



# NEWSLETTER

10th December 2021

## Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Less than two full weeks to go until the end of term, pupils and staff continue to work with great energy, positivity and enthusiasm. There are a wealth of extra-curricular activities across the school which are very popular with our pupils, and the participation and productivity rates are impressive; this is in addition to the regular flow of outside education providers who visit school to work closely with pupils to support, motivate and inspire them.

Please read on to find out about these events.

Towards the end of term, it is just as vital as ever that pupils attend school every day. The curriculum will be taught until the last day of term. It is also essential all pupils arrive at school by 8.30am to ensure they are on time for their morning register mark and form time with their Form Tutor.

Please may I strongly urge you to ensure your child comes to school with a plain face mask to wear on corridors and other communal areas. We must follow government guidance which says school children from Years 7-11 and staff should return to this preventative measure. This helps us keep infection of the new Omicron variant down, and therefore helps prevent illness and further absence from school.

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents and carers to our Christmas show due to government guidance, however we shall record it for you and put it on our website. We are also unable to hold our second coffee morning in school, but please do join us next Friday for an online meeting with a cup of coffee! Details will be sent out to you soon and we really look forward to seeing you online!

With best wishes,

Ms S. Finlay



Ms S. Finlay  
Headteacher

### Safeguarding Tip:

Please remind your children to cross roads safely on their way to and from school. The mornings and evenings are getting darker and there have been a number of reports of children taking risks on the roads.

### Diary Dates

Winter Showcase	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Online Coffee Morning	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Family Winter Fayre	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
End of Term	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021



## Head of Year Messages



**Year 7 – Mrs Rashford** *Congratulations 7T Pankhurst on winning the Next Level November competition!*

Hello parents and carers. Well done to 7T Pankhurst who were the overall winners of Next Level November! They have picked a tour of the Manchester United ground with Mr Griffiths as their form reward. Going forward, can you please encourage your child to bring a face covering to school as part of their equipment as we are unable to provide them in school.



**Year 8 – Mr Smith** *Pupils will be taking part in the '12 Days of Christmas' competition!* The Year 8 pupils have been working hard to ensure they have 100% punctuality and attendance to gain entry into the '12 days of Christmas' prize draw. This is a daily incentive where one pupil per form will win, culminating in a £50 and £100 draw for pupils that have managed to be successful in this challenge for the full 12 days!

In other news, we also had two sports fixtures this week; the girls netball team won 4-0 versus MCA and the boys football team lost a hard fought game 2-1 versus Wright Robinson College, it was great to see so many pupils taking part in extra-curricular activities!!



**Year 9 – Mr Diaz** *Year 9 will be creating hampers for those in need over Christmas.*

As we prepare for the end of this half term, Year 9 are being encouraged to reflect and show gratitude. We will have several opportunities for pupils to join in some charitable events. We will be collecting non-perishables and other items to create hampers. Each form is in competition to see how many hampers they are able to put together. Christmas Jumper Day is on the last day of term to raise funds for charities supporting those in need at this time of year in our communities. Please encourage your child to join in. Year 9 are capable of showing empathy towards others, this is a great way to celebrate the year group's wonderful character traits.



**Year 10 – Mr Chetwyn** *Year 10 will be collecting for Christmas charity hampers!.*

As we continue towards our Christmas break, it is really important to remember the hard work we have been doing as a year group on standards and expectations. Next week promises to build even further levels of excitement and enjoyment as we eat Christmas dinner together, and we will also be working as both a year group and a school to collect charitable donations and make Christmas Hampers for those most in need within our community. As always, all donations are welcome! Let's try and raise as much as we possibly can for a great cause! Keep being great Year 10!



**Year 11 – Mr Hull** *Year 11 learned valuable strategies in the Fix-Up workshops*

On Wednesday, we had a day with a fantastic initiative from Fix-Up, an inspirational group of speakers running valuable workshops. The speakers covered topics such as what motivates us, why we want to be successful, what is currently holding us back, how to manage our time and how to revise. I have been delighted with the purpose and attitude of the pupils following their mock exams last week. I spoke in assembly last Monday about the need to squeeze every drop of opportunity and progress out of each day and lesson. With every day being important in the run up to Christmas, it is essential that every pupil maintains their focus, motivation and progress. I've been so impressed that so many of our pupils have done this. Work hard, be kind.

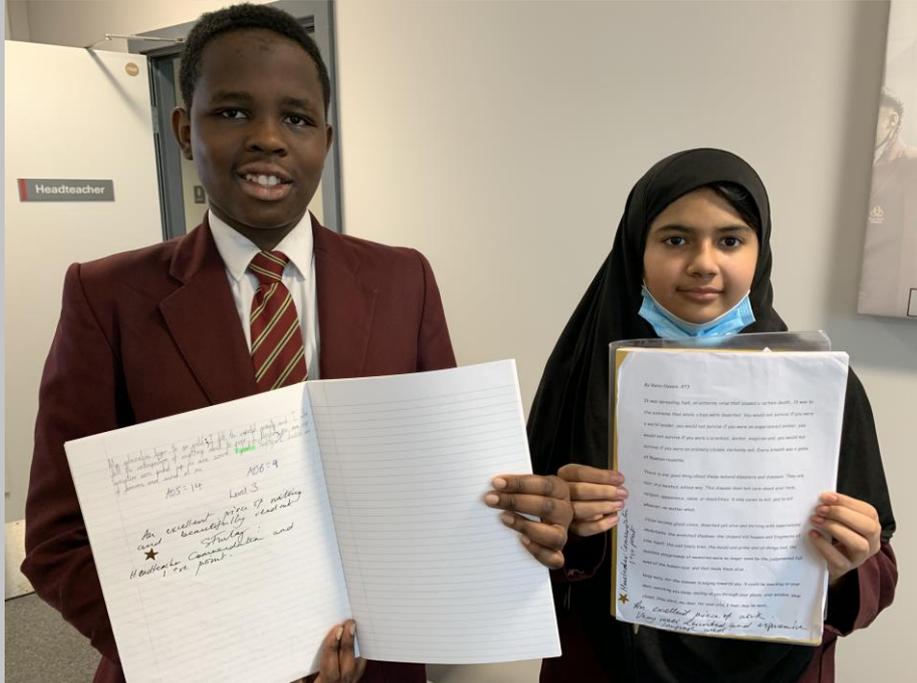


## School Messages

### Headteacher's Commendation

*Well done to our Year 8 pupils for their brilliant work!*

Pupils Gbolahan and Rania in Year 8 produced dystopian masterpieces in English. Beautifully and skilfully written. Well done!



### Debate Mate

*Pupils completed a skills evaluation in the fifth week of Debate Mate!*

This week we had Amber from Debate Mate come to school and hold a pupil evaluation. The skills assessed in the evaluation were derived from the National Curriculum at Key Stages 2 and 3, as well as the assessment criteria for the GCSE Spoken Language accreditation devised by Ofqual. The evaluation was conducted during the first formal debate of the programme and another one will happen during the last debate, to help Debate Mate track the progress of pupils.

The evaluation went really well as the Head of Debate Mate, Mauve, sent the following email:

*"I have been hearing some amazing things from your mentors about your pupils. It seems like they have progressed so much already this term."*

The debate and evaluation was enjoyed by all and the school had another excellent turnout!

### Expo 2020 Dubai Semi-Finals

*We are very proud of our pupils for reaching the semi-finals of Expo Dubai 2020!*

Even though our pupils did not get through to the Finals of Expo Dubai, they did extremely well during the Semi-Finals. Our school is so proud of the fact they made it to the Semi-Finals, especially considering this is our first year running Debate Mate at Dean Trust Ardwick!



## School Messages

### Baking Club

*Pupils made delicious flapjacks with lots of different toppings!*

This week in Baking Club we made some fabulous flapjacks. The pupils made a selection of different flapjacks with the choice of their own toppings or flavourings. Some pupils used fruit, some coated or drizzled chocolate over their flapjacks and others mixed them with marshmallows. The smell of the flapjacks was mouth watering and the pupils couldn't wait to try their syrupy flapjacks!



### Physical Education

*Pupils competed in futsal and netball tournaments.*

We began the week with a Year 8 futsal tournament. The boys played some fantastic football and finished in bronze position. They narrowly missed out during extra time in the semi-final. Mr Beaumont and Mr Griffiths were very impressed with how the squad performed. The Year 7 and Year 8 girls netball team headed to MCA later in the week. The Year 7 team won 3-0 and the Year 8 team won 4-0. Another fantastic result for the netballers. A huge well done to all the pupils who represented DTA this week!



## School Messages

### Contact Theatre Workshop

*Members of the Contact Theatre delivered Year 9 workshops!*

At the beginning of the week, a group of Year 9 pupils took part in a drama workshop with three professional actors and theatre makers from the Contact Theatre in Manchester. The group took part with enthusiasm and were extremely responsive to the visiting workshop leaders.



## School Messages

### DTA Christmas Stalls

*Pupils made delicious flapjacks with lots of different toppings!*

This week DTA had their first inhouse Christmas Market! Staff and pupils came along to the stalls in the dining hall and bought themselves some DTA-made tree decorations, fantastic Christmas cards and gifts. It was a fantastic success and it was great to celebrate the amazing work of our talented pupils from the Women in Technology (W.I.T) Club, Art Club and the Eco Committee. A total of over £200 was raised! This was an outstanding effort and the money will go towards funding our school's green space allotment, as well as helping to support future developments of the green space at DTA. Well done to all staff and pupils involved!



## School Messages

### Taekwondo Workshop

Team GB Taekwondo practitioner, Mahama Cho, returned to school to hold a Taekwondo workshop. Mahama Cho, GB Taekwondo practitioner, returned to DTA to deliver another workshop. Pupils learnt to kick with control and power. They also had the opportunity to reinforce the skills they had learnt in previous workshops. The pupils really enjoyed learning from Mahama Cho's taekwondo expertise, as well as his dedicated mindset and work ethic. All of the pupils got involved and learn something new. Well done to all!



## School Messages

### Year 11 Fix-Up Workshops

*The Fix-Up team taught Year 11 pupils tips for revision, confidence, time management and much more!* Fix Up, an exciting and energetic team, came into school on Wednesday and provided a number of enlightening workshops with Year 11 pupils. The aim was to develop strategies and means to increase focus and preparation for exams and the stresses of Year 11. Several of our pupils sometimes feel anxious and worried about the pressures they face, and the visitors shared their own experiences and ways to make the journey over the next few months easier.



## School Messages

### Christmas Hampers

*We would be grateful for any donations to make up our Christmas charity hampers!*

This year, we are asking for help to put together some Christmas hampers for a number of charities. We have chosen Coffee for Craig, an organisation which provide food and care for the homeless, Manchester Central Foodbank and Supporting People in Need (SPIN), a local homeless shelter which will house up to 25 men during the Christmas period. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and will be put to use by the charities we are working with.

#### Please donate:

##### Clothes:

Small and medium  
boxer shorts  
Men's tracksuit bottoms  
Socks  
Boots and trainers (size  
8 or above)  
Scarfs  
Hats

##### Food:

Sugar  
Tea  
Coffee  
Hot Chocolate  
Long life milk  
Instant custard powder  
Tinned foods  
Packaged foods  
Crisps  
Biscuits

##### Gifts:

Card games  
Board games  
Jigsaws  
Colouring books  
Men's and women's  
toiletries sets  
Books (new)  
Pyjama sets  
Slippers



# 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.

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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.

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## 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.

### 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.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' 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 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### 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.

### 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 profiles.

### 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

Parveen 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.



NOS  
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