



## Ready - Respectful - Responsible

### Parent Briefing 22.9.2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may remember late last term the **12 hour Ultimate Frisbee** event that took place in aid of charity. We recently received a letter from the **Aces Wheelchair basketball Club** thanking us for our efforts in supporting their cause. We raised an impressive **£1,541.72** and the Aces are incredibly grateful for our donation. Today is 'Jeans for Genes' day and thus kicks off our charity drive for the 2023/24 academic year. This is tied in closely to our community **'Make A Difference' (Or MAD)** initiative which encourages students to run or take part in projects that benefit the wider community. This is very much part of the John Colet ethos of preparing our young people to be **active and productive citizens**.

On the subject of community I met with members of the **local parish council** this week. They welcomed me to Wendover and we discussed a number of issues but high on the agenda was how they might engage with the young people of Wendover and the surrounding areas in order to get their input into local facilities and possible projects. Their big project at the moment is to create **a skatepark facility in Wendover**. This is costly and the council are attempting to raise funds in a manner which does not impinge on their core funding. They have secured a good percentage of funding so far and are determined to bring the project to fruition. **To assist they have set up a crowdfunding page which explains the project, funding and provides plans for the skatepark**. The link, if you would like to contribute or find out more is :

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

It's been the final week for parents/carers to have the opportunity to meet pastoral teams and remind themselves of our expectations and routines. We have had an excellent turn out with **500+ adults** in attendance over the six evenings. The powerpoint presentations are on our website and we look forward to meeting you all again during each year group's progress evening. **These will not be on-line as we are returning to on site, face-to-face, meetings with teachers**.

Today we look forward to the author **Sophie McKenzie** visiting the school to talk to our Year 8 students about her career and give some insights into the art of writing and the career opportunities of authorship. Reading has been a key national priority for some time and there are good systems in place at John Colet to support, encourage and develop reading skills. **Parents/carers can help by encouraging reading** or asking students about texts that they may have read in school on a daily basis - this is also a good way to develop retention and recall as students will need to utilise their short-term memory to explain about their reading and this increases the probability that the information will be held in their long-term memory.

This week I have attached safety and **safeguarding advice around 'WhatsApp'** that you may find useful.

Take care

Ian Brierly -Headteacher

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>D of E Bronze Award Evening for year 9</b>	-	28 September
<b>Open Evening</b>	-	5 October (6.00-8.30pm)

## UNIFORM

- **Shoes** -. Please check that they will conform - there are diagrams 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.**

## CAR PARKING ISSUES

It has been brought to our attention that a small minority of parents are using the **local doctors surgery car park** to drop off their children. One morning this week the staff from the surgery, including the doctors, couldn't access the surgery car park due to people using it when they shouldn't. - Could I remind you to be mindful of the car parking situation and where feasible ensure students walk to school (very healthy!) or cycle.

## MENTAL HEALTH & PARENT SUPPORT



### Setting Up Success: Thriving in the Academic Year Ahead

Now that the Autumn term is well and truly underway, it's time to instil good habits and organisation skills. This is particularly crucial for students embarking on an examination year. Remember, a strong start paves the way for a successful journey ahead! Discover our '[Goal Planner](#)' to boost self-esteem and confidence in your child, take the [stress](#) out of school mornings, and explore valuable [tips](#) tailored for students in their [GCSE](#) year. If you're a parent of a younger child, there is plenty we can do at home to help feel prepared and calm ahead of an exam as well, so make sure to take a look at our quick and simple [tips](#).

### Healthy Relationships, Healthy Boundaries

With the news regularly featuring sexual assault allegations, we need to be opening [conversations](#) with our children about healthy, mutually respectful relationships as well as questions of consent and personal boundaries at an early age. We have various practical resources designed to help teens think critically about [how formative romantic relationships should make them feel](#), how to [navigate potential pressures](#) to share intimate images, and general [facts](#) on teen relationships today. And if you need some help with conversation starters, you can always check out our [list](#) of fact and fiction books for all ages.

## SAFEGUARDING LEADS



**Mr Crawford**  
Deputy Headteacher  
DSL



**Be Safe,  
Be Kind**



**Mrs Rowland**  
\*Operational Safeguarding Lead  
DDSL



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

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

**AGE RESTRICTION 16+**  
in UK and Europe; rest of the world 13+

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**EVOLVING SCAMS**  
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

**CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**  
To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

**FAKE NEWS**  
WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

**ONLINE**

**'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT**  
The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

**CHAT LOCK**  
Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

**VISIBLE LOCATION**  
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

**NEWS**

**Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...**

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.



### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://iaq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | [https://iaq.whatsapp.com/381005886188245/?helpref=hc\\_fnav](https://iaq.whatsapp.com/381005886188245/?helpref=hc_fnav) | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.cana.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

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Committed To Excellence



**Save  
the Date**

**Wendover Christmas Celebration Event**  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 4 - 7pm  
on Manor Waste

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**Ellesborough Silver Band  
at the December Local Produce Market**  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 10am - 2pm  
on Manor Waste

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**Carols Around the Tree  
with Chinnor Silver Band**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
on Manor Waste