



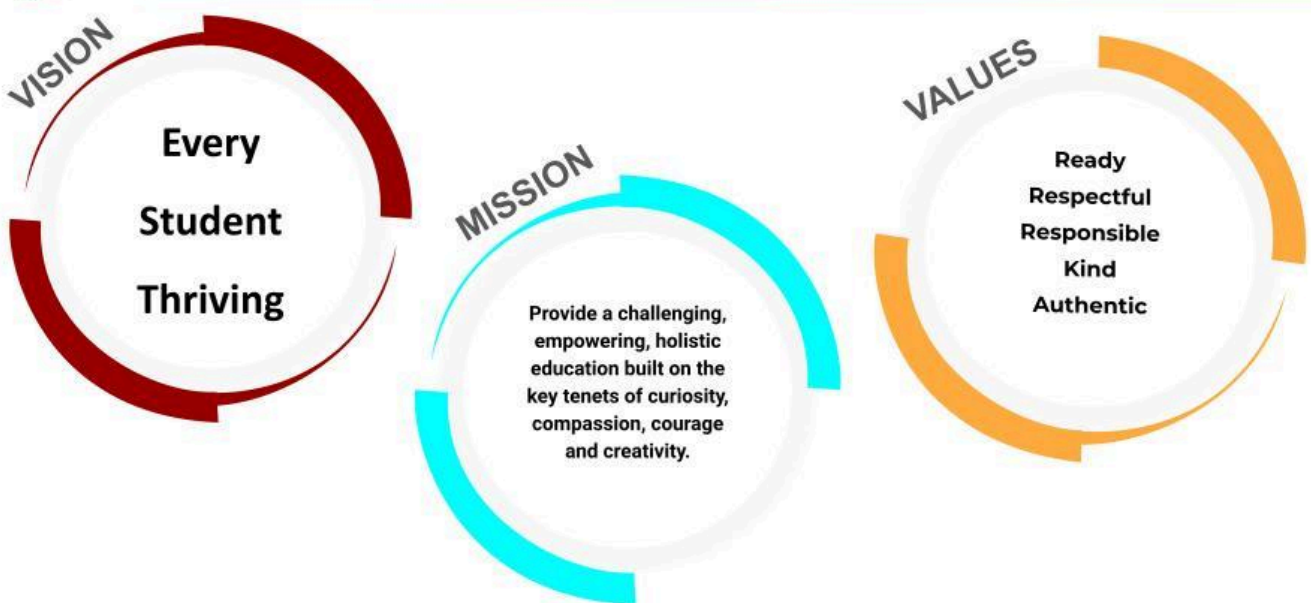
## Every Student Thriving

17 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Early in the Autumn term the leadership team used some INSET time to begin to truly explore what **we felt the vision of the school was**. We spent a lot of time thinking about what we wanted from our school. We asked critical questions about purpose and our key motivators, drivers and values. As a result we decided **that a new , fresh vision was needed for John Colet**. We worked closely with our governors and together we believe we have a new ambitious vision for the school underpinned by key values already embedded in the school's ethos.

I present our new Vision Statement to you today:



As from September **'Every Student Thriving'** underpin everything we do. It is ambitious. Within the complexities of the modern world creating the conditions for young people to thrive is a challenge, but education is an organic beast that should respond actively to an ever-changing and evolving world. **We want every child to thrive at school and in life.** This requires a good holistic education in which students are 'tooled up' to manage and adapt to the world around them. Life is full of difficulties and challenges but we believe that our purpose is to empower students to be the best they can be by creating a culture where students can flourish and thrive.

Synthesising our vision into three key words means we can ensure that it drives all of our decision making, sends a clear message about our intention and, most importantly creates a purposeful, child-centric culture ambitious in its belief that, in partnership with students, carers and staff, we can do our utmost to ensure all students thrive.

Take care - Ian Brierly

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## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Bronze D of E Practice</b>	<b>17 May</b>
<b>Silver D of E Practice</b>	<b>17 May</b>
<b>Y10 Bucks College visit</b>	<b>21 May</b>
<b>HALF-TERM</b>	<b>27-31 May</b>

### 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. [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.

#### LOCKDOWN REHEARSAL

Just a reminder that on Friday afternoon of next week (24 May) we are running a full lockdown rehearsal. This is a staged event but we expect students to respond according to policy. Students will be given a further reminder of processes later next week.

### 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)

**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)

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SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PARENTS : Click [HERE](#) for a higher res version

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

### IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

#### PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

#### COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

#### CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

#### MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

#### FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

#### REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.



## Every Student Thriving

### MESSAGE FROM ARRIVA - PROPOSED CLOSURE OF AYLESBURY & HIGH WYCOMBE DEPOTS

Dear School Administrators,

We are writing to inform you that we are aware of the recent announcement made by public bus operator Arriva regarding the proposed closure of their Aylesbury and High Wycombe depots. Details of the proposals, and the bus services affected, can be found on Arriva's website [here](#)

We understand that this news may cause concern for schools and parents regarding the students eligible for council-funded school transport who are currently allocated a bus pass for an Arriva service, and those students who pay to use the bus services.

We would like to assure you that the proposed changes will not come into effect until after the end of the current academic year. Our team is working diligently to ensure that transportation for all eligible students will be in place for the start of the new academic year. If parents have any questions or concerns, they can use the [contact us form](#)

We will keep you updated on any developments and appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Cookson

**Operational Team Leader**

**Transport Services | Client Transport**

**Communities Directorate**

**Buckinghamshire Council, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA**

**0300 131 6000 or 01296 387 439**

**[Jasmine.Cookson@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jasmine.Cookson@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk)**



## Every Student Thriving

### 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)

### 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](mailto:hello@astra-alliance.com))/01494 787573 if you would like to know more.

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# Buckinghamshire Family Learning

## Help Your Child Manage Their Wellbeing with these FREE Online Workshops\*



### Years 7, 8 & 9, Tuesdays 9:30am to 11:30am

- 4 June: **Help your child to develop confidence and resilience** ([FMWB056](#))
- 11 June: **Help your child cope with stress and anxiety** ([FMWB081](#))
- 12 June (Wednesday 7pm-9pm): **Help your child manage their behaviours** ([FMWB099](#))
- 18 June: **Help your child to develop positive friendships and manage peer pressure** ([FMWB087](#))
- 25 June: **Happy, healthy and safe online-tips to help your child** ([FMWB092](#))



### Years 10 & 11, Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm

- 19 June: **Help your child to develop confidence and resilience** ([FMWB112](#))
- 26 June: **Help your child to develop positive friendships and manage peer pressure** ([FMWB113](#))

Also available . . . . .

**Everyday First Aid, Southcourt Family Centre**  
([EMFA042](#))

- Wednesday 19 June, 9:30am to 12pm

**Thinking About Volunteering** ([EMVW018](#))

- Tuesday 2 July, 9:30am to 11:30am

\* For parents and carers with a child in Years 7 to 11 at one of the following schools: Aylesbury UTC, Aylesbury Vale Academy, Beaconsfield School, Bourne End Academy, Buckingham School, Chiltern Hills Academy, Cottlesloe School, Cressex Community School, Highcrest Academy, John Colet School, Mandeville School, Princes Risborough School, Sir William Ramsay School, Stony Dean School, The Grange School, Thomas Freemantle School and Waddesdon CofE School



SCAN ME



To enrol: **SCAN** the QR code, **CLICK** on the course code link or **PHONE** 01296 383582 with the course code (eg. FMWB000)

For more information, text Kathryn 07770 641997



[buckinghamshreadultlearning](#)



[BucksAdLearning](#)



[adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#)

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## 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](mailto:wendoveryouthnetball@hotmail.com) for info



Interested? Get in touch...



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



## Foster carers turn children's lives around - come and foster with us



**Five Rivers**  
*Turning children's lives around*



If you are interested in a life-changing vocation and can provide a safe, loving home to a child in care, we'd love to hear from you.

**01527 834653**  
**0333 0603 962**  
**five-rivers.org**

Your local office: Unit 28 Basepoint Business Centre, Isidore Road, Bromsgrove, B60 3ET

Short term and long term fosters carers needed. Highly competitive fostering allowance of up to £28,000 a year, tax-free. 24/7 support and specialist training. Potential to combine with full or part-time work.

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