

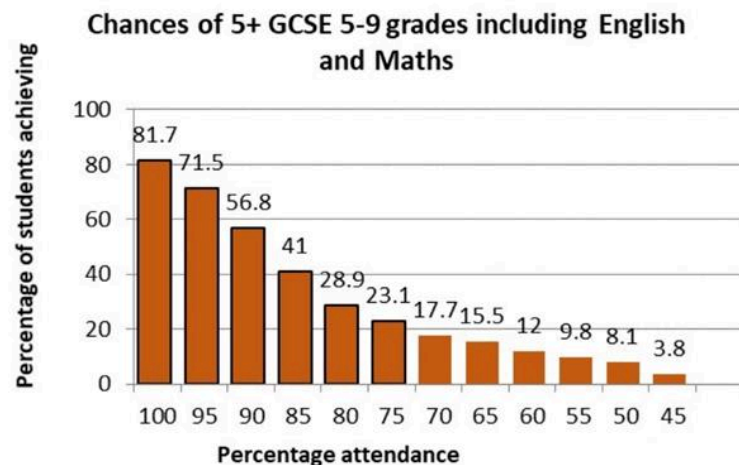


## Ready - Respectful - Responsible

### Parent Briefing 1.12.23

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week I waxed lyrical about every grade being critical to a student's portfolio. This week I want to underline the **fundamental importance of good attendance**. I am writing this after checking our exam set-up at the start of the mocks and what I have seen is a cracking team of **adults setting up students for success with military precision!** The organisation is exemplary and fundamentally sets up students for success. **Attendance at**



**school is also a fundamental characteristic for success as the chart below indicates.** This is not just in reference to Year 11 but to overall school attendance.

I often explain to students that **if I had an employee with 90% attendance this would technically be equivalent to one ½ day off every week** and the employee would then be subject to attendance procedures with a chance of

losing their job (reality bites!). They often look aghast.

So, as we approach Christmas I'd like you to keep a keen focus on attendance as **EVERY SECOND COUNTS!** We will also be delivering our termly attendance awards in the final week to those students whose attendance has been exceptional.

When I think of Christmas, I think of food, and this brings me to a **change in our catering contract**. In the wake of our current catering contract coming to an end we actioned a thorough tendering process which involved our students and new caterers, Culinera a **local caterer**, will now be taking over the operation of our canteen. **As a result I need to ask that no monies be added to your parentpay account after 12 December or before 1 January.** This will allow the funds system to be transferred accordingly. **This will not affect any credit on any account. After the 1 January funds can be added as normal.** Thank you.

I also need to make you aware that **after Christmas Tuesdays will now end with a short registration from 13.45 until 13.55pm for all students.** This will ensure a more orderly exit from the campus site and allow tutors to carry out some basic uniform, equipment and/or behaviour checks.

A brief reminder that on the **final day of the term school will finish at 12.15pm. This day will also be our Christmas jumper day.** Students may wear a christmas jumper instead of the usual jumper and blazer for school (All other uniform regulations still apply!).

Take care - Ian Brierly

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Year 11 Mocks** - 30.11.23 → 14.12.23
- **Christmas Concert** - 14.12.23
- **End of Term + Xmas Jumper day** - 15.12.23
- **1st Day of Spring term** - 04.01.24
- **Year 13 Mocks begin** - 04.01.24

## BUS ISSUES

It has come to the school's attention that there has been some **misuse of the school bus in the morning**, with children without passes managing to board the bus. This has led to eligible children not being able to board and being left behind. **Please can we ask parents to kindly remind their children that they must not board the school bus without an official pass.**

## 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](mailto:cperry@johncolet.co.uk)

**CASUAL INVIGILATORS:** We are always looking for people to join our **team of casual invigilators** If you are interested or would like to inquire as to opportunities then the advert and application form for invigilators can be found [here](#).

**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:

[jsimpson@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:jsimpson@johncolet.co.uk)

## SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION



**Mr Crawford**  
Deputy Headteacher  
DSL



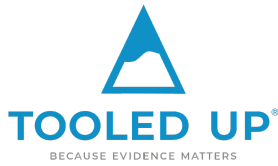
**Be Safe,  
Be Kind**



**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](mailto:safeguarding@johncolet.co.uk)



**Playing with our children** – and watching them play with their siblings or peers – can provide some of the most rewarding moments as a parent, from the first tower of stacking blocks that we make for a baby to knock over, all the way to cricket in the park or a video gaming session in the living room.

But play time has to compete with all the other demands on family life: jobs, homework, school pressure and the online world of social media. As a result, many parents wonder how to use play time well. What sorts of play are most beneficial to our children, what limits should we set and where, and do we need to worry about the impact of digital play when it takes over from “real world” activities?

In our fascinating new [podcast](#), health lecturer Dr Jennifer St George and Emeritus Professor of Psychology Peter Smith discuss their work on rough and tumble play. If you worry when you see your children rolling around on the floor together or chasing each other, their work can challenge your thinking and open a new window into children’s minds. Dr Kathy Weston continues the theme of rough play in this week’s [Wednesday Wisdom](#).

Learn more about the importance of play in this [video](#) from Dr Kathy Weston, especially in relation to children’s development and mental health. There’s an accompanying [tip sheet](#) too on facilitating high-quality play.

Researcher Dr Rachel Nesbit has investigated the link between adventurous play – play which challenges children and pushes them to the edge of their comfort zone – and children’s development. Listen to our podcast interview with her [here](#).

If you have an older child at home, “play” is often synonymous with gaming. But is too much time playing video games detrimental to teenagers’ wellbeing? Dr Simona Skripkauskaitė from the University of Oxford answered questions about the impact of gaming in a fascinating [podcast](#).

Finally: our recent webinar on Understanding Girls with Dr Tara Porter was one of the most popular online events we’ve ever held at Tooled Up. Many of you have been asking when the recording and notes will be available. The wait is over! You can delve into this session [here](#).

[December 6, 2023 – 19:000 GMT: Raising A Resilient Teen Boy](#)

In this online talk, Dr Kathy Weston will take parents on a journey through the evidence relating to boys’ resilience and mental health.



# What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

## WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

### HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

### ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

### HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

### NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

### REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

### AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

## What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

### KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

### REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

### WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

### UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

### ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

### Meet Our Expert

Luke Rowden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.







President: Dr David Fletcher CBE

Patrons: Sir David Suchet CBE and Robbie Cumming

[www.wendovercanal.org.uk](http://www.wendovercanal.org.uk)

### **Wendover Canal towpath upgrade – Wendover to Halton now open**

We are delighted to announce that work on the upgrade of the 1.7mile (2.7km) canal towpath between Wendover and Halton has now been completed.

This high-specification upgrade was supervised by the Canal & River Trust and the work carried out by its contractors Kier plc and The Rothen Group.

The result is an all-weather, 1.5m-wide path, with bank reinforcing, a strong membrane, a solid 100mm foundation and a 50mm surface of Centrack which is limestone-based, highly durable, widely used and particularly suited to this rural environment.

The improvement will enable people of all ages and abilities to use the towpath throughout the year. So families, schoolchildren, walkers, runners, cyclists and those with reduced mobility will all be able to use the path whatever the weather or time of year. Photos showing the upgraded path at various points are attached.

This project has been made possible through funding from the HS2 Chiltern AONB Review Group (with the substantial support of Chilterns Conservation Board), Wendover Parish Council, Wendover Community Board, Lionel Abel-Smith Trust and Halton Parish Council. We are grateful to all of these organisations for their support, which is much appreciated.

Over the coming months Wendover Canal Trust will be replacing the railings at the beginning of the canal at Wharf Road and erecting signage along the entire route from Wendover to Halton; this is largely being funded by the EKFB joint venture (Eiffage, Kier, Ferrovia Construction and BAM Nuttall).

The upgrading of the towpath will be celebrated with an event in the spring, more information on which will follow.

The funding bids for this project have been led by the Wendover Canal Trust.

Peter Elwin – Partnerships Director  
Wendover Canal Trust  
24th November 2023

Wendover Canal Trust is the operating name of the Wendover Arm Trust.

Charity number 801190. Company Limited by Guarantee number 02353392.

Registered Office: Unit 16b First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Rd Industrial Estate, Asheridge Road, Chesham HP5 2PX

**Wendover to Halton towpath upgrade – June to November 2023**



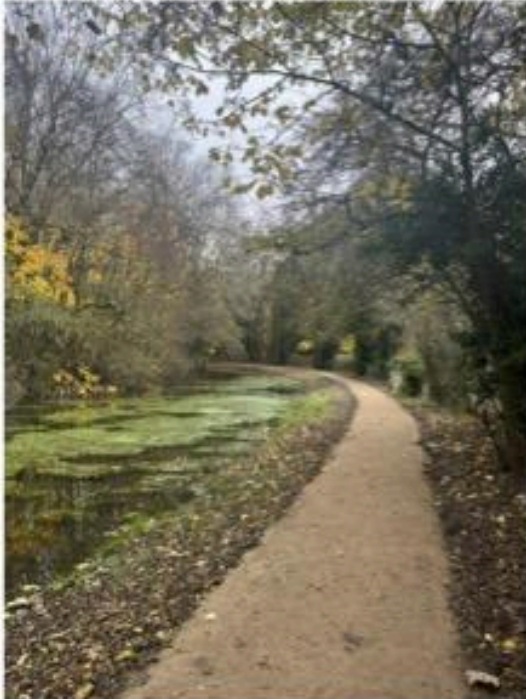
**Bankside**



**Wendover-Halton Parish border**



**The Wides**



**Halton**



## UNIFORM

- **Shoes** -. Please check that they will conform - there are diagrams on the website 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.**
- **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.

## WENDOVER PROPOSED SKATEPARK



**VISIT OUR CROWDFUNDER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUPPORT US!**

SCAN ME WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



**THERE IS A SEVERE LACK OF FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WENDOVER AND WE ARE KEEN TO PROVIDE A SKATEPARK AS A FOCAL POINT**

**RECEIVE REWARDS IN RETURN FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

Visit the Crowdfunder web page:  
[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wendover-skatepark](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wendover-skatepark)



# 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



JOIN US FOR OUR  
**Christmas**  
 CELEBRATION

Xmas Tree Light Switch On at 5.30pm

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
 4pm - 7pm on Manor Waste**

There will be lots to enjoy on the night including:

- Santa's Grotto
- Christmas Gift Stalls, Food & Drink
- Late night shopping on the High Street
- Wendover Singers Adult and Children's Choir, plus more local groups entertaining!
- Bucks Radio will be hosting the event with a special guest, the Bucks Bear.

Bring along £2 and get a present from me!

**J Brown Funeral Services**  
 Independent Family Funeral Director  
 Wendover Amersham

**Herry's**  
 Christmas Trees

**Ivan R. Cammack**  
 Optometrist  
 — Bringing quality to Eyecare —

Wendover Youth Centre are the beneficiary of this year's event, with thanks to The Salt Kitchen, Coffee Stop, Cheesy Grahams, and Daddy Donuts for their donations.

# COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

3rd Thursday of each month!

Collecting positive ideas for the future of Wendover!

