speak to a member of staff at Elmwood to make an appointment.</p> <p>Boys Autism group – 16:00-18:00 <i>Term time only</i> Run by Ordinary Magic for boys with Autism. To book or find out more, email michele@ordinarymagic.co.uk.</p>	<p>EPAS attendance support drop-in – 11:30-13:30 The Education Participation Advisory Service (EPAS) offer advice, support and guidance about school attendance. No appointment required, please pop in to see the team.</p> <p>LifeSkills by Family Action – 12:30-14:30 FREE four-week course on topics such as budgeting, problem solving, and communication skills. Suitable for adults and students. To book, email gillian.keisall@family-action.org.uk or call 0121 779 1700.</p> <p>Family support drop-in – 13:00-16:00 Confidential advice and support to help you make positive changes. Includes a range of advice and guidance about difficult relationships at home, parenting, behaviour management, routines, boundaries, child development, bed wetting, sleep problems, school issues, and more.</p>	<p>Alzheimer's Society – 13:00-16:00 Information and peer support for carers of people with dementia as part of the 6-week Solihull Carers Information Programme (SCIP). For more information, please email Jody.Dawson@alzheimers.org.uk.</p> <p>Little Brum Youth Theatre group – 17:30-18:30 Big Brum Theatre in Education is launching a youth theatre for all year 6 children in Solihull. They recently visited local schools to tell the story of 'The Little Red Cap', sparking their imaginations and passion for performative theatre. To sign up or to find out more, email katie@bigbrum.org.uk.</p>	<p>Solihull Music Service – 16:00-18:00 <i>Term time only</i> After school guitar sessions at Elmwood Family Hub! Register your interest here: www.solihullmusic.org/our-family-offer.</p>	<p>Solihull College sensory play – 12:30-14:30 <i>Term time only</i> New ideas for activities to engage your children with an understanding of how to support your child's learning through sensory activities and play. FREE for Solihull residents. To book, email jess.orton@solihull.ac.uk or speak to Hub staff.</p>

[37 Burtons Way, Smith's Wood, Solihull, B36 0UG](#)

Wellbeing and advice

Here2Help

Family Hubs can help with food, toiletries, fuel, money, staying well, and keeping safe. To find out more, visit www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help.

Health visiting

To speak to a health visitor, text Chat Health on 0750 733 2563 between 09:00-16:00, Monday-Friday.

Women's Aid

If you or someone you know needs support, call Women's Aid at 0808 800 0028. Available seven days a week, 09:15-17:15.

Mental health support

The Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provide guidance and reassurance to people of all ages. Call 0800 915 9292 or 0121 262 3555.

Midwives

Please call your midwife using the phone number in your red book.

What else can the Family Hubs offer?

Help and support

Speak to our friendly staff

Stay and play area

Toys, books, and soft play

Sensory room

To book, call 0121 779 6943

Computers and private work pods

Internet and phone access

Community wardrobe

Free clothing

Family Hubs | solihull.gov.uk Solihull Family Hubs elmwoodfh@solihull.gov.uk 0121 779 1700

Attendance

How absence from school affects children long term

Attendance	Average earnings (aged 28)
99-100%	£32,200
90-98.9%	£29,800
50-89.9%	£19,500
Below 50%	£10,100

A recent study by the **Department for Education study**, investigated the long-term impact of absence on future earnings. It highlights how students who attend school more regularly tend to earn higher salaries by the age of 28.

- **Students with nearly perfect attendance (99-100%)** earn an average of **£32,200** per year.
- **Those with attendance at 90-98.9%** earn slightly less, at **£29,800** per year.
- **Students with lower attendance (50-89.9%)** see a significant drop in earnings, averaging **£19,500** per year.
- **Students who attend less than 50% of the time** earn the least, at only **£10,100** per year.

This **Department for Education study** emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance in shaping a child's future success. Encouraging consistent attendance can have a **long-term impact** on job opportunities and financial stability later in life.

Attendance Matters

As we all know, attendance plays a huge part in our children achieving their full potential. Research has shown that pupils who performed better at the end of secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. **Reporting a Student Absence:** On the occasions when children are too unwell to attend school, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to contact school as soon as possible, by **8.30am** at the latest, on **each morning of absence**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

*There are **190** teaching days in a school year. **10** days of absence = **95%** attendance; **15** days of absence = **92%** attendance. Children with **OVER 90%** attendance are more likely to achieve 5 or more Grade 4+ qualifications Children with **LESS than 85%** attendance are **unlikely** to gain 5 or more 9-5 GCSE's or equivalent qualifications.*

Student Medication

This is a gentle reminder that if your child requires an inhaler, especially now that the colder weather is here, please ensure it is in their bag or blazer so they can use it as and when required. If your child needs medication that must be kept in school, please complete a consent form – please contact school if you need one

Contact Details

Have you changed your contact details? If you have changed your home address, telephone number, email address or name, please ensure that you contact the main office to update your details so that you do not miss out on information from school. You can update your details via email: post@parkhall.org or by calling 0121 748 0400.



For Parents - How to Report Online Harm

There are so many apps with different reporting functions, organisations, helplines and more it can be really frustrating for parents to get help. Internet Matters have a useful page which details some of these organisations and what they can do, how to report specific issues, how to report on many of the social platforms and games and where to go for more help. You can see all the details [HERE](#).

