



Ready - Respectful - Responsible

3 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure you are acutely aware, the past few weeks have seen some **highly disturbing events around the country on the news** re: attacks in school and on young people. We had planned for the latter half of the summer term a 'lockdown' simulation drill for staff and students in line with our emergency policy procedures. However, as a result of recent events **we have decided to bring this forward to the earliest possible moment without disrupting examinations.**

We will therefore be conducting **a lockdown simulation on the afternoon of Friday 24 May.** This is very different from a fire drill and needs careful preparation so both staff and students are clear about the relevant protocols. **Over the next week we will be preparing staff and students for this simulation.** We will then revise procedures during the week of the simulation and then run the event accordingly.

The key purpose of a lockdown rehearsal is to run, observe, then assess the policy and procedure whilst ensuring that staff and students have a clear understanding of the key protocols and principles. This will then allow us to adapt the policy accordingly, particularly in light of new areas of the school. Preparation and provision will be in place for students who may find this simulation challenging.

Last night I had the pleasure of watching the **school show** and it was a fabulous performance. It was great to see so many students from different year groups coming together to create **a terrific piece of musical theatre. This was even more impressive given it was created and written by one of our Year 10 students.** An awful lot of hard work, preparation and nervous energy goes into such an event and **I would like to thank all students and staff who contributed to and supported the show.**

A reminder: the **2023/24 parent survey is now available for parent/carers to access.** It does not take too much time to fill in and is a good opportunity to feed back to us and inform our school improvement thinking, we would be really grateful if you could find the time to contribute. The survey can be found here:

[PARENT SURVEY 2023-24](#)

TRAIN STRIKES: Please be aware of the **proposed train strikes that will be taking place next week as these will affect Chiltern Railways.** It is imperative that you plan ahead to ensure your child can get to school on time - **this will be imperative for students taking examinations next week.** Information can be found [HERE](#).

With that in mind **external examinations start in full on Thursday 9 May and we wish all students the very best of luck.**

Take care - Ian Brierly

Every Student Thriving

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Bank Holiday** - **06.05.24**
- **External examinations begin** - **09.05.24**

PARKING - REMINDER

A PLEA : Please could you ensure that you do not park in or block access to the Wendover Health Centre. IT IS NOT A DROP OFF ZONE and car issues are beginning to impact significantly on the centre's ability to operate effectively at key points in the day.

OPPORTUNITIES

COVER SUPERVISOR REQUIRED : An excellent opportunity for any person who has just finished education or any who may be considering a future career in education, or for anyone who would like a role which can fit around their family life. If interested please contact Mrs Perry:
cperry@johncolet.co.uk

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES VOLUNTEERS: If you speak French or Spanish and would like to support our MFL department please contact Mrs Simpson, our Head of MFL, directly:
isimpson@johncolet.co.uk.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

SEXTORTION

Young people are more vulnerable than ever due to the amount of time they typically spend online. With this in mind, the National Crime Agency (NCA) has, earlier this week sent an alert out to all schools nationally regarding "sextortion" and its prevalence. [Please see this link](#) for further information about what it is, what the signs of it are and how you can support your children to remain safe online.

SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP CHATS

At JCS we continue to talk to children about their interactions with each other on social media and encrypted chat apps. We are definitely concerned about some of the language being used and the material being shared as well as chats including unknown members of the wider community therefore, we would urge **all parents to monitor their children's mobile phone use including their involvement in group chat platforms.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users’ emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they’re viewing and why it’s harmful.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child’s sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, apathetic and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory ‘rage bait’ articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It’s vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you’re still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children’s online activity to ensure they’re not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people’s attention – as well as numbered lists, such as “8 Facts You Won’t Believe Are True”. Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users’ interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.





Tooled Up is for everyone. For parents, carers and all school staff, the parents of young children right through to those leaving home, Tooled Up is your 'one stop resource'.

Mental Health Literacy. Half of all mental health conditions are diagnosed before the age of 14, and 75% by the age of 24. We care deeply about these figures and about the actions we can take to improve children's outcomes. Learning and understanding more is key. Dip into our [webinars](#) hosted by clinicians who have everyday experience of working with children and young people. Enjoy this [summary](#) of proactive tips to apply within family life.

Digital Life. When should you buy your child a smartphone? What [factors](#) should you consider? How do we support our children to navigate the digital world? Enjoy Dr Weston's [advice](#) on Raising a "Digital Detective": a child who is both discerning and self-protective. How can we help teens to [curate](#) their social media feeds so that positive body image is sustained rather than compromised?

Life Challenges: What does it mean to be resilient? This [video](#) explains the concept of resilience to primary-aged children. They can also benefit from our [activity](#) on reframing disappointment when things don't turn out as planned! Moving into the teenage years, try Dr Weston's [webinar](#) on "Raising A Resilient Teen" might prove helpful. Change is always coming! One change that many families will confront this year is a child moving into a new year group or setting. Change is coming (in the form of changing year groups or moves into new settings). Check out our programme of upcoming online talks on transition coming up in [June](#).

This is just a tiny sample of the resources available to you. If you can't find what you need on our platform, have a question pertaining to your family or want to suggest a new Tooled Up topic, simply use the [support](#) button and we will get back to you ASAP.

SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION



Mr Crawford
Deputy Headteacher
DSL



**Be Safe,
Be Kind**



Mrs Rowland
Operational Safeguarding Lead
DDSL

If parents have any concerns about this practice or, believe that any young person at John Colet School might be at risk, then please do contact one of the members of our Safeguarding Team via

safeguarding@johncolet.co.uk

TEACHER TRAINING

★ ASTRA School-Centred Teacher Training **10** YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Teacher Training opportunities with Astra SCITT from September 2024

Whether you or someone you know is a recent graduate or potential career switcher, teaching offers a rewarding, challenging and varied career. **John Colet School** works in partnership with [Astra School Centred Initial Teacher Training](#) to provide training for new primary and secondary teachers on a full-time or part-time basis. Astra works in partnership with over sixty local schools across Buckinghamshire and all courses lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and most applicants also study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Generous tax-free bursaries are available in many secondary subjects and all courses are eligible for student finance.

Our next Train to Teach Information Event will be held at The Misbourne School on Tuesday 14 May from 4.30pm to 6pm. Please see [here](#) for more information and details of how to register.

Applications for teacher training are made through [DfE Apply](#).

Do contact Astra (hello@astra-alliance.com)/01494 787573 if you would like to know more.

Every Student Thriving

LOCAL UPDATES / EVENTS

AYLESBURY RUGBY WOMEN

ANY LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE
AMAZING FACILITIES INCLUDING
GYM AND PHYSIO
NC3 MIDLANDS (SOUTH) LEAGUE
WOMENSRUGBY@AYLESBURYRFC.CO.UK

TRAINING TIMES:
WEDNESDAY 19:30-21:00
SUNDAY 12:30-14:00



ARFC HP22 5RN

WENDOVER SPARROWHAWKS NETBALL TEAM

Fancy joining us for some netball?

Everyone Welcome

- Friendly ladies club with a good mix of age and ability
- Training every Tuesday with experienced coach
- 7.30—9pm at Aylesbury High School
- £5 per week (or save money and block book)
- Lots of coached drills and game play at training

Opportunities to join one of our 3 ladies teams for the upcoming summer league and 24/25 ADNL winter league

- Youth training Tuesdays at 6.15-7.15pm (school years 8-11 welcome)
- Opportunities to join a team for the summer league or just come for training

Email wendoveryouthnetball@hotmail.com for info

Interested? Get in touch...



E: wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com
Insta: @wendoversparrowhawks

TASTE OF Italy



THURSDAY 23RD MAY 2024

by **culinera**



CHARLIE INVITES YOU! COME AND GET YOUR GOLDEN TICKETS

9th May 2024

by **culinera**