



Which Week?

This Week: Mon 20th Nov Oct (Week 2)

Next Week: Monday 27th Nov (Week 1)

Inside Kingshurst



Eco-Schools Award for Kingshurst!

This is our eco committee, led by Mr Venson, who have worked hard over the last year to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and are now onto the next stage of their campaign. Following an environmental review of the school the team made an action plan to improve some key areas such as waste management, energy use and transport to and from school.

Last year, our Active Travel Ambassadors took a trip to the Solihull Civic Suite to campaign to win funding for a park and stride campaign to encourage students to be dropped-off further away from school and to walk in to reduce congestion with the closing of the turning circle as it evolved into an additional play area for brunch and lunch times. We look forward to reporting back as the impact of their work continues to take shape and applaud the work of team for making our Academy more ecologically sound.



CAREERS FAIR

**Save the date: Thursday 30th
November 2023 @ 3.05-5pm**

Next Thursday is the annual Careers Fair! This is the second year of this brilliant event and even though Yr11, 12 and 13 will have exclusive access to the event during Period 5 (and are welcome to stay-on), **ALL students, parents and carers are invited to attend from 3.05pm-5pm in order to speak to the wealth of local and national employers, apprenticeship providers universities and colleges.**

The Incredible Power of Our Young Carers

We are committed to supporting young carers and ensuring that they have the best possible educational experience, despite the challenges that they may face as a young carer. We recognise the significant responsibility that they take on as a young carer and the impact that it can have on their daily life. **In June 2023 we achieved the Young Carers in School Bronze Award!**

A young carer is a person under 18 who looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction. They may be doing things like cooking, cleaning, shopping and giving medicine to provide support. Within the Academy community, we have number of children who take on this incredible responsibility as a young carers for a range of these different contexts and deserve every recognition for the selfless work that they perform for those in their care.

Often, young carers can be affected in the following ways:

- They worry about the person they care for
- They are unable to spend time with friends
- They feel lonely and isolated

As many as one in five students in the UK could be a young carer; however, within the Academy, support is available! Come and see Mrs Ridley or Mr Quinn in the safeguarding office if you need help or someone to speak to. Additional resources can also be found on our website via the following link:

<https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/about/young-carers/>.



National Online Safety: TikTok



TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket.

In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17. Our guide on Page 2 provides further advice a guidance regarding this platform.

Applications for Sixth Form are now open and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/sixth-form/apply-online/>

To provide feedback on the newsletter, please [click here](#).

Website: <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday