



Issue No 54  
3 March 2023

**DATES FOR  
2022/2023**

Celebration of Music -  
Winter Gardens 6:30  
6th March 2023

Careers Fayre Day -  
All years  
8th March 2023

March Mocks - Yr11  
Core Subjects  
13-20th March 2023

Year 10 Work  
Experience  
20-31st March 2023

Year 9  
Option Taster Day  
20- 23rd March 2023

World Poetry Day  
21st March 2023

Year 7 Progress  
Evening  
22nd March 2023

Year 9  
Options Evening  
29nd March 2023

End of Spring term  
31st March 2023



# Millfield MESSENGER

Belvedere Road, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 5DG

Telephone 01253 865929



Dear Parents and Carers,

On 24<sup>th</sup> February, in a special assembly, our Year 11s received their fantastic, personalised revision programmes – they left school buzzing! This new initiative has taken many hours of planning and preparation; every teacher looked at when the final examinations were for their subject and planned out key minimum revision topics for every student. Students also received free revision guides for science and a pack full of stationery to aid their revision. Our teachers, as ever, are giving 100% and it is now over to all students to do the same. We do have high expectations, and this is so every child can achieve their full potential. To support your child, we ask that parents/carers sign the revision booklet once they have seen the revision has been completed, please also note this is the minimum amount of revision students are expected to complete. If you or your child needs further support, or guidance, do not hesitate to contact school; we are here to help.

Our Year 11s were superb in their GCSE food and nutrition examinations! For their exam, they were required to make three dishes; the quality and range was incredible – as were the delicious smells wafting down the technology corridor all week! Well done to them all, we're really proud of you!

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 175 Year 6s received their offers of a place at Team Millfield and we can't wait to meet them in the summer term! Once again, we were vastly oversubscribed for September 2023 – a testament to what an exceptional family school we are!

Follow us on Twitter, the only whole-school social media we use, where we celebrate our students and you will find reminders of upcoming events; you can follow us at [@millfieldhighsc](https://twitter.com/millfieldhighsc).

Best wishes

*N. Regan*

Nicola Regan  
Headteacher

***Be Exceptional!***

E-mail [admin@millfield.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millfield.lancs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.millfield.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.lancs.sch.uk)  
Twitter page @millfieldhighsc  
#BeExceptional



# HOME LEARNING - Why is it important?

Home-learning bridges the gap between school and home. Here at Millfield we believe in a collaborative approach, which allows students, teachers and parents to monitor the progress of their child in the learning process. Common home-learning assignments may include required reading, writing or typing projects, mathematical exercises to be completed, information to be reviewed before a test, or other skills to be practiced.

As a parent, here are a few things you may wish to consider:

## 1 – Home-learning improves student achievement.

Studies show that home-learning improves student achievement in terms of improved grades, test results, and the likelihood to attend college.

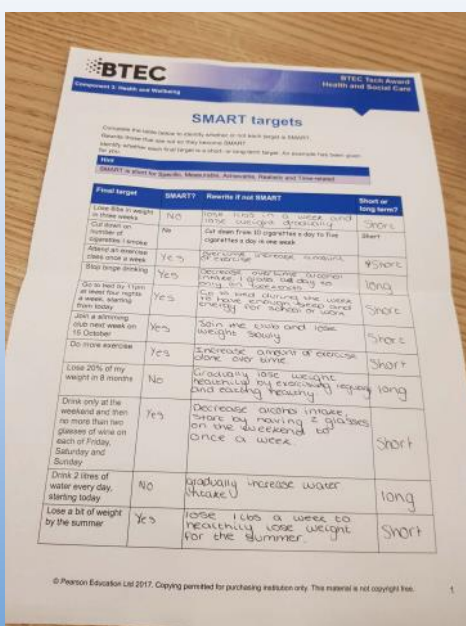
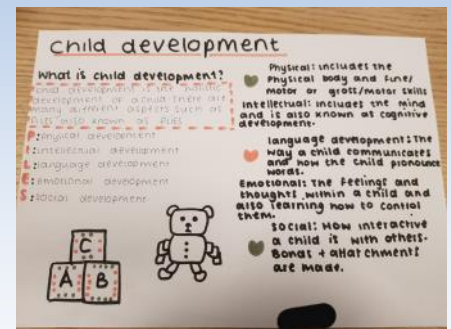
## 2- Home-learning helps to reinforce learning and develop good study habits and life skills.

Everyone knows that practise makes perfect. Students typically retain only 50% of the information teachers provide in class, and they need to apply that information in order to truly learn it.

## 3- Home-learning allows parents to be involved with their child's learning.

Here at Millfield we celebrate excellence and home-learning is no exception:-

Congratulations go to students in Childcare and Health and Social Care - who have produced outstanding examples of home learning, in which they have focused on individual, personalised SMART targets and a think piece on 'What is Child development?'

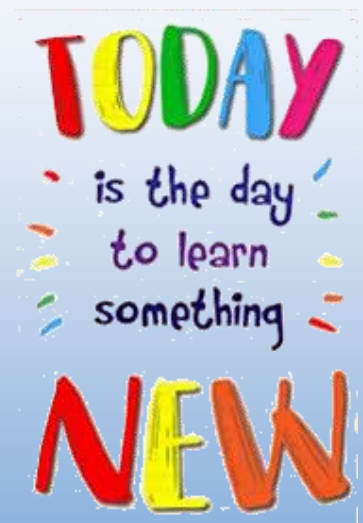


## Reminder

In order to support your child with their home learning, please regularly log into Synergy to monitor the tasks that have been set and remind your child to complete them. The home learning policy can be viewed on our school website; this explains how much home learning your child should be set each week and the types of tasks they could be set.

Gary Wood

Lead Practitioner of Teaching and Learning (Technology).



# Student Council

In the coming weeks the student council have various projects in the pipeline.

They are working on:

- \* The student equality statement.
- \* Visiting other secondary schools to share good practice.
- \* Launching the mental health project and posters in classrooms.
- \* Visiting the Senior Leadership to discuss ways to improve school.
- \* Looking at ways to interact with students in school.
- \* Organising two further charity events in school.



They are working extremely hard at the moment to try and get prepared to launch their positive mental health project which will be launched after the Easter

## Graduation and Exceptional Awards

The Graduation and Exceptional Awards programmes are now coming to an end. Students have until the May half term to complete the tasks to determine which grade they will graduate with. There will be no special considerations for attendance this year, and tasks will need to be completed. Final amendments are being made to the graduation ceremony and party day. Distinction star students will also be choosing their end of year trip after the Easter holidays. Students will not want to miss out when the ceremonies come around!

### KEY STAGE 4

This has been an exciting week for Year 11 students. Our new personalised revision programme launched last Friday. Students now have their own revision timetable which contains activities specific to their subjects. They also received a number of revision resources and stationery. This should help them focus their revision to really help them achieve their potential and beyond.

Year 10 have also been having an exciting time. They have had a careers focused assembly from a digital media company and will have another from the police next week. In addition to this students are preparing to go on work experience for the final two weeks of this term, which students always find both daunting and exciting. This week we launched the new senior student application programme with a special assembly. Those students who are interested in the position of head boy / girl or senior prefect should ensure their applications are email to Miss Gower by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Details of how to apply are to be found in the application pack.

# IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



On Thursday 2nd March we celebrated

## World Book Day

with a circus themed, fun packed day!

Staff shared their favourite book with students throughout the week and digital £1 book tokens have been emailed to parents of all students. These can be exchanged in most book shops for the £1 World Book Day titles, or used in part payment towards any children's or Young Adult book.



The library was transformed into a carnival for the day with sideshow games such as 'Hook a Book,' 'Tin Can Alley,' and 'The Booky Dip.' Students won prizes including juggling balls, candy floss, books, books and more books!

*A great day was had by all!*



# Teaching and Learning

Dylan Wiliam, an expert in educational assessment, defines assessment as ‘the bridge between teaching and learning’. Just because something has been taught, it does not mean that students have successfully understood it. Here at Millfield, teachers continually assess students in class to check that ideas have been understood, that knowledge has been absorbed, and that procedures can be performed fluently. This type of continuous assessment in lessons is known as formative assessment and is used by staff to inform their planning, and future learning and teaching in their classrooms.

Some formative assessment methods that staff use here at Millfield are described below. As always, if you would like further information on any aspect of teaching and learning, please do not hesitate to contact the teaching and learning team.

## Sharing lesson intentions

Staff routinely share what students will know by the end of a lesson and what students will be able to do by the end of a lesson. Giving our students clarity about what they are learning helps them to understand where they are going and what the end goal might look like. Staff have recently spent some time considering how they can make their lesson intentions clear and concise for our students. Having a distinct intention also ensures that our staff plan precisely, really focusing on exactly what we want our students to learn in a given lesson, or series of lessons.

## Questioning

Staff use a full repertoire of questioning techniques in lessons to check students’ understanding; staff encourage students not to raise their hand, and instead ‘call’ on individuals to answer questions. This ensures that all students participate in lessons, as well as providing staff with an overview of understanding and what might need to be taught again. Staff might also probe students for further information, asking them to explain their reasoning behind answers, or asking them to answer in a more sophisticated way by saying it again, but better. In addition, staff use ‘thinking time’ to allow our students to construct a full response and show their best understanding. To quickly check the understanding of the whole class, many staff use mini whiteboards so that all students are obliged to answer a questions and any misconceptions can be quickly identified.

## Peer Assessment

Students are able to learn a huge amount from one another, and staff sometimes structure this learning by providing students with a list of ‘success criteria’ – essentially, things that students need to include in a successful piece of work. Students then give feed back to one another, using the success criteria as a check list when providing their class mates with specific areas that they need to work on.

## Live Marking

Many staff circulate the classroom whilst students are working independently, and check students’ understanding individually. This prevents students from making errors throughout a whole assignment and encourages students to reflect on their learning. Live marking might take the form of verbal feedback about how to make improvements, or circling spelling and grammar errors for students to check and correct. Should a teacher find repeated mistakes, staff are able to stop the lesson and re-teach anything that is causing confusion.

These methods will hopefully give you just a flavour of how students’ learning is supported in our school through assessment, though different departments and individual teachers use many other ways to check understanding and promote improved teaching and learning.



Well Done

### HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEADTEACHER

- Emma Fairfield 10 S7 JHO
- Abigail O'Connell 10 S8 RBL
- Harry Harper 10 S8 RBL
- Alfie Kay 10 R8 GPH
- Sophie Eden 10 R7 KHA
- Elisha Stead 10 S7 JHO
- Oliver-Blake Wilson 10 R8 GPH



Be Exceptional!

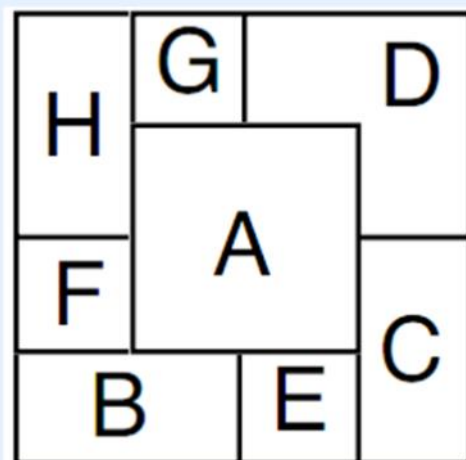
All of the above students have been nominated by Mrs Morton for their excellent work in English



## Deputy Headteacher's Maths Challenge - A Perfect Match Puzzle

Eight squares of paper, all exactly the same size, have been placed on top of each other so that they overlap as shown.

In what order were the sheets placed?



Please email your worked solution to Mr Humphreys - [b.humphreys@millfield.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:b.humphreys@millfield.lancs.sch.uk)

# MATHS STAR STUDENTS

This February saw students from year 9 and 10 take part in the **UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT)**, Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is the UK's most popular and competitive maths competition where thousands of the top young mathematicians compete in an hour long test to answer complex mathematical problems.

Congratulations



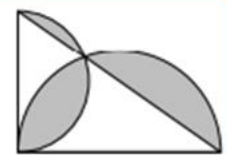
The results are back and show fantastic scores for our students. All achieved certificates and most achieved bronze, silver or gold commendations putting them in the top 40% of the UK's young mathematicians in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Special congratulations should be given to **Lauren Eastwood** for achieving the greatest score in Year 9 and to **Ben Whybrow** in Year 10 who, as well as gaining the best score in the school, received gold certification for being in the top 8% of young UK mathematicians. As a result, Ben has qualified to represent the school in the next round of the competition – the Pink Kangaroo – which will take place in March. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish Ben every success in the next round.



If you would like to try one of the challenging problems that Ben successfully answered in the competition, there is one shown below.

A semicircle of radius 3 units is drawn on one edge of a right-angled triangle, and a semicircle of radius 4 units is drawn on another edge. The semicircles intersect on the hypotenuse of the triangle, as shown. What is the shaded area, in square units?



A  $\frac{25\pi}{2} - 24$

B 12

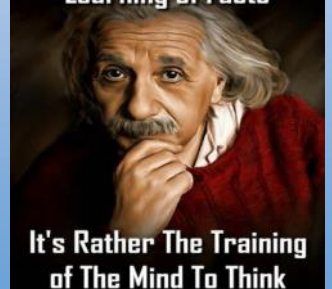
C  $\frac{25\pi}{2} - 6$

D  $25\pi - 24$

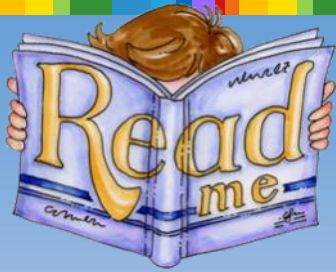
E 24

Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding." – William Paul Thurston

Education is Not The Learning of Facts



It's Rather The Training of The Mind To Think

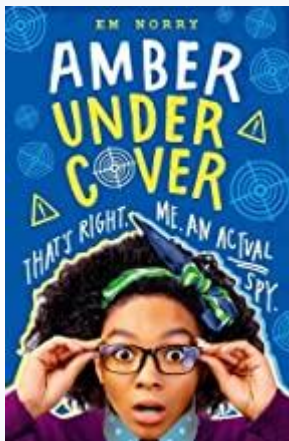


# Recommended Reads

The 'Library Books of the Week' are 'Amber under Cover' by Em Norry, and 'Horror Heights' by Bec Hill

## 'Amber under Cover'

Week A's Library Book of the Week is "Amber Undercover" by Em Norry, our wonderful Book Pen Pal. Emma writes to our Y7 students with book recommendations each half term and our students love writing back to their very own author pen pal!



Amber and her best friend Vi are pretty different: Amber's shy, while Vi craves the spotlight; Amber stays cool in stressful situations while Vi panics, and Vi seems to be getting more and more involved with a different crowd at school. Yet, while it would seem that Vi is more popular, it's Amber that is

chosen to be a spy by a mysterious agency after passing tests disguised as an escape room and a virtual reality game: it turns out that staying calm under pressure and excellent science and maths results do matter, after all.

After her initial training – which her parents are told is part of an international STEM schools programme - Amber is sent to infiltrate an exclusive boarding school in Oslo that The Agency suspects harbours members of a cybercrime unit called CHAOS. At first, she's intimidated by some of the kids there, all of whom seem super intelligent and rich. Yet, after a while, Amber realises that she's more than capable of playing the others at their own game – even the somewhat distracting Luca - and perfecting her spy skills into the bargain.

## 'Horror Heights'

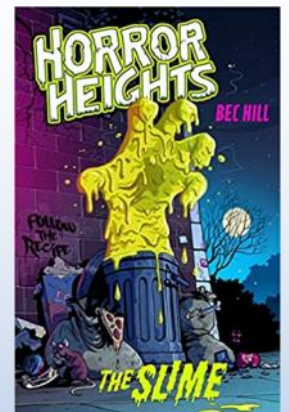
*Printed with a dyslexia friendly text.*

Week B's Library Book of the Week is "Horror Heights - The Slime" by Bec Hill. Welcome to Horror Heights: can the children who live here conceal the strange goings on behind closed doors? GOOSEBUMPS for a new generation, by award-winning comedian and CITV presenter, Bec Hill.

Connie is proud to be known as the 'Queen of Slime' at school and intends to keep it that way – even though her entire slime collection has now been confiscated by the teacher. Desperate to get a new slime to take to school next week, Connie resorts to making her own, using a recipe her dad gets off the internet. Things take a funny turn though: after she adds some unique, additional ingredients, Connie wakes up the next day to discover the slime – aka Big Yikes – is alive!

At first Big Yikes is a cute little thing that talks in half sentences, but over the following days it quickly evolves in something much bigger and more menacing, with rather a lot of sharp teeth and a rapidly expanding appetite.

Despite the title, this is more humour than horror – a funny tale about a science experiment gone wild and the everyday troubles of being a young teen. The underlying theme of figuring out that what makes you special isn't always what you expect it to be is a nice extra touch.





We are extremely proud of **Izzy Kay** in Year 11 who competed in her first ever FIG competition this weekend representing the City of Preston Gymnastics Club.

Izzy not only completed podium training with the women's Olympic gymnasts but also competed against them! She showed how hard work and determination can result in achieving your goals.

She placed in the top 50 in the whole county against the greatest in the sport. We are all extremely proud of Izzy's achievement, especially at a time when she is also revising daily for her upcoming GCSEs.

Absolutely fantastic dedication – **well done Izzy!**



## STUDENT *achievement*

The average person walks about **7,500 steps per day**. If you stick to that average step count and live to be 80 years old, you'll walk about 110,000 miles in your lifetime.

## WORK EXPERIENCE



The dates for the Year 10 Work Experience will be  
**20th March – 31st March 2023**

Placement Agreement Forms (Blue) have been given to students. All students should have made contact with their employers to have the placement agreement signed.  
**Blue Forms needs to be completed with Employer, Student and Parent signatures and returned to school before Friday 3rd March 2023.**

Any problems, please send students to A50 to see me - Mrs Draper .

# Polar Bears - On Thin Ice?

## International Polar Bear Day

Climate change is having a detrimental effect on Polar Bear populations. They rely on the ice and snow for hunting and denning. At this time of year, the cubs, which are born in winter, will remain in their dens until they are large enough to survive the Arctic conditions.

Unfortunately, with rising global temperatures, the ice sheets are reducing in size and the snowfall is lessening. This causes polar bears to have fewer places to den under snow piles over winter, and with less ice, they need to swim or walk longer distances between hunting grounds. Younger bears especially struggle to swim or walk long distances, and mothers must make the difficult choice to risk these journeys and potentially lose a cub or two along the way or stay put and possibly starve.

So how can we help? **Polar Bears International** have several ways that you can take part. These include:

- Live events with chats and film screenings.
- Donations to help with scientific research and conservation efforts.
- "Survive to 5" fundraiser challenge to raise awareness of the fact that the first 5 years are the most vulnerable in a polar bear's life.
- Do your own research to learn about polar bears, in particular mothers and cubs, and the organization's den-detection project.
- Send a free polar bear e-card to help spread the word and raise awareness.

For more information visit: [polarbearsinternational.org/act-now/awareness-events/international-polar-bear-day](http://polarbearsinternational.org/act-now/awareness-events/international-polar-bear-day)

Without you,  
there is no  
them



# NOTICE BOARD

**Attendance continues to be excellent!**  
 We are currently 2.5% above the national average.



| <u>Summer Term</u> | Close | Friday    | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|
|                    | Open  | Monday    | 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 |
|                    | Close | Friday    | 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 |
|                    | Open  | Tuesday   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023    |
|                    | Close | Friday    | 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2023    |
|                    | Open  | Tuesday   | 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023    |
|                    | Close | Friday    | 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023   |
|                    | Open  | Monday    | 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023   |
|                    | Close | Wednesday | 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023  |



- ## 10 steps to self esteem
1. Know yourself.
  2. Understand what makes you feel great.
  3. Recognize things that get you down.
  4. Set goals to achieve what you want.
  5. Develop trusting friendships that make you feel good.
  6. Don't be afraid to ask for help.
  7. Stand up for your beliefs and values.
  8. Help someone else.
  9. Take responsibility for your own actions.
  10. Take good care of yourself.



Road safety

**POLITE REMINDER:**

For the safety of all of our students at the start and the end of the day can I remind parents who are dropping off and picking up by car not to drive too quickly down Belvedere Road and to be courteous of other road users when parking. Many thanks for your understanding and support.



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 800 million active users worldwide.



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know About



# TIKTOK



### 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 – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.



### 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 want to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.



### 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 you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.



### IN-APP PURCHASES

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. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.



## 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.



### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

In early 2021, TikTok changed 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.



### 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 profile.



### ENABLE FAMILY SAFETY MODE

'Family Safety Mode' 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 refreshed its Safety Centre in May 2021, providing new resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.



### 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.



### 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

Parven 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.



SOURCES: [www.tiktok.com](http://www.tiktok.com)



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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/NationalOnlineSafety



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