

Parent Bulletin



22nd - 26th November

Week 1

Lordswood Girls' School
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 0121 429 2838

Welcome

Welcome to our new weekly parental bulletin. We will be using the bulletin to communicate with parents and students about forthcoming events and key messages. This will hopefully reduce the number of emails that you receive from the school each week.

Upcoming dates

Monday 24th November	Year 11 Mocks
Thursday 2nd December	Year 13 Parents Evening
Wednesday 8th December	Year 11 Sixth Form taster day
Thursday 9th December	PSHE day
Thursday 9th December	Christmas Carol - Play
Friday 10th December	Christmas Carol - Play

Children in Need

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in the non-uniform day for Children in Need. As a school we have raised £750.

Old uniform

Do you have any uniform that no longer fits, but is still in good condition and you would like to donate it to the school?

We are putting together a small supply of uniforms for students to use in an emergency. If you have any old uniform that would be suitable, please hand them in to student reception.

Face masks

Under current DfE guidance the wearing of face masks in school is not compulsory. If your daughter does choose to wear a face mask, please encourage her to bring two masks with her to school, one mask to wear and the second as a spare. Unfortunately we do not have a sufficient supply of face masks to give out to students who have forgotten, lost or broken their masks. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Lateral flow tests

Lateral flow testing kits will be available for all students to collect next week during registration time. Please encourage your daughter to collect one of these kits and continue to test at home twice a week (Monday and Thursday morning).

Warn and inform letter

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1etQJGwz7CTHqAEQtq22jB9BEbG1ZqBC4/view?usp=sharing>

Car parking

Please can parents continue to be mindful of car parking at the start and end of the school day? We highly value the good relationships that we have with local residents and parents parking on driveways can have a detrimental effect on these relationships. We politely ask that you refrain from parking on/across driveways or the grass verges outside school.

Safeguarding

Tiktok is a social media platform that is popular with students. If your child has a tik tok account, please read the information below and have a conversation with them about the appropriate use of social media.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&#*!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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