



Ready - Respectful - Responsible

Parent Briefing 19.1.24

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, we have certainly seen a temperature drop this week with Thursday seeing **-8 degrees recorded on site**. Students and staff however remained resilient and with no site issues reported school ran as per normal (with some minor disappointment that the snow never materialised!).

I need to bring to your attention **another policy 'tweak'**. **We will now not be administering paracetamol to students as a general rule**. Moving forward, paracetamol will only be administered on the day if parents supply a clear written and signed note (in line with all other medications that some students occasionally need to take.) **An over reliance on any form of medication is not a good thing and has the potential for the body to build up tolerances that reduce the effect of the relevant dosage**. Equally important is the ability to persevere and build up resilience by managing minor ailments.

This week saw the second of four parents evenings that are happening this half-term. Year 8 and Year 9 parents have had the opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss progress in person and this has made for two very productive meetings. **I think over the past few years that a minor 'disconnect' has occurred between schools and parents where virtual meetings have been maintained**. I have attended a few network groups since my arrival and there is no doubt that my ability to connect, form partnerships, empathise and understand has been greater when the meetings have been in person. There are clearly occasions where a virtual meeting is efficient and effective but nothing quite replaces the **nuances and warmth that come with real interactions and networking**.

On another note this week saw a **commissioned review of our SEN provision**. We were visited by an expert in the field who worked closely with staff, students and our newly appointed SENDCO, Ms Bendel, to review our ethos, provision, implementation and impact with the aim of producing recommendations to aid us in our journey to be at the **cutting edge of provision for students with needs**. This was a very positive visit and it is a testament to the work already undertaken that **our provision is already well on its way to meeting our ambitious vision**. We now await key recommendations and in the meantime we will be **identifying and converting an area of the school into a support base that is fully resourced to enhance our SEND offer**.

Finally, whilst we shiver our way through these deep winter days, Mr Crawford would like to draw your attention to the warmer climes of June- whereby for **one week students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be off timetable taking part in our Focus Week**. Plans for this week are being finalised and in the next week or so will be launched to the students. Children in each year group will have the opportunity to attend a residential or, take part in our array of day trips. Additionally, **there will be a number of onsite activities all with the purpose of growing resilience, creativity and teamwork**. More information will shortly be sent home.

Take care

Ian Brierly

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Year 7&8 Shrek Movie Night (5pm-7pm) See below** - **25.01.24**
- **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

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

SAFEGUARDING SUBSTANCE AWARENESS - SNUS

We are aware that some students have brought **nicotine pouches or SNUS to school**. Attached is an article to make you aware of the dangers and legality of these pouches. Students found with SNUS (including white SNUS) or nicotine pouches in school will have the item confiscated and will receive a consequence in line with the school behaviour policy. Our policy refers to smoking and vaping equipment - SNUS and nicotine pouches will be regarded in this category.

[Tooled up Snus Article](#)



One thing about parenting: it is a journey! When every day throws up new questions and challenges, from friendship groups to body changes to exam stress, it can feel like one has to become an instant expert in a whole new field every day.

That's where Tooled Up comes into its own. One hundred schools and organisations subscribe to access our platform, and we receive a vast range of parenting questions every week. In response, to date, we have created nearly 800 resources on a huge range of topics.

Ever wondered what other parents have asked our research team? Our [A-Z of Frequently Asked Parenting Questions](#) gives a great overview of the most common questions and concerns that parents put to Tooled Up.

If you ever feel overwhelmed by the amount of content on our site, use our **quick guides** for an easy-to-digest overview of some of our most popular subjects. Each guide links to different Tooled Up resources available to you. Here are some of the most popular:

Our [Quick Guide to Neurodiversity](#) offers key terms for beginning to navigate autism, ADHD, OCD and more, with links to expert panels, conference recordings and support resources.

We have a [Quick Guide to Anxiety](#) which helps with identifying the symptoms of anxiety, starting points for parents to help, and links to our many resources on coping strategies and staying calm. Our [Guide to Self-Harm](#) contains resources to help you give optimal support to children and young people.

Emotional Literacy refers to our ability to recognise our emotions, and the strategies we use to cope with difficult feelings. Our [Quick Guide to Emotional Literacy](#) gives you some tangible ideas for promoting emotional literacy within family life. Many of these tips are just as useful for adults!

For parents of teenagers trying to keep up with the range of substances available to them at parties, on social media or through peer groups, our partnership with the drug education charity The DSM Foundation has led to guides on [energy drinks](#), [alcohol](#), [vaping](#), [cannabis](#), [nitrous oxide](#), as well as [cocaine](#), [MDMA](#) and [ketamine](#).

Remember, "it takes a village to raise a child" so thank you for allowing us to support you!

(Blue text = hyperlinks)

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Children & Young People Need to Know about

FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the DEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The National
College

NOS National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1a/text/1a/paragraphs/20/a2/bright/2010/2010/freedom%20of%20expression>

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

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YEAR 7&8 SHREK MOVIE NIGHT



*Year 7
& 8
Shrek
Movie
Night*

25th January - 17:00 ~ 19:00
Tickets on ParentMail for £2.50,
as well as pizza for £1.50

Popcorn & fizzy drinks available to buy
on the night

*Bring your own cushions
& blankets*

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

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



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

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

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 for info



Interested? Get in touch...



E: wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com

Insta: @wendoversparrowhawks

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

3rd Thursday of each month!

Collecting positive ideas
for the future of
Wendover!



MISSING



DOG LOST **DOG LOST**

RED PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR CHASE
Female Labradoodle Red (Age: Young Adult)
Missing from **MAIN STREET, WESTON TURVILLE, HP22**
area, South East on Sunday, 7th January 2024
NERVOUS RESCUE, NEWLY REHOMED
07916 965503 /07747 739517
Help us find RED PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR CHASE - print this
poster from <https://www.doglost.co.uk/poster.php?dogId=189689>

Doglost is a **FREE SERVICE** run by volunteers
www.doglost.co.uk
Reuniting Dogs with their Owners

 Pace

Winter Waggle at Waddesdon Manor

16th February
2k wheelchair accessible & 3k & 5k routes

Join us for our inaugural, fun-filled 'Winter Waggle' dog walk and help babies, children & young people with a neurodisability like cerebral palsy



16th February

Sign up now
thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle

Email kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org | thepacecentre.org | [f](https://www.facebook.com/thepacecentre) [@thepacecentre](https://www.instagram.com/thepacecentre)

Registered office: The Pace Centre Ltd, The Bradbury Campus, 156 Wendover Rd, Aylesbury, HP22 5TE | Company number 2707607 | Registered Charity No. 101333