What Everyone Is Talking About:

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November. While this is the most talked about chatbot, there are many others to include: Bing, Jasper, Caktus, etc. They are capable of answering a prompt with a written response that looks like it was written by a human.

What is WA doing about chatbots?

Westford Academy is aware that these chatbots are being used and are taking the following steps to ensure that students are educated about chatbots and are not tempted to plagiarize:

- Some Chatbots are blocked at Westford Academy because the required user age is 18 and many of our students are not 18 yet.
- Students are reminded that, while the chatbots may be helpful, they are not always accurate and information presented should be verified.
- The focus has been placed on the writing process instead of the final product. This has been true for years, as teachers normally check in with students multiple times during the writing process to support and redirect students as needed. Often, this means teachers are requiring all notes and edits to be visible within Google docs to show the progression of the writing.
- In addition, extra time has been dedicated to in class writing so teachers are able to monitor work progress and give timely feedback.
- Lastly, teachers are requiring the use of Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection software for most assignments. Turnitin compares student papers to the internet, several academic databases as well as other student papers to detect similarities. Turnitin will be releasing an updated version in 2023 which includes ChatGPT detection.

Want to know more? Check out these resources!

NYT Article "What Students Are Saying about ChatGPT"

The Journal: Is ChatGPT Writing Your Students Homework?

Sneak Preview of Turnitin's AI writing and ChatGPT detection capability