

13 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

After negotiating a week of pretty random weather we are finally settling into **school routines.** I am sure that is the same at home. The laid-back calm of the summer holiday makes way for new routines, early rising and a need to be super organised. For students it can be a bit of a 'jolt' to the system.

We have some very key new routines at John Colet this year. Research states time and time again that young people can regulate better within set routines. We recognised last year that we had routines but these were not consistent across the school and staff. In order to address this we have developed our '**Fundamentals'** posters. They act as a **key visual reminder for staff and students**. Simple ideas such as ensuring an orderly dismissal to every lesson really helps to maintain calm around the school which ensures everyone feels safe and can thrive. These fundamentals aligned with the return to common lunch and break times have established greater consistency for all members of our community. (You can view our classroom student fundamentals later in this briefing.)

In addition to this, last year we were deeply frustrated and quite perturbed by the behaviour of a very small number of students in our toilets. As a result I have made it clear to students that these are 'safe' spaces and that any more than one student in a cubicle will result in exclusions for BOTH students regardless. **Toilets are the most vulnerable places we can go to and should therefore be the safest.** School toilets across the country (and historically) have always been difficult to manage but we are determined to win that battle at JCS! We know that some upgrading is needed and that is in our thoughts for the next round of improvements but in the meantime everyone has a basic right to use a toilet and not feel anxious in doing so.

Our **exam outcomes** this year were fabulous. Against a national average of 67% of all grades being a '4' or better, JCS attained 73%, equally the national average for the number of '5' grades was 52% and we attained 57%. In the sixth form we significantly increased our A/A* percentage. We are very proud of year 11 and 13 and this year exceeds the outcomes of 2019 which is the last comparable year. Well done to the classes of 2024!

Summer works have included continued work on replacing our roofing, new cladding and some key new rooms. Chief amongst these rooms is our **new learning support centre designed to support our SEN and vulnerable cohort.** The school was bereft of such an area and we have made it a number one priority to establish this for 2024/25. We have also created a Pastoral Leader Hub where our strong pastoral leaders can work together more effectively and cohesively supporting each other in their leadership of year groups and thus supporting our young people more effectively.

On a final note a huge thank you for supporting us with our new 'gate to gate' no mobile phone use policy. This has been a revelation and students have been exceptional in abiding by this new school routine.

Take Care - Ian Brierly



REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GCSE Food Information evening (Y11) Year 7 Meet the tutor evening Open Evening for 2025 admissions INSET Day Open Morning

- 18 September (6.30-7.30pm)
- 19 September (6.00pm-7.00pm)
- 3 October (5.30pm 8.00pm)
- 4 October
- 7 October (9.15am 10.45am)

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor
- Senior Administration Assistant
- Casual Invigilators

Please check our website for further details here.

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.

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. <u>Please see this link</u> for further information about what it is, what the signs of it are and how you can support your children to remain safe online.

SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION

Be Kind



Mr Crawford Deputy Headteache DSL



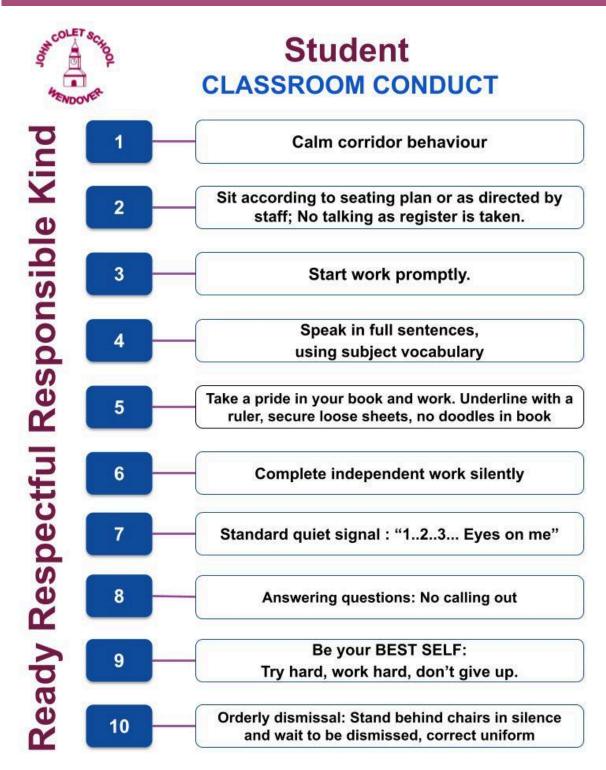
Mrs Rowland *Operational Safeguarding Lead DDSL

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



Our Fundamentals



Every Student Thriving



SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PARENTS : Click HERE for a higher res version

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTINGCHILD 7(0 C 0 0 0

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do

INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

he best approaches to conflict resolution are storative. This means that rather than adults mposing their own solutions on children who have ad a disagreement, they should work with them, llowing them to handle it can feel empowering to oung people and will hopefully teach them to

ACTIVELY LISTEN

n find it e

3 BE CURIOUS

onstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic minaser can good example to children, which can prove skill for them later in life. Model this by aski coefful questions about stand where all p n thei uld en

PROMOTE 4 DIFFERENCES

Children and young per cs which may cause them to ing a school ar likely to feel heard and unde

BE SUPPORTIVE

ussions may b bacusations may be sensitive of, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxivous before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks an time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children

Meet Our Expert

a Lowri is a neurodivergent fo SENCO a /e i ompany, Neuroteacher orks with nurseries, sch consultancy, training and mentoring to cre for people with the full range of neurotypes

MENTALLY PREPARE 6

extra re you're hydrated, l same for the young d and rtable, and do the same for the young p ed. These may seem like insignificant fa s important to remember that physical gger dysregulation, whic der to have a calm, produ

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Ne **GET YOUR FACTS** 7 **STRAIGHT**

s, figures and to the discus Make sure you have all the facts, figu timelines of the situation prior to the should be done as objectively as pos of resolving the ongoing issue. You m

8 STICK TO THE POINT

ep all parties on track. M nce to air their co<u>ncern</u> ue b



It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common there may need to be a c good – and, most import n you're supporting.

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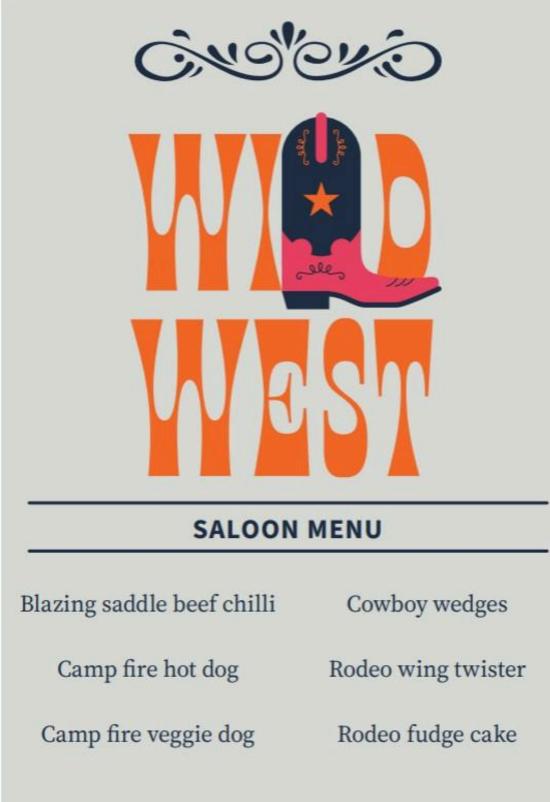
DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT 10

wing conc ces to fester, as this can lead to further and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't h n involved. Use our tips to ope ication. These shoul on and minimise the

conflict-effectiv



CATERING UPDATE - WILD WEST MENU - 19 SEPTEMBER



by culinera



TEACHER TRAINING

ASTRA School-Centred VEAR Teacher Training

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 <u>Astra School Centred Initial Teacher Training</u> 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.

Applications for teacher training are made through DfE Apply.

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