



Every Student Thriving

22 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – Mother Teresa

Our school sits at the heart of the community and thus our successes and challenges are a reflection of our partnership- so the more in tune we are with each other and united we remain at critical moments, the better we will overcome challenges in the lives of our young people. We particularly pride ourselves on being a school which, like a mirror, reflects our local community and, with it, comes that vital partnership between home and school- collectively guiding children to ensure they **Thrive** as successful citizens in years to come.

I am sure many parents will be aware of the challenges schools face at this time, with some children displaying more dysregulated and at times anti-social behaviours, these naturally manifest themselves in the school, just like they are across our homes and communities. As such, we rely heavily on your support to deal with some of these challenges- with a united front. We believe wholeheartedly that our core values of Ready, Respectful and Responsible are central to this, but so is the value of **Kindness**.

Our school vision and values are hugely influenced by the work of Paul Dix, who wrote a book called **When the Adults Change, Everything Changes**. The premise of this is obvious, that all of us involved in the social development of young people must work tirelessly to **show** young people how to respond in moments of challenge, difficulty or difference. Children look to us as adults at how we deal with our own adversity, difficulty and stress- repeating those actions which we model. Are we defensive? Are we antagonistic? Do we express our emotions in a way which is loud and confrontational? If we do, then there is a good chance our children will model that too.

With this in mind we would like to highlight the behaviour of a small minority of parents outside the front of school on Wednesday morning. With a drive to keep our children safe and reduce congestion at the main entrance to all of the local schools here, staff from the primary schools were asking parents to adhere to the clearly shown parking restrictions. Nearly all parents were polite and respectful when reminded that unauthorised vehicles should not be driven onto campus and that no vehicles should be parked on double yellow lines / zig-zag or inconsiderately. Sadly, a small number of parents were verbally abusive to staff. We would like to remind everyone that abuse of any kind should never be shown to each other, particularly when done in front of children

At a time when schools and parents are more connected and communicative than ever, we will do our absolute utmost to ensure that we model those core values in our everyday behaviours. We salute all parents/carers who are doing their best to model these behaviours in challenging times. We appreciate your partnership and support..

We wish you a restful weekend, snow or no snow!

Take care - Mr Crawford (Deputy Head)

Ready - Respectful - Responsible



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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Year 11 Mocks begin | - | Wednesday 27 November |
| Year 13 Mocks begin | - | Thursday 12 December |
| Xmas Concert | - | Thursday 19 December |

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Learning Support Assistants
- Business Studies Teacher
- Caretaker

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. Thank you.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY - JOHN HAMPDEN XMAS FAIR

The John Hampden Christmas fair is on **Saturday 30th November 12 - 3** and they were wondering if any John Colet students would like to help support us on the day. They are looking for volunteers to help run some stalls, some to dress up as elves for the grotto and also some that may be willing to do some face painting (possibly good for any art students?) and then also some help with clearing away at the end of the day.

If you would like to volunteer send an email (with parent permission) to Friends of John Hampden School: fjhvolunteers@gmail.com with your name, where you would like to help and the times you could help from and to.

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

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MESSAGE FROM 'THE WHARF ROAD CAMPUS INITIATIVE' - TRANSPORT

Parent, Carer and Resident Communication

It's a new academic year and this provides an opportunity for us all to make a new start, introduce and form new habits and behaviours in the way we do things.

Many of you will be aware of some of the traffic issues that are experienced in the area surrounding the Wharf Road campus during school pick-up and drop-off time and the volume of traffic and associated issues have steadily increased over the last few years, for many reasons.

As a collective group of schools and organisations on the campus site, we have tried numerous different ways to encourage parents and young people to take more active and greener routes to school. Some of these have been successful, but significant issues are still occurring.

Over the last couple of years, our group have set out to address these issues as a collective. We are delighted that Wendover Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council and Climate Action Wendover are now working together through a very active working group to try and understand the issue in more depth and find appropriate solutions.

Our goal is to seek to provide safe and healthy routes to and from school for all young people, whilst respecting local residents and also ensuring in the case of any emergencies, full access can be achieved to the campus and surrounding homes.

What are we planning to do?

As a group we've been monitoring the air quality at the school entrance for some time, compiling evidence of dangerous driving and inappropriate parking and undertaken analysis of open-source traffic information to understand trends. We have secured funding and are planning to do a more in-depth traffic survey in the next few weeks to fully understand the scale of the issue.

We know these are several reasons why people choose to drive to school, and we are keen to explore these more with you as parents and find better solutions that will help all of us, but mostly our young people.

Please look out for a survey that will be sent to you shortly, encouraging you to share your views.

In the meantime, we'd like to remind you of positive steps you can take in the short term:

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- Car access to the school campus is restricted to staff-only (and some approved persons). Parents and carers, including those accessing the nursery, without prior permission, should not be attempting to enter the campus and go through the barrier. Furthermore, parents and carers should not be driving into the site and looping around to use the drop-off area outside the Memorial Hall. Parents should not be double parking at this location and over the next few months there will be increased enforcement on site to ensure this does not happen. We have been in close discussion with Thames Valley Police and Parking Enforcement at the Council and there is support from these organisations to ensure that dangerous situations are not occurring.
- Driving and parking on Wharf Road can be stressful and lead to several negative impacts for everyone else trying to access the school. Just 10-minutes of walking per day can have untold health benefits (<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/walking-for-health/>). Please consider walking, wheeling and cycling to school – your children and dependents will enjoy this and thank you!
- The Wendover Arm canal towpath has also recently been resurfaced so cycling, scooting or walking to school is now possible all year long – please consider using this fantastic resource.
- If you need to drive, St. Annes Church car park on Aylesbury Road can be used as a 'Park-and-stride' location to drop-off in the morning, please use this rather than driving down Wharf Road looking for a space.
- If coming from the Aylesbury direction, consider using the bypass and dropping young people at the Witchell car park by the cricket ground- then you will avoid all the school traffic, and your young people get a short, pleasant walk along the Heron path.

There are so many options which will work better for our school and wider community. We have more ideas too and are keen to hear your views as well.

Let's work together to make our schools happy, safe, healthy places to be!



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MESSAGE FROM CHILTERN RAILWAYS

I am emailing from Chiltern Railways as I have been informed by a colleague in our economic crime team that there have been reports of **students from your school travelling on Chiltern services from Wendover specifically without a valid ticket**, as there have also been reports of students being generally disruptive in terms of noise levels on our trains. I've been told that they can be very well behaved, and assist vulnerable passengers off the train, but then go back to being disruptive, and there are always multiple ticket irregularities.

The reason I get in touch is because there can be severe consequences for travelling without a valid ticket specifically, especially over time as we do [backtrack where we have reasonable suspicion](#) that a passenger has been travelling historically **without a ticket, and this can result in thousands of pounds worth of penalties**. We'd like to ensure all passengers enjoy travelling with us and general disruption in terms of noise and playing around on our trains isn't on.

Can I please ask if you would be able to reiterate to your students the consequences of travelling without a valid rail ticket, and to ensure that they are not causing disturbances that can be avoided while travelling, not just with Chiltern, but on all public transport. I'd like to ensure that student communication takes place throughout the school before we do schedule specific revenue protection operations on this route given the frequency of fare evasion.

You could perhaps share that there are discounts on rail tickets for those aged 16-17 in sixth form available through [a 16-17 Railcard](#), which effectively extends the child discount for another two years. This costs just £30 for a year (£60 for two). For more information about penalty fares and the consequences of travelling without a valid ticket, we have a [page on our website](#). Here is our [policy for enforcement](#).

After a long day at work, our passengers want a stress-free trip home.

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SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PARENTS : Click [HERE](#) for practical tips

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY

Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.

2 USE A PREPAID CARD

Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!

3 PRACTISE BORROWING

Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or 'buy now, pay later' schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.

4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION

Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "scary adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.

5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND

Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever shop design (like placing sweets at the checkout) and offers such as '2 for 1' deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.

6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'

Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children pester you for treats while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.

7 ENCOURAGE SAVING

Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.

8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST

Motivate children by telling them about interest; you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that 1p doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest; parents and carers could also add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.

9 PAYING FOR CHORES

This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer; it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spenders. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.

10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS

Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected message or call and never give out their personal information.

Meet Our Expert

GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate campaigner for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/spending-and-saving>



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CHRISTMAS DINNER

**A
VERY**
*Merry
Christmas*
MENU

*Celebrate with Culinera
this December!*

Christmas turkey
with all the trimmings
or
Butternut squash red onion
and feta Wellington
with all the trimmings
to finish
Black forest chocolate brownie
Fresh fruit salad
Winter ripple meringue
with mixed berries

£4.40

by **culinera**



Every Student Thriving



Opening Hours Every day 8.15am - 8.45am

We have a good selection of second hand uniform items all at **no charge!**

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| blazers | jumpers |
| trousers | skirts |
| white shirts | PE kit items |

If you **need** an item or want to **borrow** or **swap** something for a different size please visit the shop during opening hours. For more information or to request an item please email [**uniformshop@johncolet.co.uk**](mailto:uniformshop@johncolet.co.uk)

We rely on donations so can't guarantee we will have all items in stock.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

STAY TRUE TO YOU

**Free online training sessions
for parents, carers and wider family
or community members**

Tuesday 12 November, 6.30pm–8.30pm (online) → [register in advance](#)
Thursday 21 November, 6.30pm–8.30pm (online) → [register in advance](#)

Course content:

Everyone is worried about the levels of violence in our community, particularly knife crime involving young people.

The Stay True to You campaign aims to prevent violence by taking a positive approach to supporting young people to help them build confidence and make the right decisions.

Open to all parents, carers and wider family members, these sessions are an opportunity to better understand the facts, including:

- Risk factors to crime and violence
- Exploitation and county drug lines
- Online harm
- How fear drives weapon carrying
- Legal consequences
- How to have those difficult conversations and create trusted relationships
- Sources of help and support

Tuesday 12 November 6.30pm–8.30pm (online)

Register in advance at bit.ly/stty-12nov2024

Thursday 21 November 6.30pm–8.30pm (online)

Register in advance at bit.ly/stty-21nov2024

Or visit the training page on the website:
staytrueto you.co.uk/upcoming-training-dates-parents/

Contact

info@staytrueto you.co.uk



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