



## Headteacher Update – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Parents, Carers, Students, and Friends of Baines School,

A real sense of excitement has spread through the school as the publication of our Ofsted report draws ever closer. If you keep a close eye on our social media platforms this week, you'll see the launch of a very celebratory campaign that our staff and children have been working on together.

At the heart of the report, inspectors have captured our guiding belief that continues to resonate with purpose: "Children are at the heart of leaders' decisions."

We know how much our families contribute to the success of our school, and we can't wait for you to read the many positives highlighted by the inspectors and especially those that compliment your wonderful young people. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping us share this significant moment in the history of Baines School.

Our Year 11 students have started their examinations with gusto, and we are so proud of them. They are approaching all their examinations with determination and are being prepared well by staff in the final run up with our booster sessions.

This week we have Chemistry, English Literature, Computer Science, French listening, RS, English Language, Business Studies and PE.

Students will break up on Friday for a week over half-term for a well-deserved break. We would advise Year 11 students to continue to use their revision timetables, to ensure they keep up with their studies, and make time to relax and enjoy their hobbies as well for their mental health. Please contact school if you have any concerns regarding your child during the exam season.

### Attendance Games

ATTENDANCE RANKINGS	
RANK	YEAR GROUP
= 1st	Year 7
= 2nd	Year 8
= 3rd	Year 11
↑ 4th	Year 10
↓ 5th	Year 9

**ATTENDANCE GAMES**  
MRS C J BONEY

The Attendance Games are heating up with some breaking news....

Year 10 have overtaken Year 9 and are now in 4<sup>th</sup> place. How will Year 9 respond? What will happen this week? Are Year 11 in danger of being overtaken too?


Find out more next week!!

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*'Encourage, Engage, Empower'*

## Word of the Week

<p>Word of the Week</p>	<h1>curiosity</h1>	
<p>(noun) a wish to learn, know or understand something.</p>		
<p>From the Latin, 'cura': 'to care' (care, curator, secure)</p>		
<p>"Out of <b>curiosity</b>, she went to explore the room."</p>		
<p>"<b>Curiosity</b> pushed humans to travel into space and take their first steps on the Moon."</p>		

## Mia Year 7



On Sunday, Mia attended the Longridge Gymnastics Competition, where she competed in both floor and vault. Although she felt nervous beforehand, she was equally excited to take part in the event. Competing against four other clubs, Mia and her team achieved excellent results and brought home numerous medals.

Mia was especially proud of her own achievements, winning an impressive three medals throughout the competition. She earned a bronze medal in floor, a silver medal in vault, and an additional silver medal for her overall vault performance. Mia was over the moon with her results and should be extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication she has shown.

Congratulations to Mia on such a fantastic achievement. We look forward to seeing her continue to progress and wish her the very best of luck in her next competition — where she hopes to achieve gold!

Nil Sine Labore!

## Kindness Counts

Kindness Counts is an Anti-Bullying Charity based in Thornton-Cleveleys. They are dedicated to providing essential resources that promote kindness in local schools and communities.

They aim to promote kindness in schools, so they lay the groundwork for a more inclusive and accommodating society. Community engagement plays a crucial role here; initiatives that involve parents, local organisations, and other stakeholders can strengthen the message of kindness and collective responsibility.

Please see below for their annual talent show, if your child is interested in entering.



## Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Just a reminder that if you or your son / daughter has any safeguarding concerns, please contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Mrs Macfarlane (DSL – Associate Assistant Headteacher)

Mrs Doherty (Headteacher)

Mrs Streetly (Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing and Mental Health)

Mr Moseley (Pastoral Officer)

If you have any ideas how you feel we could improve our safeguarding of students, please feel free to email Mrs Macfarlane ([jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk))

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding lead on [jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jma@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

If you are worried about the mental health of your child or need some food from our food hub (tins, pasta, cereal etc), sending home, please contact the wellbeing team on [wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk). We will be extremely discrete.

Following further issues with Tik Tok, please see below some advice:

# Keep your child safe on TikTok

## What is it?

A video-sharing app that's very popular with children and teenagers. Users can gain followers and watch other people's short-form video content or slideshows. Anyone can make and upload their own videos, which often include:

- > Dance routines
- > Lip-syncing to music
- > Comedy sketches

There are also videos of news and world events – such as live footage of sports events, protests, natural disasters and world crises.

The age recommendation is **13 and above**, but it's easy for younger children to sign up too.

## What are the main things to watch out for?

Some of TikTok's popularity comes from videos of 'viral' challenges (i.e. when 1 person attempts a particular skill and then others make their own videos copying it).

Most of these challenges are harmless (for example, copying dance moves or bottle flipping) but some can be dangerous. For example:

- > Eating or drinking inedible substances, eating and drinking a far greater quantity of something than is recommended, or purposeful overdosing on common medicines (e.g. 'the TidePod challenge', 'the nutmeg challenge' and 'the Benadryl challenge')
- > Holding your breath or being choked until you pass out (the 'blackout challenge')
- > Challenges with sexualised content (e.g. the 'silhouette challenge' or 'foopah', which feature indirect nudity using mirrors, shadows or reflections to avoid content filters)

Other things to watch out for on TikTok include:

- > Search results on TikTok are based on a number of factors, including trending content and content a child has seen or interacted with in the past. If a child has accidentally clicked on unsuitable content, the search algorithms may drive more unsuitable content to their For You Page (their personal feed)
- > Sexual, violent, racist and/or homophobic content and other forms of hate speech can appear on your child's For You page. Watching the video and commenting, even if they comment negatively, can drive more related content to their feed
- > Content about eating disorders (known as 'pro-ana') and bullying
- > Advertising of products available through the TikTok Shop (TikTok's marketplace)

Under-16s can't send or receive private messages. But once users have made contact, for example through comments on videos, they could still switch to another app like Snapchat to chat privately and swap images and videos.

## 7 steps to keep your child safe

### 1. Use Family Pairing (also known as family safety mode)

This feature lets parents/carers control some settings on a child's account from their own phone, including screen time limits, muting notifications, filtering keywords and enabling Restricted Mode. You can also view your child's account activity, restrict search functions and limit who can discover your child's account.

You'll need to download TikTok and link your account to your child's. Once you've created a profile, follow the instructions from [TikTok Help Centre](#) to set up Family Pairing, linking your device and your child's.

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

### 2. Keep their account set to private and limit profile information

Accounts for users aged 13 to 15 are set to private by default. This means that only approved 'followers' can see your child's videos.

If their account is public, their content becomes viewable on or off TikTok, may appear in search engines, and even news sites.

Even with a private account though, anyone can see your child's profile information. Tell them not to share personal information publicly, like their full name or where they go to school. Encourage your child to only accept 'follower' requests from people they know and trust.

To check your child's account is private, on their phone, simply [follow these instructions](#) provided by the TikTok Help Centre.

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/making-your-account-public-or-private>

If you have family pairing set up, you can check this using family pairing.

### 3. Enable Restricted Mode so your child doesn't see inappropriate content

You can do this through the Family Pairing settings. Restricted Mode limits content containing mature and complex themes. Restricted Mode also disables going LIVE (live-streaming) from the account and gifting.

If you're not using Family Pairing, you can enable Restricted Mode by [following the instructions here](#) from TikTok Help Centre

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/restricted-mode>

### 4. Consider setting a time limit on use

TikTok can be hard to put down – help your child rein in their use with a time limit.

You can do this through the Family Pairing settings, or on your child's phone by setting a daily screen time limit. You can do this by [following the instructions here](#). So long as your child is using the same account, this will apply across multiple devices.

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-information/screen-time>

### 5. Restrict in-app purchases to block spending

TikTok has its own marketplace, TikTok Shop, which allows sellers to advertise and sell products to other users. Your child might also be tempted to support their favourite TikTok personalities by gifting TikTok Coins, an in-app currency paid for with real money.

The steps to prevent this will differ depending on your child's device.

On **iPhone/iPad**, you can use Screen Time settings to disable in-app purchases by [following the instructions here](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/102470). <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/102470>

You can also restrict spending on your child's device with [Family Sharing](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/108380).

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/108380>

On **Android** devices, you can enable purchase verification for any spending through Google Play. You can find further [instructions on this process](https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1626831) on the Google Play help page.

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1626831>

For children under 13 you can use the parental controls available through the Family Link app.

You can find guidance on [how to set up Family Link](https://support.google.com/families/answer/7101025) here.

<https://support.google.com/families/answer/7101025>

Keep an eye on your bank statements to check your child isn't getting round the controls.

#### **6. Check settings on interactions like duets, stitching, direct messages and comments**

Duets are where users reply to one person's video with another and then share it. The videos appear together, side by side. Users can also respond by 'stitching', where the original video is reposted and the response plays afterwards. This feature isn't available for users under 16 and set to friends only by default for users aged 16 and over.

Your child can also change settings for comments on their videos via the Privacy section, and for users aged 16 and over, change settings for who can send them direct messages, duet and stitch with them, and download their videos.

If you have Family Pairing set up, you can do this through the Family Pairing settings.

#### **7. Make sure your child knows how to report content and users**

Filters aren't perfect, so make sure your child knows how to report harmful or upsetting content or users. Make sure you both know the rules too – TikTok bans nudity, sexually suggestive or explicit content, bullying, graphic content, misinformation, gambling, pro-anorexia content, dangerous activities and challenges and hate speech.

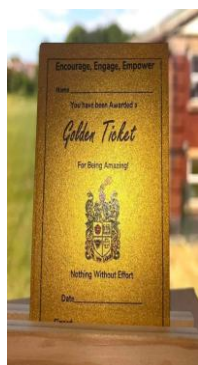
You can keep your child safe by showing them how to report or block unwanted or harmful content:

- To **report an account**, [follow the instructions here](https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem/report-a-user) from the TikTok Help Centre. <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem/report-a-user>
- To **report a video, comment, series, LIVE or other problem**: [follow the instructions](https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem/) from TikTok Help Centre: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem/>
- To **delete a follower**, [follow the instructions here](https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/removing-followers) from the TikTok Help Centre <https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/removing-followers>
- To **block users** altogether, [follow the instructions here](https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/blocking-the-users) from the TikTok Help Centre <https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/blocking-the-users>
- To **delete, mute, or filter messages, or block users from sending direct messages**: [follow the instructions provided](https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/direct-message) by the TikTok Help Centre <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/direct-message>

## Stars of the Week:



## Golden Ticket Winners



7: Jake  
8: Darcy  
9: Charlotte  
10: Chloe  
11: Elliot  
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:  
Year 7 → Mia-Rae  
Year 8 → Mia  
Year 9 → Liss  
Year 10 → Sophie  
Year 11 → Rosie

Form winners for the most positive points include:  
Year 7 → 7OGD  
Year 8 → 8OGD  
Year 9 → 9OGD  
Year 10 → 10STE

**Dates for your diary:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
22-05-2026	School closes for half term
01-06-2026	School Re-Opens
02-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1
03-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1
05-06-2026	Silver DofE Practice (return Sun 7th June)
09-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1 Paris Trip Parental Meeting 5pm
10-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1
12-06-2026	Baines School Golf Society Annual Competition Staining Golf Club
15-06-2026	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Year 10 Exam Week 1
16-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1
17-06-2026	Year 5 Tours period 1
19-06-2026	Year 8 Junior Award Scheme Walk & Camping
22-06-2026	Year 10 Exam Week 2
23-06-2026	Year 10 Blackpool & Fylde College Visit
24-06-2026	Year 11 Leaver's Day
25-06-2026	Celebration of Achievement Evening 6pm
26-06-2026	Friendship Friday Bronze DofE Expedition (return 27th June) James Baines Book Award
29-06-2026	Year 10 Work Experience Week
30-06-2026	Year 7 Blackpool Zoo Trip

Clare Doherty

Headteacher

*Nil Sine Labore*