



Ready - Respectful - Responsible

Parent Briefing 8.9.2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first briefing of what I am sure will be a busy and exciting year! I have had what can only be described as a 'full on' week: meeting new people, trying to understand internal systems, dealing with stifling heat, but most critically meeting a **confident and very affable student body and a fabulously committed staff**. It should be noted that, although figures are provisional, it looks highly likely that last year's year 11 have secured the highest progress 8 figure that John Colet has attained since the reformation of GCSE examinations. This is fabulous news!

Growth mindset, marginal gains, practice and 'The iceberg illusion' were the key themes running through my initial assemblies with a focus on the notion that **'your attitude determines your altitude'**. I am very keen to focus on examinations as a 'performance' and that 'performance' can be prepared for and managed positively to optimise success using skills that can be learnt. In my very limited initial observations of classes students are keen and focussed. Building academic knowledge and skills hand-in-hand with strong character traits will be at the heart of how we develop our students building on the excellent foundations for success established under Mr Harty.

New leadership brings with it new perspectives and what I would describe as a 'fresh pair of eyes'. There were many attractions about the John Colet Headship but the tipping factors were a **friendly welcoming ethos**, that is firm but fair, and very **dynamic leadership from an ambitious staff, leadership team and governing body**. My role now is to reflect on these ambitions and establish the direction of travel for the school in order to turn a 'good' school into a 'great' school.

Lastly, **a huge thank you** to all parents/carers for ensuring that students were well presented this week despite the challenging weather. We have operated a common sense approach to the high temperatures allowing students to remove blazers and ties in class accordingly. We have ample access to water on site and our senior leadership patrols have been on alert for students who may be struggling. On the whole students have managed the heat exceptionally well making good decisions about using shade at breaks and keeping themselves hydrated. Small though they may be, these are signs of good **self-awareness and excellent self-regulation**, two key areas that the school will be building on in the coming academic year.

I hope to meet with you all in person over the coming weeks and would draw your attention to the **'meet the tutor' evenings** outlined below where I will also be in attendance. I have also attached some safeguarding advice around live streaming that you may find useful below.

Take care

Ian Brierly

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Meet the tutor evenings (6.30pm - 7.30pm):

Year 7	-	21 September
Year 8	-	19 September
Year 9	-	14 September
Year 10	-	20 September
Year 11	-	13 September
Sixth Form	-	18 September

D of E Bronze Award Evening for year 9 - 28 September

UNIFORM

- **Shoes** - lots of school shoes are bought sensibly towards the end of the summer break to allow for growth over the holiday. Please check that they will conform - there are diagrams to help.
- **Piercings** - the rule is for a small, single, plain stud in the earlobe of each ear. Getting additional piercings that are not healed in time for the start of term means spending time in isolation until the item can be removed.
- Optional plain black v-neck jumper (worn with, not instead of the blazer). **A number of black sweatshirts have crept in. These are not acceptable.**
- **Plain outdoor coat**, no large logos. So no hoodies, zipped or otherwise.
- **No visible body art**, please ensure holiday tattoos are removed.
- Clear nail varnish may be worn but **fingernails must be short and nail extensions of any kind are not permitted.**
- **False eyelashes are not permitted.**
- A lot of time was wasted last year ensuring students adhered to expectations around Jewellery. **Jewellery** (except a watch and earrings as stated above) is not permitted. In the case of jewellery and other accessories, the student will be asked to remove the item, which will be confiscated. A parent/carer will then need to come into school to collect the item in line with school policy.
- **The full uniform policy can be viewed in the policies section of the school website.**

SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PARENTS

All 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 issues 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 LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION

13+
16+ 18+

Age varies by platform

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 80 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTSTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodie Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2021/22 for his efforts in the digital transformation at Cabini Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lectures at UNWentley College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



Source: <https://www.wiki.org.uk/media/238302/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>

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Mr Crawford
Deputy Headteacher
DSL



**Be Safe,
Be Kind**



Mrs Rowland
*Operational Safeguarding Lead
DDSL

Safeguarding Team

- Should you have concerns about the safeguarding of your child or any student at John Colet School then please reach out to a member of our safeguarding team above.

Mental Health:

The beginning of a new academic year is often challenging for young people as they readjust to school life. Please remember that we have mechanisms to support your child; however, the best support would be to go through your GP. Should you wish to discuss your child's mental health then please reach out to their Tutor or Head of Year in the first instance.



At John Colet we provide access to parents to a quality online provision called Tooled Up. This offers practical research driven advice for parents and carers on a range of topics related to Safeguarding, Mental Health, Individualised Learning and Health needs.

Please visit www.tooledupeducation.com/register to register as a new parent. The school pin to access resources is **JCS2206**