



Which Week?

This Week: Monday 20th Jan (Week 2)

Next Week: Tuesday 28th Jan (Week 1)

Inside Kingshurst

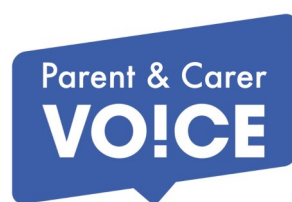


Monday 27th January 2025

Just a reminder that **next Monday is a staff training day**. All students will return as normal on Tuesday 28th January for 8.30am.

Parent/Carer Survey: Feedback Opportunity

Please find below a link to a parent and carer survey, providing you with an opportunity over the course of this week to feedback to the Academy on a number of different areas:



CLICK HERE: [Start survey](#)

This is scheduled to close on Friday 24th January at midnight. Many thanks in advance to those of you who are able to engage with this.

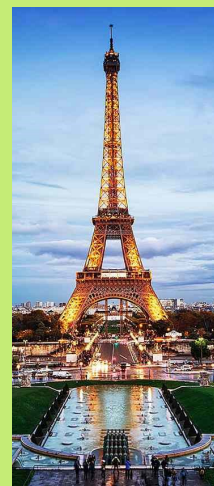
Potential for Paris? One Space Available!

With the February half term several weeks away, a single space has become available for a student in either Yr8, Yr9 or Yr10 to take part in our fantastic visit to Paris from 7th – 10th February as part of a 4 day/3 -night experience, taking in a day in central Paris and a trip on the river Seine in addition to a day at Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney Studios!



The total cost of the trip is £525, however, in order to secure this place, half of this payment would need to be made initially, followed by a payment plan for the remaining balance and importantly, would require any interested student to **currently hold a UK passport**.

Please contact College Leader Miss Ivery directly (eivery@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk) if you are interested in your child securing this place or for further details.



Fact of the week: We eat less than 1% of the edible plants available to us

For any of the community taking part in 'Veganuary' at the moment, the following fact may be of interest to you!

Based upon current estimates, there are over 350,000 plant species. Out of all of these, approximately 80,000 have some (seed, leaves, root) part that we, as humans could eat. However, only 7,000 of these species are ever eaten. This is due to the farmers that can make the most money through focussing on growing one kind of crop, like wheat. This way of farmers to work takes less equipment and less specific expertise (or risk) in knowing how to grow other varieties of crops. I wonder if we have any budding entrepreneurs in the Academy able to utilise this opportunity in the future?



National Online Safety: What Parents Need to Know about TikTok



Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. The guide on page 2 lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

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

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

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".

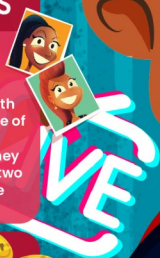
AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, 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 inevitably slips through.



BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their 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. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. 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 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

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 Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist 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 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.



Advice for Parents & Educators

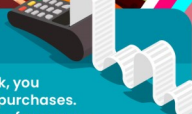
ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances 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.



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'd 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.



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. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



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 Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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