



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin
19th - 23rd October 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

One week to go before our students can have a much needed break! I am very proud of the way students have returned to school following their prolonged absences and, whilst this term has not been easy, our students have settled into a new routine well and are making some positive learning progress each day.

Whilst the educational future across the country is somewhat uncertain (because of the shadow of Coronavirus), we are expecting that we can continue to operate throughout this year. That being said, it remains critical that students attend school every day that they can so that we can, not only make the most of every day available, but also recover from the lost time last term.

With that in mind - there is one last effort before the half term to make sure students can get the most out of next week before a chance for us all to rest and relax.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

Contents

Introduction

K'ford goes Digital: iPads for Learning

E-Safety

Y11 Virtual Careers Fair

Year 11 'Achieve Excellence'

Bikes

Calendar

Dudley Council Covid-19 Guidance

Guidance for government rules regarding self isolation

Information from Dudley Local Authority

K'ford goes Digital: iPads for Learning



[Video](#)

As the arrival date of our iPads for Learning project rapidly approaches, we thought we'd share with you a little bit more about why this is such an exciting project for the school and our Trust. There is a very short video linked to the image above that gives a flavour of the kind of content and activities that we will have access to once we go truly digital.

Whilst the project is launching with Year 7, it is very much our hope to expand this to other year groups in the future - a truly exciting opportunity for students at Kingswinford!

Year 7 parents who have not yet registered for their iPad should follow the links in [this letter](#) or contact the school to discuss 'iPads for Learning' as soon as possible.

If you require support accessing digital or remote learning activities, or do not have access to the internet or a suitable digital device at home, we would like to help. Please contact the school by email with the subject heading 'Chromebook'.



What parents need to know about Tick Tock

Tick Tock is a video-sharing social media app that became really popular during lock down and has an age restriction of 12 plus. Users can upload bite sized looping videos of themselves lip syncing and dancing to popular music and then add filters or emojis and stickers. There are however age inappropriate videos and music that is flooding the app featuring such things as drug and alcohol abuse, self harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content.

As a school we have also come across students uploading videos that are inappropriate and have given consequences up to and including fixed term exclusions.

I have attached a leaflet from the National Online Safety which gives safety tips for parents so that you are able to safeguard your children whilst they are using this app.



We are having a 'Virtual Careers Fair' which will take place from 22nd October 2020 from 5pm.

The aim of the Careers Fair will be to provide important information for students and their parents/carers on current post 16 options.

There will be an introduction video for you to watch. You will then have the opportunity to look through all the information that providers have sent us.

This will include video tours, course details and lots of other useful information to help you make your careers choices. At the end, there will be a final video for you to watch where I will suggest some tips and also discuss the next steps in your child's career journey at school

Year 11 'Achieve Excellence'

S Wilkinson



Following the disruption to education last year and changes expected with examination format this year, it is more important than ever for Year 11 students to use the Mock exams coming up as a full practice run for the real exams in the Summer.

To support students in their preparations for this we run support sessions each evening after school between 3.20pm and 4.00pm

Students can attend any of these sessions if they feel they would benefit by doing additional revision work in any subject.

Some students have been identified as requiring additional support to help them achieve success next summer and they have been requested by their teachers to attend sessions.

The sessions we offer each day are:

- **Monday** – additional Maths sessions
- **Tuesday** - additional English sessions
- **Wednesday** - additional Science sessions

- **Thursday** - additional Geography, History, RE, French and Spanish sessions
- **Friday** - additional Options subjects sessions

Bikes

J Wilkes



Whilst we applaud students (and staff!) who choose to cycle to work, we strongly encourage all of our community to act safely on bikes. We ask parents to support students in wearing helmets; using lights and reflective clothing; and cycling safely. Key amongst this is taking care whilst cycling and avoiding cycling on the pavement - especially where it is busy. If your child cycles too and from school, please discuss road safety with them, as we continue to do.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to be about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate content on the 'For you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to emulate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



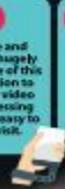
ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different enough to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and make this correct behaviour. Do power why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may dash your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the top right of the app. In the extra menu, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 30 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Bath is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCE: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2020

Calendar

Week Beginning 19th October Week 2

Monday 19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAB meeting 6.00 pm
Tuesday 20th	
Wednesday 21st	
Thursday 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers Fair Launch (Virtual) 5:00pm - 7:30pm
Friday 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break Up Half Term

Week Beginning 2nd November Week 1

Monday 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 11 Mocks 2nd November - 13th November
Tuesday 3rd	
Wednesday 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 11 Elevate Parent Webinar (draft)
Thursday 5th	
Friday 6th	
Advance notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment Week 16th - 20th November• INSET Day 23rd November

Dudley Council Covid-19 Guidance



Given the continued increase in cases of coronavirus across the authority, Dudley Council is strongly advising staff, parents/carers and visitors to wear face coverings in public areas of school. Some schools are doing this in our neighbouring boroughs.

This means:

Parents/carers are asked to wear face coverings:

- On the school site when dropping off and picking up children
- If they need to access the main school reception area for any reason
- If for any reason they need to access a classroom or corridors in school

Staff:

- In the playground when parents/carers are dropping off or collecting children (where applicable)

Other visitors:

- When accessing the main reception
- If they are unable to keep a safe 2 metre distance from other people when working on site

Guidance for government rules regarding self isolation



Detailed guidance regarding self isolation periods and households can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please support us by ensuring that all isolation periods are adhered to and do not allow your child to attend school if they have any of the following:

- A continuous cough
- High temperature 38c or above
- Loss of taste or smell



Information from Dudley Local Authority



[Download Leaflet here](#)

Play your part, protect Dudley borough - help us avoid a local lockdown!

Staying alert remains critical!

Got symptoms?

Get tested. Protect your friends and family. Do not leave home.

Visit nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 for a test.

Visit Dudley Council's website for more information.



Play your part, protect Dudley borough - help us avoid a local lockdown!

Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus can get a FREE test.

If you develop symptoms: new persistent cough, fever or a change in, or loss of, your sense of smell or taste - you need to do two things:

- 1) You and anyone in your household must immediately self-isolate until you receive the results of your test.
- 2) You need to order a test immediately. You can do this online at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.

If your test is positive you must continue to self-isolate for 10 days from when your symptoms started. Anyone in your household must continue to self-isolate for a total of 14 days. If your test is negative you and everyone in your household no longer needs to self-isolate. However, if you do still feel unwell

you should remain at home until you feel better.

Coronavirus hasn't gone away, we all need to help control the virus and save lives.



- Regular hand washing is still vital
- Keep a safe distance from others (two metres where possible)
- Continue to limit your contact with other people
- Wear face coverings to protect yourself and others



Parents and carers are encouraged to visit [Dudley Council's website](#) for useful back to school information and practical guidance.