



Laurence Jackson School's

PARENT BULLETIN

21 NOVEMBER 2025

CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3 Home Learning

Below will be shared with Y7 8 & 9 on Monday:

The following Home Learning Tasks are due in this week:

- Spax Reader from last week (Today)
- MFL (from the previous Wk B) due in for the lesson stated on Class Charts this week
- Spax Maths from last week (WEDNESDAY)
- Seneca History (THURSDAY)



Make sure you don't fall behind with your Science and Geography that were set last week as these will be due in next week

New Home Learning Tasks set this week:

1. Spax Reader (set TODAY) will be due in on Monday
2. MFL (set Tuesday)
3. Spax Maths (set Wednesday) will be due in on Wednesday next week.
4. Seneca History (set Thursday) will be due in 2 weeks later.

ALL DETAILS OF WHAT YOU NEED TO DO WILL BE ON CLASS CHARTS

CAREERS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR

Year 8 Trading Game - On Tuesday, our Year 8 participated in The Trading Game delivered by NYBEP. Students developed employability skills such as communication, negotiation, time management and resilience. It was excellent to see students working collaboratively, adapting under pressure, and demonstrating ambition. Thanks to NYBEP for providing this valuable opportunity.



Support for Year 10 work experience

Monday 6th to Friday 10th July 2026. This is an invaluable opportunity for our students to explore careers, develop new skills, and gain first-hand experience of the workplace. We are seeking work placements and would love to work with our parent and carer community to make this happen. If you, or anyone you know, could offer a placement for a student, please email careers@laurencejackson.org.

CHRISTMAS NOTICES



Tuesday 9th December.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day:

A reminder that students can wear a Christmas jumper, shirt or t-shirt as well as their normal school uniform. Donations for Save The Children can be made via [this link](#). If your child would like a Christmas Lunch, please ensure they have sufficient funds on their Arbor lunch account.

Charity collection

We are collecting items for the Guisborough Bridge Association for their Christmas hampers / Food Bank and are grateful for any of your donations, which can be dropped off at the front of school near the mini bus on the morning of 9th December. Please see below the items requested. Thank you in advance.

- Meat / fish products (not tuna) e.g. sardines; luncheon ham; sandwich paste; tinned chilli con carne; tinned chicken curry - a priority.
- UHT milk; coffee; hot chocolate; squash.
- No dried pasta, tins of soup, beans as they have plenty.
- Tinned pulses e.g. chickpeas; tinned sweetcorn; tinned carrots.
- Misc items - shower gel; deodorant sticks; shampoo; washing up liquid.

Christmas Card Competition - entries for our 2025 card can be given or emailed to tyzackm@laurencejackson.org. Deadline for entries is next Friday, 28th November 3pm.

Christmas Concert 17th December -



OTHER KEY MESSAGES

Scholastic Book Club – next week students will be told about a 'Book Club' that we have started with 'Scholastic', who sell books at a discounted price and gives schools the chance to earn 20p per £1 spent to invest in books. To see what Scholastic have to offer please visit their website via [THIS LINK](#). If you see anything that you wish to purchase, or your child does via information given next week, you can order online. If you do so, you can have your purchased items delivered to school and Mrs Ross our Librarian will then pass to your child (meaning you won't need to pay P&P).

Parking – please do not park on the zebra crossing or zig-zag lines at drop-off and pick up times. Parking on these marked areas can create a hazard, potentially putting student safety at risk and obstructing traffic. Please help to keep everybody safe by only parking in the designated drop off/pick up area and following site and road safety. Additionally, please do not park at the roundabout near the main entrance gate as this is a clearly signposted 'no stopping' area. You may have noticed that there are ongoing works near the drop off/pick up areas, which are almost complete. We will be able to share with you an update to this very shortly.

Students who need support in school due to feeling unwell – Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones whilst in school. If your child feels too unwell to stay in school, they should speak to their Year Manager or visit the Attendance Office and not privately use their phone to contact home. When students bypass these steps, it can cause confusion and disrupt the process we have in place to support them effectively.

UPCOMING DATES

28 November	Y10 Reward trip (TBC)
1 December	PD Day (school closed)
9 December	Christmas Lunch
	Christmas Jumper Day.
	Collection for Gbro Bridge
17 December	Christmas Concert 7pm

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

As we start the week towards Christmas, I wanted to use this time to raise awareness about popular games/apps that we hear about young people using. As students get new devices and access to new apps I feel its important for us to be aware of any changes and remind ourselves that online safety is still a priority around our young people when playing and interacting online. This week I wanted to share the updated parent guide around TikTok. Please see the below guide for parents from the National College.

Mr Bayston - DSL

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's 'Following' feed shows videos from known creators, while the default 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear and watching for long enough, signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected and removed.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 16 and 18 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is a user's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear light-hearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source. The chance of hearing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material, even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their attitudes, making them more likely to believe false information and spread it.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2022. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase anxiety, and distract from homework activities. Constantly switching between short clips may also affect attention spans, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £1.99 to £224.95, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (limiting the chance 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't, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

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 they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, 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 important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

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 them.

Meet Our Expert

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

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College