



The Albion Academy Headteacher Newsflash

Friday 2nd October 2020

The Albion Family

Today marks the end of Week 5 and we have passed the half way point of this first half term. In last weeks' Newsflash I reminded parents about the healthy choices we want our young people to make especially with their choice of drinks. I am pleased to say that on the whole there has been a significant reduction in the amount of energy drinks being brought into school, from my own personal monitoring in the morning it has been night and day difference.

I do need to raise the issue of face coverings. The vast majority of the children in the school wear one and fully support us in trying to reduce any form of virus transmission which we are really proud of. However, a very small minority of pupils 'forget' their mask or lose it throughout the day which increases the risk slightly. All we ask is that we work together to protect all of us in the school and all of our families. We have a number of pupils and staff who have underlying health conditions so I believe the right and decent thing to do is to help protect them. My pupils, your child, and my staff all have families at home some of whom also have health conditions. We are also trying to protect those people too.

So what am I asking? I think what I am asking is that we are doing all of this for other people, it is not just for us but all of our families. We want to reduce the covid infection rate as fast as we can so we can get back to 'normal'. Little things, done well over time build up to great outcomes.

Attendance Matters – Every day counts

We think that nationally for all secondary schools whole school attendance is hovering around the 84% mark. That was certainly the figure reported in a Schools Week article over the past week. Clearly attendance rates between schools are going to significantly differ and any comparisons between schools or even over time are going to be less than reliable due to the situation with covid19.

At The Albion we will still insist on good punctuality and good attendance patterns, we have already challenged some parents about odd days off here or there such as a Friday or Monday pattern beginning to emerge in a very small fraction of individuals.

What we can see from our school figures is that even though there is a lot of local issues with pupils being sent home due to outbreaks we continue to have better than current national average and we are incredibly grateful for all of your support with this. Year 9 does though seem to stand out for the wrong reasons compared to the other year groups...work do here perhaps?

Week ending 02.10.2020					
Year	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
7	92.5	96.3	94.4	94.1	93.4
8	90.5	91.8	92.1	92.8	92.5
9	86.8	85.6	83.7	84.3	85.2
10	90.1	88.1	92.8	90.6	90.2
11	88.4	83.5	87.4	89.2	86.5
Whole school	89.8	89.4	90.2	90.3	89.7

Around the subject areas

If you follow the school on social media you might have seen examples of our pupils work. The aim is to give you as parents and carers an insight into what your child is doing whilst they are in school.

This week we have yet another example from the geography department this time from our Year 7 pupils who have been creating model volcanos and in doing so gaining an in depth understanding of plate tectonics in their creation and formation. Fun fact few people realise it but the large outcrop that dominates Edinburgh's skyline is in fact a dormant volcano. First erupting 350 million years ago, 'Arthur's Seat' now offers the best panoramic views of the Scottish capital by far...everyday is a school day.



Virtual Open Evening – Thursday 8th October 5.30pm

We have prepared a 'virtual tour' which seems to be what all Secondary Schools are doing now due to the difficulties of having large numbers of people on site all at once. As well as a filmed tour for those of you who are thinking about your child's secondary school and who would like to see what we are all about, hear from our current pupils talk about their school. Get to see lessons in action and hear from staff as well. There might also be a brief cameo appearance from myself.

We also have an open invite to parents and carers of Year 6 and Year 5 pupils on Thursday evening 5.30pm for a Town Hall style online meeting where I and senior staff will talk you through why we think The Albion Academy is a great school and where you can have an opportunity to ask questions.

I am also doing personal tours after school has finished. Please note that face coverings must be worn at all times for these particular visits.

Standards

We continue to press ahead with making The Albion Academy the best school it possibly can be and we endeavour to see the best in everyone. We expect all pupils to arrive on time, in uniform fully equipped and ready to learn, anything less than this and we would be doing our wonderful pupils and you, our supportive parents a disservice.

Unfortunately, at times we have to reinforce these expectations. All pupils in our building are entitled to disruption free learning, every minute of your child's lesson is important. I think you would agree that if a teacher was being prevented from teaching your child, we have to take action and say that any behaviour that prevents learning is simply not acceptable. What we are not though is draconian in our approach; we plan engaging, thought provoking and stimulating lessons. We want pupils to discuss their learning, to question what is happening. However, any behaviours which are simply disruptive, impolite or discourteous will not be tolerated. We give children a warning and expect them to refocus, but after that we cannot continue to accept learning time being taken away from other children. That is not fair. If your child must be removed from lesson it is because they have not engaged or has prevented the teacher from doing their job. If they are placed into isolation, they are expected to complete an after school detention, same day and a restorative conversation either that day or as soon as is possible.

I would again like to thank all those parents who back us and support us with this, even on those occasions where it has been your own child. It has been a breath of fresh air coming here and seeing such wonderful support you give my staff to do their job: educate your child.

Headlines in maths sparx homework

7B leading the way with 85% completion - Miss Findley

Well done again to Miss Findley who is still top of the Sparx leaderboard both this week and cumulatively.

Well done this week to Mr Ferdinand who has the highest completion rate for both the optional and the target homework with 7A.

Year 11 – From Mr Wild

We are really impressed with all of you. Attendance for Period 6 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was well over 97% yet again! The extra sessions are all about helping you fill those gaps that may have occurred from 20th March through to 17th July, we know some of you worked diligently and equally some of you have been honest with us and admitted that you did very little. So what we are not doing is feeling sorry for ourselves, what we are doing is cracking on and getting work done so that we are better tomorrow than we were today.

Student Leadership Team

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the Year 11 student leadership team: Ghazal Yazdani, Josh Earlam, Teni Bello, Madiha Khan, Cody Moran, Mariam Sannoe, Plemas Nanau and Laila Al-Terawi. The obligatory school socially distanced photo with our new Leadership Team, Mr Wild and Mr Roberts to follow in due course

November Mocks

Year 11, there are only 25 school weeks left, just 125 days in school, until your first GCSE exam. So with that in mind November mocks are scheduled to begin on Monday 30th November. Please use the resource that has been handed to you during Fridays "Careers Flash" that details the 5 habits of an effective learner". This resource details a variety of useful revision/learning tips that will help to prepare you for your upcoming assessments.

SMUG AWARD WINNERS

11A Teni Bello
11L Carolina Borta
11B Nzari Swan
11I Sara Saberi-Nav
11O Kieron Horton

Year 11 Rewards/Celebrations

In recognition of the hard work and effort that our year 11 students have put in since the start of term, the following students were picked from a generator in the following areas:

100% Attendance –

Mateusz Kosbial
Anna Fletcher

100%Attendance at P6 –

Daniel Helsby
Zainab Salman

#nothinglessthanyourbest – HOY Award

Angel Presley

Safeguarding

The NSPCC announced this morning that calls/emails to their Domestic Abuse helpline regarding children living with DA has risen significantly to 900 during the April to August period, during the previous 4 months, they had 600 contacts.

To put this into context for us in Salford – during January to June there were 1613 Operation Encompass Notifications.

Weekly There have been an average of 60 Notifications made per week.

Monthly There have been an average of 269 Notifications each month.

Children Over the period, the 1613 Notifications relate to 1435 children, the oldest children was 18 and the youngest was 2 weeks old.

Is your child on TikTok? Are they doing all the new dances and watching other people do strange, amazing, funny, odd and random things?

Do you even know what TikTok is? <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/> has some amazing resources for lots of the modern day online and technological things that young people get into that maybe adults should pay more attention to.

TikTok is an app that is widely available on android and iPhone. In truth it is everywhere, and it really took off during the lockdown period between March and August with both adults and children the world over.

The infographic at the end of this Newsflash will give you some more detail about some of the concerns about this app, the content of it and some of the dangerous people that have been found using it.

Again, really important with anything where your child is sharing information about themselves across the internet...who are they communicating with? Is that 13 year child in Chicago really 13? Are they really in America? Why is my child even friends with a 13 year old child in America anyway?

As adults alarm bells should be ringing if our children are being secretive with their phones, begin behaving in a strange manner, talk about people you have no idea who they are. Remember you should know as much about your child's online habits as you do their home habits. If you don't, make that change today. You are the adult and they are the child.

Next week – 5th October

Next week is **WEEK B**

Important dates

Virtual Open Evening Thursday 8th October 2020 5.30pm

The Academy will close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 23rd October. We reopen again on Monday 2nd November

INSET day Friday 28th November

Last day of Autumn term is Thursday 17th December 2020. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Social media



Remember you can follow us on Twitter @albionacademy or on [YouTube](#) 'TheAlbionAcademySalford'



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor social media) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and highly entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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