# Royal Hospital School leads fight against toxic masculinity with parent workshops



In a proactive response to the rising influence of toxic masculinity in today's digital landscape, the Royal Hospital School (RHS) in Suffolk has initiated workshops aimed at fostering healthy masculinity among its students and their families. These sessions, lasting 90 minutes, seek to equip parents with the language and tools necessary to discuss modern masculinity with their sons, particularly in light of harmful online influences like Andrew Tate.

Irfan Latif, the headmaster of RHS, emphasised the vital role of independent schools in countering misogynistic narratives that have proliferated across social media. He stated, “We have not had any particular issues or incidents at RHS, but as educators, we have a duty to be proactive.” This assertion reflects a growing awareness within educational institutions about the broader societal implications of normalising toxic masculinity.

Tate, with a staggering following of 10 million on social media platforms, has become a prominent figure in showcasing hyper-masculine and misogynistic ideals. His claims of being "absolutely a misogynist" have set alarm bells ringing for many observers and domestic abuse charities alike, who warn of his potential to radicalise young audiences. His previous controversies include being removed from 'Big Brother' for offensive comments and facing multiple allegations regarding his treatment of women—allegations he fiercely denies.

At RHS, the workshops are structured to create a safe space for dialogue and learning. They incorporate scenario-based discussions and expert insights, emphasising themes of respect, empathy, and consent. Latif noted that the feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, indicating that participants feel more empowered to engage in meaningful conversations with their children regarding the social pressures they face.

In advocating for positive male role models, Latif specifically highlighted Atticus Finch, the moral centre of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," as a counter to figures like Tate. Finch embodies qualities of integrity and quiet strength, presenting an alternative narrative to the brash personas prevalent in today's online landscape. He observed, “In a world of loud influencers and toxic online echo chambers, I believe young men need these quieter, principled role models more than ever.” This perspective is especially relevant in light of the concerns raised by experts regarding the potential radicalisation of men influenced by figures in the 'manosphere,' a network of online communities promoting anti-feminist ideologies.

Critics of Tate's approach have noted that his rhetoric not only exploits vulnerabilities among young men but also normalises dangerous perceptions of masculinity. As one expert articulated, the arena of online discourse is increasingly fraught with the promotion of male supremacy, which poses serious implications for impressionable audiences.

The workshops at RHS signify a crucial step toward reshaping societal perceptions of masculinity by nurturing foundational values that eschew toxicity. By prioritising open communication within the family unit, the school aims to instil a sense of dignity, respect, and emotional literacy among its students—values that are essential in mitigating the harm wrought by influencers like Tate.

Ultimately, the initiative at RHS serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility shared by educators and parents in guiding the younger generation through the complexities of modern masculinity. Schools, particularly those in privileged positions, are uniquely positioned to foster discussions that challenge the narratives shaped by social media, paving the way for a healthier understanding of what it means to be a man in the 21st century.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-2, 4-6, 8
2. Paragraphs 3, 7
3. Paragraph 9
4. Paragraph 10
5. Paragraphs 11-12 7. Paragraph 13

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14700567/Private-school-healthy-masculinity-workshops-parents-Andrew-Tate.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/aug/06/andrew-tate-violent-misogynistic-world-of-tiktok-new-star> - This article examines Andrew Tate's rise on TikTok, highlighting his promotion of misogynistic views and violent behavior. It discusses his influence on young audiences and the concerns raised by domestic abuse charities about his content's potential to radicalize men and boys toward harmful offline actions. The piece also details Tate's previous controversies, including his removal from 'Big Brother' and his history of offensive statements on social media platforms.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64125045> - The BBC article provides an overview of Andrew Tate's controversial statements about women, including his self-identification as a misogynist and his claims that women are 'intrinsically lazy' and not independent. It also covers the backlash against him, including bans from multiple social media platforms and concerns from UK authorities about his influence on young men. The piece includes a combative interview where Tate defends his views and claims to be a 'force for good.'
* <https://www.theconversation.com/andrew-tate-how-the-manosphere-influencer-is-selling-extreme-masculinity-to-young-men-192564> - This article analyzes Andrew Tate's promotion of extreme masculinity through his online presence, particularly within the 'manosphere'—a network of online communities advocating for anti-feminist ideologies. It discusses his background, including his kickboxing career and appearance on 'Big Brother,' and how he leverages social media to disseminate his views. The piece also addresses the concerns about his influence on young men and the potential radicalization toward male supremacy.
* <https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/02/europe/andrew-tate-bbc-interview-intl/index.html> - CNN's article delves into Andrew Tate's self-proclaimed role as a 'force for good' amid widespread criticism of his misogynistic content. It explores the concept of the 'manosphere' and how Tate's views align with far-right ideologies. The piece includes insights from experts on the potential dangers of his influence and the broader implications for online discourse and young male audiences.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/oct/04/andrew-tate-misogynist-real-game-exploiting-men> - This opinion piece critiques Andrew Tate's exploitation of men's vulnerabilities for financial gain. It discusses how his misogynistic content goes viral, tapping into followers' insecurities, and the monetization strategies behind his online courses. The article also highlights the concerning impact of his rhetoric on young men and the normalization of toxic masculinity.
* <https://www.vox.com/culture/2023/1/10/23547393/andrew-tate-toxic-masculinity-qa> - Vox's article explores Andrew Tate's promotion of toxic masculinity and his massive online following despite being banned from multiple social media platforms. It examines his background, including his kickboxing career and arrest on charges of rape and human trafficking, and discusses the appeal of his messages to young men seeking validation and empowerment through misogynistic ideologies.