

Dear Armfield Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to this week's newsletter! We are always delighted to share the fantastic achievements of our students and keep you updated with important reminders to ensure everything runs smoothly at Armfield Academy.

Important messages:

Communication

To ensure the safety and smooth operation of the school, we kindly remind all parents and guardians that **visits to the school must be scheduled in advance by appointment**. Parents cannot simply arrive at the school and demand to speak with staff without prior notice. This policy is in place to protect the wellbeing of both our students and staff and to ensure that everyone's time is respected.

If you need to speak with a teacher or member of staff, please contact the school office to arrange a suitable meeting time. This will allow us to provide you with the appropriate attention and support.

Open Evening

A special thank you to all the students who helped out at our Open Evening last night. It was a huge success and they did an amazing job representing Armfield Academy

Attendance challenge

A big well done to 7F and Reception's Mini Kites for getting the best attendance across our 20/20 Challenge! Both classes were awarded with a cheesy treat! The attendance team would like to thank parents for their support with getting our students into school every day and on time. Good luck to everyone taking part in the October Challenge!

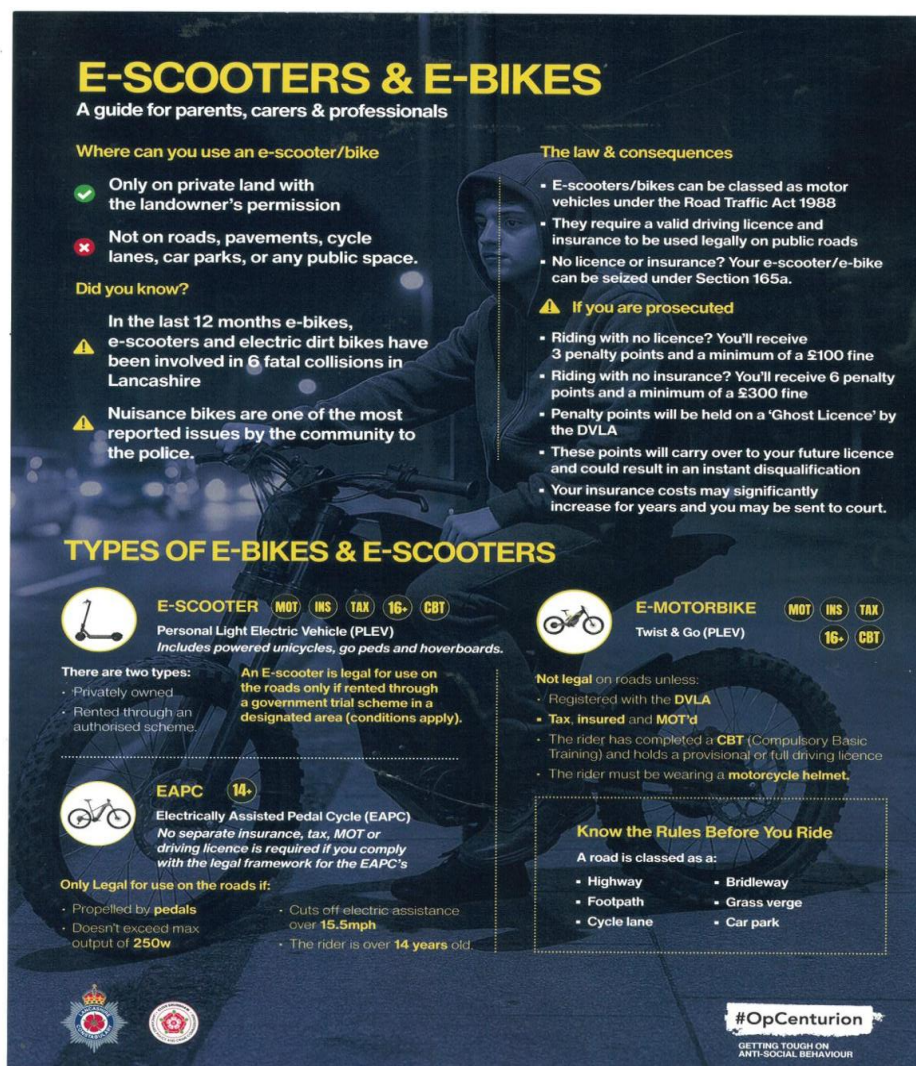


E-bikes/Scooters

After half term the storage of E-bike and e scooters will be forbidden on school premises due to insurance reasons and also that these items are a fire risk. **No student will be allowed into school on an e-bike and e-scooter after October half term.**

Additionally, the local police have asked us to inform pupils and families about the legalities surrounding e-bikes and e-scooters. Please see the attached poster for further guidance.

We appreciate your understanding and support in keeping our school **safe** for all.



E-SCOOTERS & E-BIKES

A guide for parents, carers & professionals

Where can you use an e-scooter/bike

- ✓ Only on private land with the landowner's permission
- ✗ Not on roads, pavements, cycle lanes, car parks, or any public space.

Did you know?

- ⚠ In the last 12 months e-bikes, e-scooters and electric dirt bikes have been involved in 6 fatal collisions in Lancashire
- ⚠ Nuisance bikes are one of the most reported issues by the community to the police.

The law & consequences

- E-scooters/bikes can be classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988
- They require a valid driving licence and insurance to be used legally on public roads
- No licence or insurance? Your e-scooter/e-bike can be seized under Section 165a.
- ⚠ If you are prosecuted
 - Riding with no licence? You'll receive 3 penalty points and a minimum of a £100 fine
 - Riding with no insurance? You'll receive 6 penalty points and a minimum of a £300 fine
 - Penalty points will be held on a 'Ghost Licence' by the DVLA
 - These points will carry over to your future licence and could result in an instant disqualification
 - Your insurance costs may significantly increase for years and you may be sent to court.

TYPES OF E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS

E-SCOOTER

MOT INS TAX 16+ CBT

Personal Light Electric Vehicle (PLEV)
Includes powered unicycles, go peds and hoverboards.

There are two types:

- Privately owned
- Rented through an authorised scheme.

An E-scooter is legal for use on the roads only if rented through a government trial scheme in a designated area (conditions apply).

E-MOTORBIKE

MOT INS TAX 16+ CBT

Twist & Go (PLEV)

Not legal on roads unless:

- Registered with the DVLA
- Tax, insured and MOT'd
- The rider has completed a CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) and holds a provisional or full driving licence
- The rider must be wearing a motorcycle helmet.

EAPC

14+

Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC)
No separate insurance, tax, MOT or driving licence is required if you comply with the legal framework for the EAPC's

Only Legal for use on the roads if:

- Propelled by pedals
- Doesn't exceed max output of 250w
- Cuts off electric assistance over 15.5mph
- The rider is over 14 years old.

Know the Rules Before You Ride

A road is classed as a:

- Highway
- Footpath
- Cycle lane
- Bridleway
- Grass verge
- Car park

#OpCenturion
GETTING TOUGH ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

If you have information which could help Lancashire Police or other agencies tackle anti-social behaviour in your area, please report it by scanning the QR code or visiting: [LancashireTacklingASB.co.uk](https://lancashiretacklingasb.co.uk)



Trips and visits

Cobble Hey Farm Trip was a success across year one. We met and fed cows, goats, rabbits, hens sheep and even a cute little puppy! The children were so happy seeing the animals and caring and feeding them. We made plant pots, planted seeds and finished the day with a big run up the hill



Berlin

There will be a parental information evening for Year 10 and Year 11 students involved in the trip to Berlin (13th-16th February 2026) in Memorial Hall between **17:00 and 18:00 on Wednesday 26th November**. Important information sharing and gathering will take place, so please endeavour to attend. Thank you! Mr Renouf

Year 5 science:

This week, Year 5 have been exploring the fascinating force of gravity in their science lessons! Using Newton meters, the students measured the weight of different objects to see how gravity pulls on them. They discovered how mass and weight are related, and had great fun investigating how strong Earth's gravitational pull really is.



Reading workshop

Please come along to our workshop on Monday 13th October if your child is in Reception or Year One. We look forward to seeing you there.



Newsletter

Christmas at Armfield!

We know it's only October but following the fantastic success of last year's event, we're already busy planning this year's festive extravaganza, which will take place on **Thursday 27th November**. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

If you're interested in having a stall at the event, please register your interest using the link below. **Stalls will cost £15 each**, and while we'll share more details closer to the time, we're currently looking to gauge interest as we aim to make this year's market even bigger and better than before!

Please feel free to send this form to any local businesses that you feel may be interested.

<https://forms.gle/vLrnBvuegJbwZctKA>



Primary Dress Up for Mr Burns Day

On **Thursday 16th October**, Primary children are invited to dress up to celebrate the life and memory of Mr. Burns. Children can dress in either their Halloween outfits, or something that reminds them of Mr. Burns (For example he was popular in Primary for dressing as a pirate).

As part of this commemorative day, we plan to create a **Memorial Garden at Armfield** to serve as a lasting tribute to Mr. Burns and we would be grateful for any voluntary donations (suggested amount £1 or £2) to support with this special project

The National College, our WakeUp Wednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE-RESTRICTED
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over 18 only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from family or creators, for YouTube it's a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children have engaged with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Content bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £85, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially on 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 someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misinformation, hoaxes or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with your child's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The potentially skiptable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing 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, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

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 that they don't share any identifying personal information, 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 also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

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

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We do recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money by buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

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 limits.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College

Source: see full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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/www.thenationalcollege

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.01.2025

House system update



House System Update

No fewer than three house challenges were completed by our students this week.

On Tuesday, our biology-themed 'Spelling Bee', where pupils were tasked with accurately recalling the spelling of complex scientific vocabulary, reached its final. The results for the best individual verbal 'spellers' in each year group were: **Anaya A** [Year 7], **Finley K** [Year 8], **Tymur B** [Year 9], **Nicola P** [Year 10] and **Eloise C** [Year 11]. Well done! With regards to the collective scores, the house with the most correct words were:

1st - **Sapphire** - 1303 / 2nd **Amethyst** - 1226 / 3rd - **Citrine** - 1223 / 4th - **Emerald** - 1201 / 5th **Ruby** - 1092



On Friday, we held the gruelling 'Resilience Wall' challenge. Our secondary pupils had to place themselves in a seated position against the Sports Hall wall unaided for 7 minutes without falling or giving up. With burning quadriceps and quivering heads, an impressive 131 pupils beat the clock and demonstrated optimal endurance. The house with the most 'surviving' participants was **Sapphire House**, adding 50 points to their house tally.



Our final house competition of the week was a creative writing task, titled 'Spooky Gothic Story'. To celebrate the fact that Halloween is creeping up, students across Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 were invited to pen a horror-themed narrative or poem. Entries have been collected in and competition winners will be announced next week.

Amethyst House had the highest strongest attendance [92.43%] during the week and therefore receive a bonus 10 points. With the dust settled, here is an updated leaderboard:



Thank you for your continued support—we love celebrating our students' successes with you!

Best wishes,

The Armfield Academy Team