

19th February 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Topical Talk Festival

St Michael's is participating in the Topical Talk Festival project, which will be delivered by The Economist Educational Foundation, a charity that was set up from inside The Economist newspaper. The project will take place over several weeks. It will give children valuable knowledge about news, the skills to explore different points of view and make up their own minds, and the confidence to have their say. They will have discussions within PSCE lessons about news with their teacher, where they will be presented with factually accurate information and balanced arguments. They will also have opportunities to take part in safe online discussions about news with young people living in different parts of the world, and experts on the topics.

Topical Talk Student Hub

As part of participating in the Festival, children's work and comments expressing their views on the news may be published on a public online website called the Topical Talk Student Hub (the "Hub"): <https://talk.economistfoundation.org/>. When a child's work or comments are published on the Hub, the name and personal details of the child are NOT published. Every child is given a made-up name, which is randomly generated by the system (with an adjective and a noun, such as "strong sheep"). Their teacher will notify this made-up name to your child. No one at The Economist, The Economist Educational Foundation, or any public visitor to the Topical Talk website will know the child's real name or his or her personal details other than the name of their school, which is published together with their made-up name. All work posted by students on the Student Hub is subject to a moderation process. Work submitted in audio or written format will be moderated by The Economist Educational Foundation to ensure that it is safe and appropriate for children. The Economist Educational Foundation might share children's work or comments (and their made-up name) that are published on the website elsewhere online, in print, on television, on radio or other channels to support or promote its charitable work. The Economist Educational Foundation will never publish the name or personal details of the child.

The Economist Educational Foundation's privacy policy

The Economist Educational Foundation takes your child's privacy very seriously. Please look at the charity's privacy policy to see what information the charity collects, what it does with it, and how you can control it. You can see the privacy policy here: <https://talk.economistfoundation.org/about/legal/>

Your Consent

As your child will be participating in the Topical Talk Festival Hub conversations from home, it is for you to consent to this or not. This includes giving your consent for The Economist Educational Foundation to use information about your child in the ways described in the charity's privacy policy. It also includes giving consent for your child's work or comments to be published or shared in the ways

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described above. By allowing your child access to the Topical Talk Festival Hub, and them engaging in activities, will be viewed as you granting your consent. If you do have any issues with this and wish for your child to not take part, please get in touch with Mr Stafford.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at pete.stafford@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Stafford'.

Mr Stafford
Careers Leader/Work Experience Coordinator
PSCE/RSHE Coordinator