

Newsletter



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

It was a pleasure to see so many families at our Y11 Progress Evening last night. These evenings are an opportunity for families to meet their child's teachers and discuss their progress. Y11 is obviously a critical year and it is important that families and school work together to support students to be successful.

Y11 students have been working incredibly hard this week as part of their Food qualifications and have undertaken their practical mock. Their brief was to prepare and cook a meal for a child and one adult which would be served in a café. This was linked to a coastal town, using seasonal ingredients. One dedicated parent got up extra early to provide a whole fresh cod which their child then used to create a fantastic dish. All students showed great skill and creativity and were very proud of their achievements. They get to do it all again in March for the real practical exam. I'm sure this has been good preparation for them.

Students in Y9 will soon be thinking about their choices for subjects to study in Key Stage 4. As a date for your diary, the Year 9 Pathways Evening will be on Thursday 6th February - please do look out for further information. Students in Year 11 may well remember selecting their options back in Y9 and they are now at the point of selecting further options as

they prepare for Post 16. Whilst some students may wish to pursue an apprenticeship or employment, a large number do choose to stay on in further education. We are delighted with the applications we have received already for Meadow Park Business and Innovation Sixth Form Centre; with a number of external applicants from other schools in the city. If you have any questions regarding Sixth Form, please do contact Ms Yates, Head of Sixth Form / Stellae House who will be happy to discuss. If your child is undecided, please do encourage them to speak to Ms Yates or their Tutor who will be able to share any information and talk through the application process.

Thank you for your support with attendance, 4 of our year groups have seen a significant improvement in attendance which is really pleasing. Please continue to support your child to be in school as missed days impacts on missed learning; and it is particularly vital that Y10 and Y11 students attend school each day. If you have any concerns regarding attendance or supporting your child to be in school, please do speak with your child's Tutor or the House team.

I wish you a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pettman
Headteacher

Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Issue: 10 January 2025



Class of 2025

Year 11 students have settled well into their new tutor groups and have been working hard on targeted intervention in English, maths and science. After-school intervention continues to run every day after school. Please encourage your child to attend all of the extra sessions that they can as this will help them to achieve the best, competitive grades.

Last night's Progress Evening was a great success. Some key information from the evening is attached to this letter so please have a read, especially if you were unable to attend.



Year 11 Prom

Next week letters will be sent out to Year 11 parents and carers about this year's prom. The prom takes place on Friday 28th June and it promises to be an exciting celebration of our Class of 2025's time at Meadow Park School. Once you have received the letter, please return your consent letters and deposit by the deadline given on the letter so that numbers can be finalised with the venue. If you did

not receive a letter digitally, then please speak to Mrs Symon, Miss Ronan or Miss Cross and they will be happy to print a copy for you.

Mrs Secker
Assistant Headteacher

Starting from Monday 13th January

Lakeside Diner will be offering homemade soup at lunchtimes

Bowl of Soup—£1.50

Add Pasta— £1.90

Add Crusty Roll - £2.20



Information and Discussion Session for Parents/Carers

In partnership with Coventry Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Learning Team (SEMHL)

Wednesday 26th February 2025 10am-12pm

Coventry Council House, Committee Room 3, Earl Street, CV1 5RR



Key areas we will explore in this session

- Give parents 'Top Tips' to help, support and empower children with dyslexia.
- Focus on strengths and challenges
- Discuss working with school, and the process of assessment.

Book now by contacting Coventry SENDIASS Team. QUOTE: 'DYSLEXIA'

TEL: 024 7669 4307 or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk

Head of House Awards

The Head of House Awards were awarded to:



News from the Library!

Chillout Monday:

Chess Club

Mrs Dearden's Book Club (F17)

After school on Monday:

Dungeons & Dragons

Rowdy Tuesday:

Movie Plotz

Geeky Wednesday:

Logic Puzzles

Sporty Thursday:

Tac-Tics

Creative Friday:

Poetry Workshop

We hope there's something to suit you – but if not, please come and let us know: we're always on the lookout for new ideas!

Happy reading!

Mr Spencer and Mrs Dearden
Librarians

Fundraising

Help us get 2025 off to a great start for Finham Park Multi Academy Trust by signing up to support us for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 8,000 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S and more. Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Please, sign up today - it will make a BIG difference to us this year:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/finham-park-multi-academy-trust/>

Thinking about a 2025 holiday? TUI, Booking.com, Haven Holidays, Expedia, loveholidays & 1,000s more work with easyfundraising so Finham Park Multi Academy Trust can receive a free donation when you book! On average, we could get a £30 donation from a trip you are booking anyway! For a limited time only, if you take part in their travel poll, we could also WIN a £1,000 donation. To find out more, visit:

[Destination donation: Win £1000 for Finham Park MAT](#)



House Rewards Trip to HADO Arena, Coventry

On Wednesday 15 January 2025, a group of Y7 and 8's went to HADO Arena on Torrington Avenue to take part in a virtual dodgeball tournament!

Some words from the students about our experience, "it was exhilarating, flabbergasting and blood pumping!" "It was thrilling and competitive" "we had so much fun, such a cool experience" "we want to go again!" it's fair to say we had a great time.

The results came in, and although it was very close, Meadow Park finished 3rd and 4th overall!

Well done!

Miss Burbidge
Deputy Head of Sol House

Enrichment Clubs - Spring Term

	Break	Lunch	After School
Monday	Basketball Sports Hall	Chillout Monday Library Book Club F17	KS3 Basketball Sports Hall Girls Basketball Small Gym Student Dungeons and Dragons LRC Fashion and Textiles T04 (10 spaces!) MPTC Rehearsals G16
Tuesday	Basketball Sports Hall	Rowdy Tuesday Library Chess Club F05 Y11 Girls Netball Sports Hall	Netball Small Gym Rugby Club Field KS3 Badminton Sports Hall Drop in Free and Easy LRC MPTC Rehearsals G16
Wednesday	Basketball Sports Hall	Geeky Wednesday Library	(STAFF TRAINING)
Thursday	Basketball Sports Hall	Sporty Thursday Library Year 8/9 Girls Basketball Sports Hall	Badminton Sports Hall Trampolineing Small Gym Robotics Club F18 (10 spaces!) Music Practice G16 Craft Club F23 Drop in Free and Easy LRC
Friday	Basketball Sports Hall	Creative Friday Library Crochet Club Wk1 G04 wk2 G08	KS4 Basketball Sports Hall KS3 Trampolineing Small Gym

New Parent App and School Communication

Please sign up to our new parent portal MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).



DON'T FORGET to enable push notifications for the MyChildAtSchool app on your phone so you can see all emails and letters the school sends you.

All schools in the Trust are using Bromcom and MCAS so for Meadow Park School, it means MCAS replaces School Synergy.

MCAS is now live, so as soon as you sign up you will be able to see your child's information. As School Synergy is linked to our old MIS it is no longer updating, therefore in order to view your child's timetable, see their attendance and behaviour points you will need to sign up to MCAS.

You have access to all the same information as you had in School Synergy. MCAS allows us to securely share your child's/children's achievement points, attendance, school reports, letters and school diary whenever you wish. The portal also provides general useful information about the school such as flash announcements. This will be our **primary means of communication** with you, from now on. Please make sure you enable notifications for MCAS as this is the way we will send you emails and letters.

To login to the MCAS Parent Portal, we have enabled you to 'self-sign on'. All you will need for this is your email address that the school has on record for you. Enter the school postcode CV34BD (without a space) or use our identifier 15028. Search for Meadow Park School.

School Communication

All communication from school is now via Bromcom and if you sign up to the parent portal MCAS then you will receive notifications from the school via the app. You can view all letters and emails, past and present, in MCAS. If you don't have the app then you will receive a normal email. Please add '15028@bromcomcloud.com' to your address book in order to prevent messages being blocked by your spam/junk filters.

How to Self-Sign Up for Parents

Parents and carers can access the MCAS Parent Login screen in two ways:

1. From within your web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com**
2. Download the free **MyChildAtSchool** parent app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

When you use the parent portal for the first time you will need to Sign-Up. Full instructions have been emailed home or they can be found on our website.

If you require any assistance logging in for the first time, please contact the School Office by emailing admin@meadowparkschool.com or telephone 02476 302580.

Uniform



Green school blazer



Grey school sweater



Tie



School shoes guidance

Plain black with no logos
No high heels, 'sliders', boots, sling back or open-toed shoes
Black leather or leather effect

TRAINERS AND CANVAS SHOES (VANS/CONVERSE) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



Spring Term 2025

Teacher Inset Days	Monday 6th January & Tuesday 7th January
Term Starts	Wednesday 8th January
Half Term	Saturday 15th February – Sunday 23rd February
Last Day of Term	Friday 11th April
Easter Holiday	Saturday 12th April – Sunday 27th April

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts	Monday 28th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Saturday 24th May – June 1st June
Last Day of Term	Friday 18th July
Summer Holiday Starts	Saturday 19th July

Safeguarding –

What Parents and Carers Need to know about TikTok / Considerations on Mobile Phones:

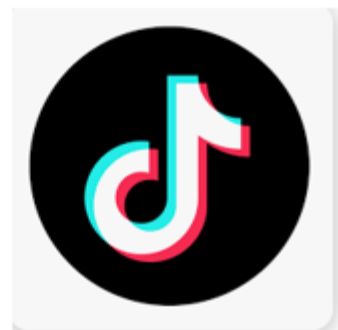
You may have seen some recent news talking about social media – with Australia approving a ban on social media for all under the age of 16yrs. Now the UK hasn't followed suit, but is trying to crack down on protecting children from harm online and is putting the squeeze on social media providers such as META, Snapchat, TikTok and fining them up to 10% of their annual turnover if they don't act to ensure that those aimed at 13years and above aren't being used by younger children.

That's because the guidance around social media is clear – that access to these platforms should be for users 13 years and above due to the potential harm and risks that come with it (with ongoing parental guidance and restrictions).

This week we wanted to share a guide around the most popular app amongst young people today – TIK TOK! Please take the time to read through the main online safety concerns and suggested strategies to reduce the risks to your children.

For More information please visit the following:

1. Australia approves BAN on Social Media for under 16's:
(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c89vjj0lxx9o>)
2. Guidance around phones and social media:
<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/when-should-a-child-get-their-first-phone/>



Stay Safe and have a good weekend!

Paul Rule
Child Protection Officer &
Senior Pastoral Support Manager

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for this is a problem based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos are probably safe for children, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount is inevitably slipping through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harmful behaviour is body image related for girls (pro-eating unsuitably eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'ice cube' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two fatalities. Ofcom has urged against TikTok over the tragic deaths of these children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Gift bundles range from £0.99 to an eye-watering £149, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £1.6 billion in user spending in 2020. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.8 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially on accounts created by users for young people using a false date of birth, or on public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their video to others and enables anyone to download or re-upload it.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but it's also easy to find a third of 11- to 16-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misguidance, racism or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2020, UK children spent an average of 57 minutes per day on the app, that's twice as much as in 2019. Devices can interact with young people's sleep patterns – when leading to insomnia – and distract them from other essential activities. The instantly addictive nature of the app also means they also neglect children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (preventing the viewing of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Remind them that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they have to look for trusted adult if they're unsure by interactions on the app. With more kids using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New York Times.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they're being negatively affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Screen withdrawal and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or sleeping poorly. However, the potential benefits are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: see full reference list on guide page 30. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/tiktok-2021>

@wake_up_weds

www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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MEADOW PARK SCHOOL

THRIVING TOGETHER