

2nd December 2022



Morecambe Bay
Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

The recent summit of world leaders in Egypt helped focus the mind on how important the environment is in all our lives. We at Morecambe are doing our bit to reduce global warming through our Ground Source Heat Pump system to heat the school and fitting solar panels in time for the summer. But there are other ways of improving our environment and the easiest is to tackle litter. We have doubled the number of bins around school, but litter is still an issue. Litter attracts seagulls and vermin onto site which we need to avoid plus it does not make for a pleasant environment to come and study. In order to reduce litter, from January all food will be consumed in the dining areas.

Additionally, we will be re-instituting some old rules. From January, all pupils will walk on the left-hand side of corridors to enable safer movement around the buildings. Plus, pupils will remove coats when inside our buildings. In the current rainy climate, please do ensure that your child has a suitable coat to wear to school. Additionally, a suitable bag for books and pens is required by all pupils. Pupils will be told these new rules in their standards assemblies over the coming week.

Pupils may use toilets before school, at breaktime, at lunchtime and after school. Pupils do not use toilets between lessons to maintain continuity of education and to reduce behavioural issues and vandalism. However, we appreciate that there are some pupils who have medical conditions or a disability which would mean that they cannot wait until the next rest break. For these pupils we have issued electronic toilet passes which allows them to gain access to toilets at other times. I shall be writing to all parents of pupils with toilet passes in the coming week to reconfirm that the pass is still required.

As the nights draw in earlier, and evenings are dark, please could you speak to your child about safety walking home. Where possible pupils should walk home with friends and not to approach cars which stop at the side of the road.

We have had groups of year 7 pupils attending the Mars exhibition at the Winter Gardens. Pupils report that it is an amazing sight. Please see the article on page 6.

In order to give pupils in year 10 and the sixth form better work experience placements, we have partnered with Unifrog to ensure that proper risk assessments of placements are completed. We will be sharing names and pupil identifiers with this company to complete these assessments.

On the final day, Friday 16th December, school will close at 12.30pm.

Finally, Lancashire County Council has circulated some information which may help families in the current financial climate. Please see the article at the end of this newsletter.


Have a great weekend
Gavin Gomersall
Principal

Across The Bay Newsletter

The Bay Learning Trust is delighted to share its November newsletter, 'Across the Bay.' The newsletter will be shared to provide a summary of the excellent work that takes place across the Trust. You can access the newsletter here: <https://sway.office.com/wIXWtnxNXuwhMvb8?ref=Link>

Sport/PE

Pupils will be taking part in the St Johns Hospice Reindeer Rush and Elf Run, they will take part during their PE lessons during the last week of term. Please find the just giving link below.
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/morecambe-bay-academy-the-bay-learning-trust-1668169546733>



The poster features a red background with white snowflakes. On the left, a cartoon elf in a green hat and red outfit is holding a string of lights. On the right, a cartoon reindeer with a red nose and green harness is looking towards the elf. The text 'Reindeer Rush & Elf Run!' is written in a white, playful font. In the top right corner, the 'St John's Hospice' logo is visible. At the bottom, there are logos for 'PR' (Professional Regulation) and 'nourish'.

[Morecambe Bay Academy's fundraiser for St John's Hospice North Lancashire and South Lakes - JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/page/morecambe-bay-academy-the-bay-learning-trust-1668169546733)



Well done to the Yr 8 Football team who won all 5 games against- Our Ladys Catholic College, Carnforth High School, Central Lancaster High School, Queen Katherine Kendal, Bay Leadership Academy on Thursday evening, winning the tournament.

The Yr 8 also progressed to the next round of the Lancashire Cup on Friday, as Southlands were unable to attend the planned fixture on Friday.

Around 70 MBA Yr 7 took part in the intra-form netball on Thursday evening after school. Congratulations to all students who took part and thanks to all the staff for their support.

Tuesday evening was the start of MBA Primary Football League run by MBA staff and students. Well done to the 7 local primary schools and the MBA year 9 and 10

referees. It was a great opportunity for over 80 primary school children to represent their school and for the MBA students to develop their leadership skills.



We announced the long-awaited results of our Year 7 Inter Form Netball Tournament Winners 7D in assembly this morning. 7D pupils who represented their form are pictured with their Form Tutor, Mrs Windle, receiving their certificates. The winning form will be enjoying chocolates in their form reading session today. A huge thank you to Mrs Bird and Mrs Watson for organising the tournament and providing the certificates and chocolate prize.



Congratulations to Finn Brookes (Year 9) who has been selected for Lancashire Football.

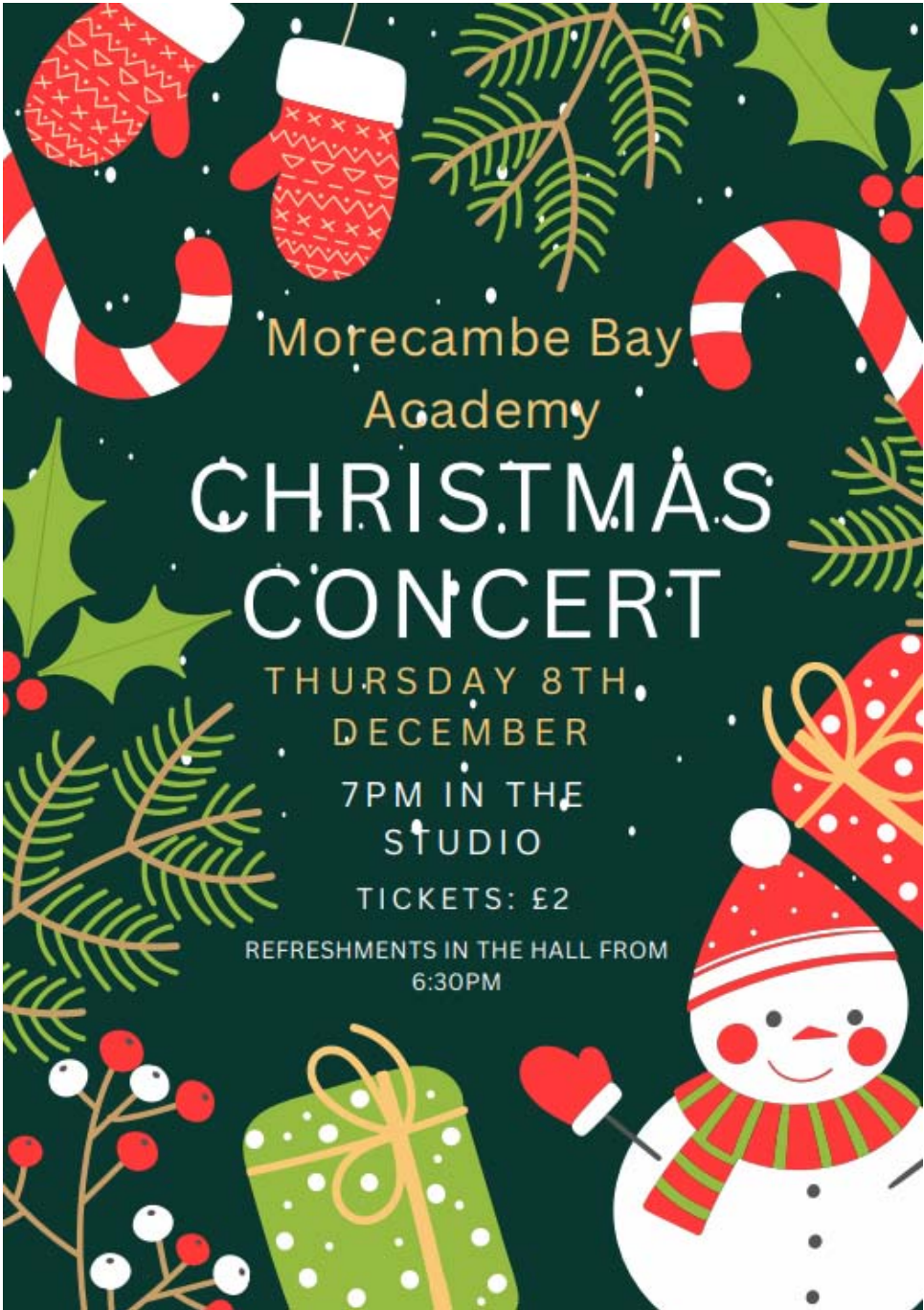


On Thursday 24th November, Lexie won Senior Match Official of the Year... 940 referee's were nominated for the award!

She is also the first female to ever win this award. Lexie has only been a referee for two seasons and has shown amazing talent!

Well done, Lexie!

Christmas Concert Thursday 8th December



Year 7 Magical trip to Mars.

On Thursday 24th and Friday 25th of November during their science lessons Year 7 got to experience the wonder of the red planet. Measuring seven metres in diameter a model of Mars by Luke Jerram was housed in the centre of one of Morecambe's most prominent landmarks, the Winter Gardens.

The artwork captures the planet in forensic detail using NASA imagery of the Martian surface.

At an approximate scale of 1:1million, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical replica represents 10 kilometres of the surface of Mars - with every valley, crater, volcano and mountain laid bare.

The installation was a fusion of Mars imagery, light and a surround-sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones.



While there the students got to see much of the Martian surface up close, including Olympus Mons (the largest known volcano in our solar system). On Friday there was the added bonus of a talk by an expert on the subject including students being able to see a sample from a meteorite from the surface of Mars and even hold another meteorite.



Thanks to all staff who helped with this in any way the students got to experience a thought-provoking exhibition that created a real buzz of excited questions from the students not just about Science but an amazing building in the centre of their town that a lot of the students had never been inside before

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Hi. I'm Samantha Trowse and I work as part of the attendance team. I recently took on the role of Attendance Manager and look forward to supporting families of MBA and promoting a culture of good attendance in school.

The importance of regular attendance at school

Good attendance at school is vital for any child's academic and social development.

Good attendance enables students to achieve their potential in the classroom and to build friendships within their own peer group that are so important.

At Morecambe Bay Academy we can't emphasise enough the impact you have on your child's academic progress and that by encouraging them to attend school every day will put them on the path to success.

We would love all our children to achieve 100% attendance

We know this is not always possible; children fall ill and maybe need a day or two at home to recover or a child may have a medical diagnosis and are receiving ongoing treatment and require long periods of absence. As a general rule Morecambe Bay Academy considers a minimum target of 97% attendance as good and would encourage a child to set their target above this.

At Morecambe Bay Academy we want to celebrate good attendance and reward those who maintain good attendance and those who improve.

There are 175 non-school days in the year

Save holidays, shopping days, family days and appointments for non-school days.

A student who has 90% attendance misses almost 4 weeks of the school year. That's over 100 hours of learning. If young people do not attend school regularly, they will experience difficulty in keeping up with their studies. In addition, they also miss out on the many activities and opportunities that we offer at Morecambe Bay Academy.

COMMON QUESTIONS

What if my child is feeling a little under the weather, should I send them to school?

If your child has a bit of a cough or sore throat for instance, we wouldn't expect them to stay at home – please do send them to school. Children often pick up as the day goes on but if they continue to say they are unwell, and we feel they should go home we will get in touch with you. If you decide to keep your child at home in the morning, and they pick up during the school day, please do send them in.

If your child has more than one bout of vomiting or diarrhoea, keep them at home for 24hrs after their last episode.

What do I do if my child is ill and unable to attend school?

Please contact us each day of illness by emailing absence@morecambebayacademy.co.uk with your child's name, year group, reason for absence, your name and contact number. Please do this by 8.45am each day.

It is important that you inform us of any medical or emotional issues that may be affecting your child's attendance to enable us to offer the appropriate support. If you suspect that your child is experiencing any problems or issues at school that may be affecting their attendance, please make contact with us as soon as possible. This will alert us to any problems and help us to work with you towards resolving any issues. It is important that your child understands that you are working with the school to ensure that there are no barriers to learning and that you do not condone absence.

What happens if my child's medical appointment falls on a school day?

If you have to make an appointment during term time, please ask for a time as late in the day as possible. If you can, please arrange late appointments and collect your child no earlier than 2pm on any given day. Please give the attendance office advance notice of any appointment and send a screenshot or photograph/scan of the appointment letter to absence@morecambebayacademy.co.uk stating your child's full name, year group, and if relevant what time your child will be collected and by whom. Please ensure this is communicated to your child before they come to school in the morning. The attendance office will then give your child a 'signing out slip' on the day which gives them authorisation to leave school early.

This is what attendance looks like in terms of days and lessons lost and what it might mean for a learner.

100%	0 days missed	0 lessons missed	Best chance of academic success
99%	1 day	5 lessons missed	Risk of under achievement
98%	3 days	15 lessons missed	
97%	1 week	25 lessons missed	
96%	1.5 weeks	37.5 lessons missed	Greater risk of under achievement
94%	2 weeks	50 lessons missed	Serious risk of under achievement
93%	2.5 weeks	62.5 lessons missed	Severe risk of under achievement
92%	3 weeks	75 lessons missed	Extreme risk
90%	3.5 weeks	82.5 lessons missed	Persistent absentee

Morecambe Bay
Academy

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance please call us on 01524 410207 option 4 or email strowse@morecambebayacademy.co.uk

Information for Parents

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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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: 23.11.2021

Cost of Living Support

Benefits and financial help, including:

- [Benefits and support for your household](#) - How to get further information and advice about benefits you may be able to claim and help available to manage your finances, debt and household costs.
- [Cost of Living](#) - Find out what help is available for households and businesses in Lancashire.
- [Help with essential household items](#) - Find out about the Essential Household Goods Support Scheme and how to access further information and support.
- [Help with Energy](#) - Find out about help with energy bills, energy saving, energy efficiency schemes and what to do if your boiler is broken.

Warm and welcome places:

Our libraries are warm and welcome spaces, where you can find:

- a warm drink
- a space to sit
- free computers and Wi-Fi
- charging points for digital equipment
- events and activities
- staff support to find information

[Find a library](#) to view facilities, what's on and opening times. All our libraries are accessible. You can also [download a printable list of the libraries which are warm and welcome places](#) (PDF 263KB), but please check the individual library web pages for up to date opening times.

Support with food

Food banks

If you're struggling to pay for food, you might be able to get a referral to a food bank for emergency food. You can find out more on the Citizens Advice website.

Free school meals

Your child may be able to get [free school meals](#) if you get certain benefits.

Healthy Start - if you have a child under 4 or are pregnant

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Find out more and apply on the [Healthy Start NHS website](#).

If you have any questions or have any difficulties with applying you can come to one of the [Healthy Start digital sessions at our libraries](#) for help.

Support in your district

Find out what support is available in your area from your local district council website link below.

If you a

re unsure which district council to contact, you can find your district council by post code.

- ▪ Burnley Together - Burnley Borough Council and other local organisations
- ▪ Chorley Borough Council
- ▪ Lancaster City Council
- ▪ Pendle Borough Council
- ▪ Preston City Council
- ▪ West Lancashire Borough Council
- ▪ Wyre Borough Council

Paying for Childcare

Funded childcare for 2-year-olds

Some two-year-olds in Lancashire may qualify for up to 15 hours a week at a local nursery or with a childminder, funded by the government. Check if you are eligible and search for a provider.

Funded childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds

From the term after your child's third birthday, they can have up to 15 hours a week at a local nursery or with a childminder funded by the government.

30 hours funded childcare

Eligible working families can get an additional 15 hours funded childcare on top of the 15 hours universal funded childcare.

Help paying for childcare

Financial support for you and your family