

Year 13 Bake Sale

On Thursday 18th April, a group of our sixth form students held a Bake Sale in the Study Centre in Tomlinson Hall at break and lunch time to raise money towards the Year 13 Prom 2024. A selection of bakes were made by our sixth form students and the sale was enjoyed by both Year 12 and Year 13 students as well as staff members!



Summer Festival



Saturday 15th June 2024

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Free entry to all!

We are currently looking for donations from students, parents/carers and members of the community:

- Unwanted gifts
- Confectionary (with at least 3 months expiry date)
- Games, puzzles, toys

For adults- parents/carers and members of the community: please drop items to our reception including alcohol.

Students- please bring your donations to the Maths department in Editha.

Donations will be used as prizes for a tombola and to be sold at the festival.

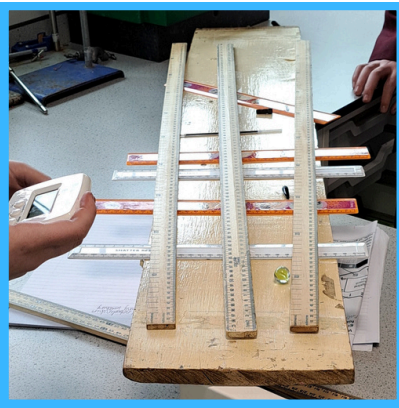


British Science Week Challenges

The **British Science Week** is run by the British Science Association and is a 10-day celebration (which took place between 8th - 17th March 2024) of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This year's theme was TIME.

Students were involved in Science Week challenges which involved being issued 1 of 3 packs; ramps, cups and sand or cups and water. They were allowed a stop clock for 10 minutes during the planning stage.

Students used scientific principles, trial and error and creativity to measure 10 seconds of time.



Year 11 Prom Tickets

Our **Year 11 Prom** will be held at Statfold Barn Railway on **Thursday 4th July**, arrival from 6:30pm and finish time 11pm.

If you have not purchased a ticket yet, here are some details:

The cost per ticket is £35.00 payable by instalments or as one payment via ParentPay. Further details regarding paying by instalments can be accessed via ParentPay.



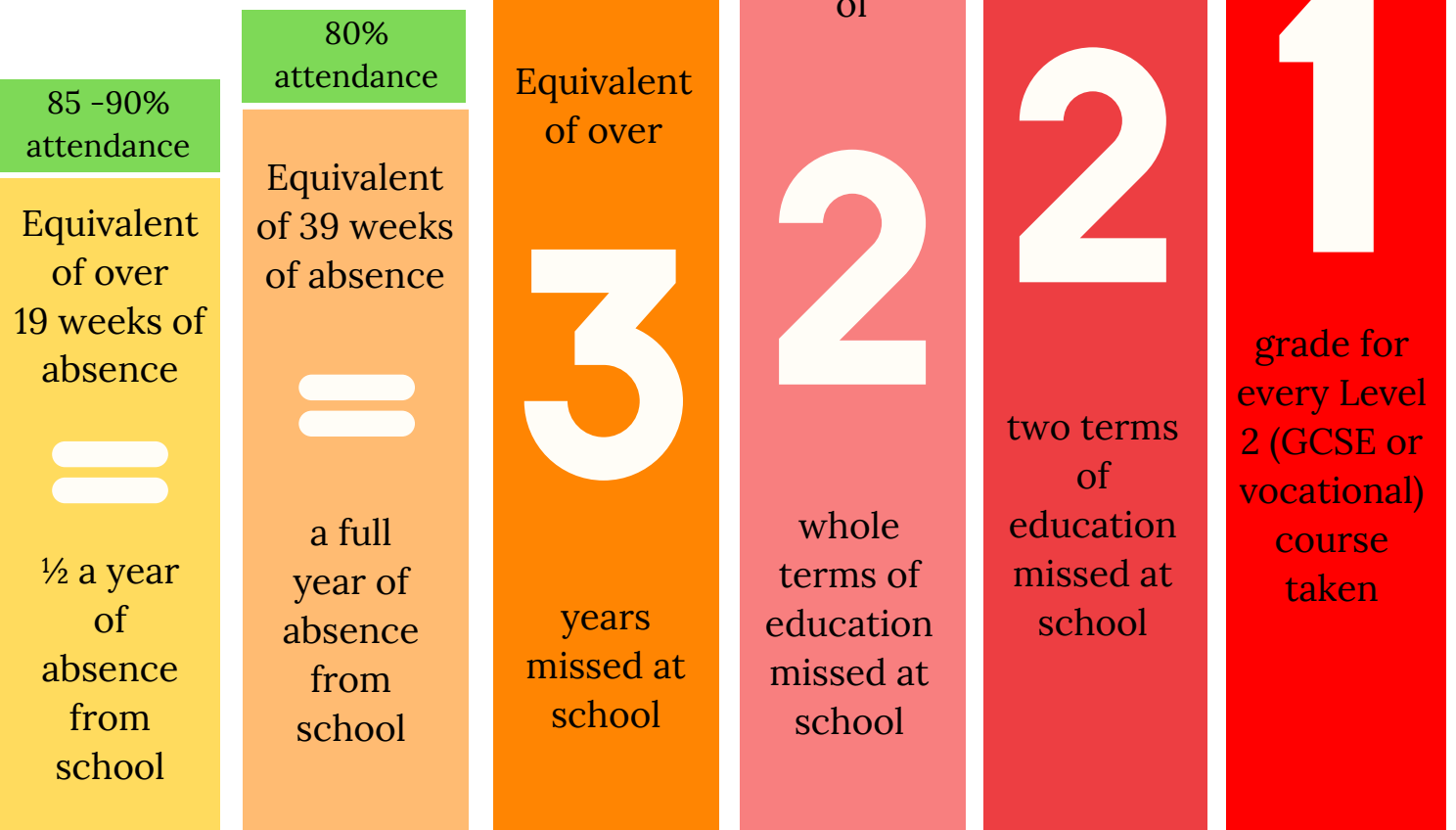
Student Success

Well done to Laila Heaton in Year 9 for her success at her latest gymnastics competition. Laila came first and is now the West Midlands Regional Champion! Laila will now be representing the West Midlands in the National Competition in May this year.

On Thursday 18th April, the Year 8 Netball team competed in the league against 5 other teams. They showed excellent commitment and determination throughout the games and their sportsmanship was exceptional. Notable highlights include a superb 5-0 victory, unwavering confidence from EM and AA in GS and GA, and huge individual improvements all round. Players player of the night was BE.



Student absence over five school years equates to...



ATTENDANCE



Showing up is half the battle.

“Do it again and again.[...].Whatever is difficult can be done easily with regular attendance, attention and action.”

- Israelmore Ayivor

Success is not about being the best.

It's about showing up when others choose to stay home.



ATTENDANCE

Support during exam times

Please find some useful links on how you can seek support yourself or how you can support your child, specifically during exam times:

For guardians:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-manage-exam-stress>

For students:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress>



YOUNG Mi MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



Elf the Musical

Our school production- Elf the Musical will run 10th - 12th December 2024.

Auditions will be held on Wednesday 22nd May and will be open to all students. Please see details below on how you can audition:

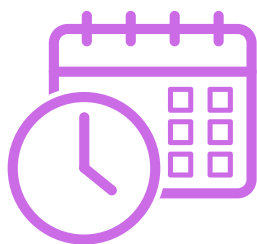
Prepare a song, dance or poem on your own or with someone else who you can audition with which must be no longer than 2 minutes. There are lots of parts available, not all are singing and dancing.

See the noticeboard outside I3 for more information including main parts and audition ideas or see Mrs Glover.



Year 7 Parents Evening

Our **Year 7 Parents Evening** will be taking place on **Thursday 16th May** via video appointments using SchoolCloud as the online platform. This is an important evening that provides parents/carers with an opportunity to discuss the progress of their child with their teachers.



The appointment booking window will be open between 6.00am on Tuesday 7th May and close at 11:55pm on Friday 10th May.

Further details will be sent via My Child nearer the time.

SEND Coffee Afternoons

We are hosting a number of **SEND Coffee Afternoons** this academic year for current parents/carers for the opportunity to meet with members of the Inclusion Department in a more informal setting & to discuss your child's academic & emotional development.

If you are interested in attending one of these coffee afternoons, could you please contact the Inclusion Department by email: k.taylor@thepolesworthschool.com

The dates of the coffee afternoons will be as follows:

Wednesday 8th May: 3:15pm-4:45pm

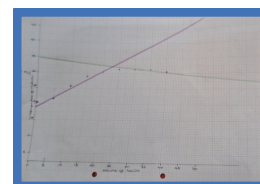
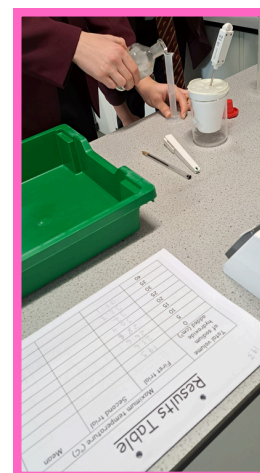
Wednesday 19th June: 3:15pm-4:45pm

Wednesday 10th July: 3:15pm-4:45pm



Year 10 Chemistry

Year 10 students were investigating temperature changes during neutralisation: a required practical. Year 10 measured 30cm³ of 2M HCl and added it to a polystyrene cup. They measured the temperature initially. 5cm³ of 2M NaOH was then added and the temperature change measured. This was continued until 40cm³ in total was added. Students repeated the experiment and calculated a mean average change per addition of NaOH. A graph was plotted and the point of neutralisation was identified.



Key Dates

Friday 3rd May - Friday 21st June

Year 11 Exams

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th May

Booking window for Year 7 Online Parents Evening opens at 6:00am

Wednesday 8th May

SEND Coffee Afternoon

Friday 10th May

Booking window for Year 7 Online Parents Evening closes at 11:55pm

Thursday 16th May

Year 7 Online Parents Evening



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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

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 (as of spring 2022) 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.

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 with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (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