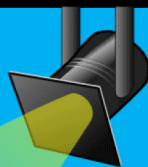




TENBURY HIGH

ORMISTON ACADEMY



In the

Spotlight

28th April 2023



Principal News:

In the SpotLight is a regular newsletter to brief parents, carers and the wider community on key school news and messages.

General News Welcome back; I hope you all had a restful and happy Easter break. It seems a while ago now and the new term has started well. Pupils have generally come back very positively. I am hoping to be able to open the field very soon during social time; I know the children loves the space this provides. Mr Davies will be buying some footballs for each year group so they can play together during their social times.

Too many pupils are not bringing the correct equipment to school. Here is the list of the equipment they need to have with them each day .

Pens (blue or black and red)	Pencils H and HB	Reading Book
Pencil sharpener	300mm ruler	Eraser
Calculator (scientific for GCSE)	Coloured pencils	Fine felt tip pens
Protractor	Pair of compasses	Highlighter pens

In the very near future, year 10s will be running a daily pop up stationery shop for pupils to purchase essential forgotten items. Please check Edulink for notification of when this is starting. Items will be sold at cost.

Uniform – standards of uniform are still not where I would like it to be and tutors work hard to ensure pupils start their day in the correct uniform. This is the link to the [Uniform Policy](#) should you need to check what is and what is not allowed. During the next few weeks, I will be asking parents to complete a short survey to gather your views on our uniform. I want to use half term six to provide clarity around uniform and consequences for not wearing uniform so everyone is clear come September.

Rewards – it has been my pleasure to start this new term issuing rewards for pupils' achievements from the end of last term. Year 8 have had a non uniform day today to say well done for their excellent attendance last term. Twenty pupils enjoyed a pizza lunch together last week to say well done on maintaining zero behaviour points as well as being the highest merit winners. Plus, I have awarded thirteen pupils a superstar badge for achieving an average attitude to learning grade of 1 in all subjects in their last data capture. Very impressive. Well done everyone!

Events – last week, the local PCSO visited our year 7s to talk to them about the impact of sharing information and pictures on social media. Pupils listened well to important messages around keeping themselves safe on social media. Please do look back over my recent In the Spotlight editions to understand how you can support your children in maintaining safe habits on their social media accounts. Secondly, we are delighted to be able to work with Severn Arts project on a creative cultural textiles project. Pupils are designing fashion with a multi-cultural theme. I am looking forward to the fashion show later in the year.

Exams – well done to year 7 and 8 pupils who are now nearing the end of their year exams. Pupils have conducted themselves very well and taken the whole experience seriously. I have been impressed with their conduct and look forward to seeing the outcomes of this exam period. Likewise, year 11 public exams are drawing nearer. All non examination components are complete with the art exam coming to an end this week. It is important year 11 pupils are working hard on their own revision plan. They must seek support from tutors if they need to over the forthcoming weeks. Parents of year 11s, please ensure you have read the recent documents on Edulink about exams and leavers events.

NEU Strike Days – thank you for your support with the recent national strike day. As previously notified, we are **NOT** closing on Tuesday 2nd May - the final day of planned national strikes.

Don't forget Monday 1st May is a bank holiday and school is closed. Have an enjoyable long weekend. Let's hope the sun shines.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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

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.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday