



## Ready - Respectful - Responsible

### Parent Briefing 12.1.24

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the new year of 2024!

Last term ended with a couple of **wonderfully positive events**. **Firstly, we had our first SEN parent/carer morning** organised by our SENDCO Ms Bendel. This gave parent/carers an opportunity to network with our SEN team and other parent/carers to discuss support, look at our provision and touch base with the progress of their children. It was a relaxed and very warm meeting which also involved the students. It was gratefully received and looks set to be a regular event.

**Secondly, we had our Christmas concert**. This involved over **26 acts** performing in front of a packed school hall to a very appreciative audience. This year the event also included performances from our **KS3 Dance club** students and this made for a very varied and entertaining evening, ably hosted by our sixth form compères. It was a fabulous feast of christmas music, hard rock and expressive dance and a great ending to a very long term

This half-term sees **Year 13 completing their mocks, Year 10 sitting their formal internal examinations (next week) and Year 8 starting the GCSE options process**. We also hope to take full ownership of our new science/IT block and hope that this becomes active in the summer term. Looking at the calendar we have **four consultation evenings** before half-term with Year 8 and 9 parent/carers back into school for a face to face meeting with subject teachers for the first time since COVID.

A new term also brings **new uniform challenges** - notably with the cold weather. We try very hard to be reasonable in our response to uniform but sometimes students see reasonableness as an open opportunity to push boundaries. **Since our return we have seen a notable increase in socks over tights** - this is perfectly acceptable in the cold weather if there is a colour match and it is a practical decision. However, we are seeing an element of the 'fashionista' appearing with a variety of colours and levels of fluffiness being utilised to create a fashion statement. **If socks are worn as well as tights they must be plain (unbranded), discreet and of the same colour and worn together in colder weather only. Thank you.**

I am sure that you will now be aware that our **catering offer has changed. A faster service and better quality food are now on offer as well as a new outside facility**. Please be aware that **FSM students will now only be able to use their allowance to buy a substantial meal at lunchtime**. We were very aware that some FSM students were using their allowance on a snack at break and then not eating appropriately at lunch. Money for snacks will now need to be added to their account if FSM students wish to purchase a snack at breaktime. (It may be more cost effective to provide a snack from home.) **This will ensure that a full, proper meal is accessed at the appropriate time.**

Take care

Ian Brierly

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Year 8 Consultation Evening** - **18.01.24**
- **Year 13 Consultation Evening** - **01.02.24**
- **Year 11 Consultation Evening** - **08.02.24**

## IS YOUR CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

This useful link will help parent/carers in their decision making as the cold weather increases our vulnerabilities to bugs and colds:

[IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?](#)

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOTTERY



John Colet has now been approved by Bucks Lottery and if you take part you may now nominate the school to receive funds as part of the fund-raising process.

## 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:

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

## THE BIG AMBITION



If you are a student you now have an opportunity to give your views on a number of issues to the Children's Commissioner as part of The Big Ambition young people's survey. Your views will then be used to give feedback to the government. The survey link is below.

[https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the\\_big\\_ambition/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/)

## 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)

## STAY OK



**Stay Safe with  
Stayok.uk**



**It's easy to  
stay safe with  
Stayok.uk**



**Read the  
pages**



**Look at the  
pictures**



**Watch the  
videos**



**Have fun with  
the games  
and quizzes**



**If you are a parent, carer or other professional  
living or working in the Thames Valley area,  
there's a section just for you**



**Want to learn how to stay safe?  
Go to Stayok.uk**



# SAFEGUARDING ADVICE 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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

### Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2023

## WENDOVER PROPOSED SKATEPARK



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

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

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

SCAN ME WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



RECEIVE REWARDS IN RETURN FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



## LOCAL UPDATES / EVENTS

### AYLESBURY RUGBY WOMEN

ANY LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE  
 AMAZING FACILITIES INCLUDING GYM AND PHYSIO  
 NC3 MIDLANDS (SOUTH) LEAGUE  
[WOMENSRUGBY@AYLESBURYRFC.CO.UK](mailto: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](mailto:wendoveryouthnetball@hotmail.com) for info



Interested? Get in touch...



E: [wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com](mailto:wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com)

Insta: @wendoversparrowhawks

# COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

3rd Thursday of each month!

Collecting positive ideas  
for the future of  
Wendover!

