



Ready - Respectful - Responsible

Parent Briefing 17.11.23

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, it's been another week of **'making connections'** for me. Yesterday morning I attended the **John Colet primary liaison group**. This is a regular meeting where I meet with feeder school heads to discuss pertinent issues that affect all of our schools and also reflect on successes and challenges. I was proud to hear a head express her delight that **John Colet students had contributed to health & safety week at her primary school** and had made an excellent impression on her young people.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with **a local authority representative** on Wednesday as part of a move to build progressive partnerships with, not just local partners, but also county level partners. It is vital that schools have external eyes to help us to be positively critical as we embark on our improvement journeys. **It was a refreshing meeting** during which the leadership team articulated our systems, culture and ethos; we also went on a learning walk and **witnessed calm and productive classrooms with a high level of skilful teaching**. The representative **left buoyant and excited** about John Colet school and offered some useful pointers to aid us in reflecting on our improvement agenda. As a result of this partnership we will be **commissioning some external assessments of elements of our provision** with the aim of consolidating good practice and aiming even higher in our **ambition and aspiration** for our students.

On Monday evening I braved the dark, windswept roads **to attend the Grove theatre in Dunstable to watch twenty five students perform a Shakespeare play as part of the national Shakespeare schools festival project**. This project involves schools performing 30 minute versions of Shakespeare plays to celebrate his legacy. Over 400 schools participate across the country. **To perform publicly on a professional stage is an enormous experience** and I was hugely impressed with the **confident performance of our students** who were fueled by adrenaline and excitement. **It was also good to see the cast representative of all year groups. A real community effort!**

On Wednesday it was the **students' turn to make connections with every year 11 student undergoing a mock job interview** with one of over twenty employers who volunteered to attend John Colet and contribute to what were real life scenarios. **Each student completed an interview and then received feedback on their performance**. As I spoke to many of our employer guests it was becoming clear that employers are digging much deeper into the 'character' of potential employees in the jobs market. CV's and grades are simply not telling employers enough about each individual's capability. **Experiences beyond the formal examined curriculum are becoming more valuable as a criteria for selection and this was alluded to by many of the employers that I spoke to**. A good **work ethic, character and resilience** will rule the day as we move forward into a new era of employment opportunities and that aligns very much with the John Colet emphasis on character and enrichment. This was a highly valuable experience for our students.

Take care.

Ian Brierly

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Year 11 Mocks** - 30.11.23 → 14.12.23
- **Christmas Concert** - 14.12.23
- **1st Day of Spring term** - 04.01.24
- **Year 13 Mocks begin** - 04.01.24

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

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.

WENDOVER YOUTH CENTRE LEAD YOUTH WORKER/CENTRE MANAGER JOB VACANCY - for further enquiries to admin@wendoveryouth.co.uk please.

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

MENTAL HEALTH & PARENT SUPPORT



Professor Robin Banarjee from the University of Sussex is an expert on research into kindness. In our [podcast](#) he talks with Dr Weston about the impact that observing and performing acts of kindness can have on children. Kindness gives children a sense of agency, the belief that they can impact the world around them, and a belief that the world is a hopeful and benevolent place.

Our [kindness passport](#) is a great resource to use with younger children. It encourages children to notice all the kind things that they do for others. When they do something kind, they take this book to their teacher (or a family member) to get it stamped. We've included plenty of ideas for them to try, but there's also lots of space for them to write down their own kind acts that we haven't thought of.

If you are raising older teens, consider using our [conversation starters](#) to kick off a good family discussion around values. As a family, how do we treat others? What is our motto? What do we consider to be 'unacceptable' behaviour? What is bullying behaviour? And how can we ensure we don't feel tempted to participate in it at school, at work or in personal relationships?

There are two versions of our downloadable activity on treating others kindly, one for [younger children](#) and one for [teenagers](#).

It is important our children are encouraged to stand up for others and to gently challenge poor treatment when they see it. How can we raise upstanders? Here are a few [tips](#) for you to consider.



Relationships, Kindness and Success



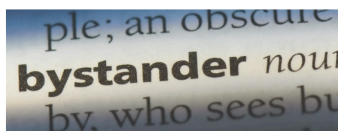
Family Values



Treating Others Kindly (younger children)



Treating Others Kindly (teenagers)



Raising an "Upstander"



Kindness Passport

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

Share your thoughts about this exciting project on the planning application page:

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S1LRA0CLIQU00>

Or visit the crowdfunding page to help out:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wendover-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



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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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Committed To Excellence

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



JOIN US FOR OUR
Christmas
CELEBRATION

Xmas Tree Light Switch On at 5.30pm

**Saturday 2nd 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

Henry Dale's
Optician

Texan 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!



- ★ 16th November
- 🕒 10am - 12pm
- 📍 Wendover Library



Bring your thoughts, ideas, or concerns and chat with the Parish Councillors.



HS2 IN WENDOVER

Socialise & Strategise



7pm Friday 24th November
Wendover Memorial Hall



Join us for a glass of wine and discuss plans for HS2 in Wendover