



## Ready - Respectful - Responsible

### Parent Briefing 26.1.24

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that the **Misbourne school had to shut this week due to an unprecedented cyber attack**. There have been growing concerns regarding cyber attacks on schools and other public bodies and this is becoming more prevalent. **Our thoughts are with the staff and students of Misbourne who have had their daily lives and routines disrupted by this heinous act**. Schools have clear guidance on implementing policies and safety systems but these are never water-tight in an age of ever-evolving technology and we **simply cannot mitigate for every possibility**. It is a cursory reminder that we must be vigilant at an institutional as well as personal level - this week's safeguarding advice focuses on good smartphone habits that reduce safety risks and is worth considering and sharing the advice on offer..

We fully encourage our students to utilise their **entrepreneurial spirit** and as I sit and write this the **sixth form young enterprise students** are running **a movie evening for years 7 and 8 as part of a business venture**. Tickets have been sold, pizza and refreshments purchased and Shrek is about to be unleashed in all its vibrant glory! **Students were encouraged to bring duvets, pillows and get into 'sofa' mode**. It was a timely reminder that **our young people do need occasions to socialise in safe spaces together to develop their social skills and grow a sense of community**. It looks like a great evening and I get the feeling that we will see more in the future.

With **safe spaces in mind our Equality & Diversity group** would like me to share this announcement:

*"The Equality and Diversity group is delighted to introduce **the launch of a really empowering Ally group**. This group will happen during early lunchtime on Mondays, in the Sociology (So1) classroom located in the downstairs English block. **Our goal is to offer a friendly and inclusive space for students of all ages, where they can enjoy their meals inside and get helpful advice from our experienced sixth formers**. There is going to be a **question box, where students can anonymously ask questions**. We are planning on setting up a "Movie Monday", where we will be showing films throughout the lunch time, as well as having some games available for students. **We encourage everyone to join us in promoting inclusivity and creating a positive atmosphere within our school community**. Also, we're happy to announce that we've **got a dedicated adult supervisor who will make sure the space is safe and secure**"*

**This is empowering stuff and brilliant to see it being led by students for students**. It is becoming increasingly apparent that **people need spaces where they can articulate their thoughts and feelings about the world around them and their place within it** in an open and secure manner, with no fear of judgement. Being authentic and comfortable with ourselves is central to being able to contribute to wider communities and is part of the John Colet belief that every student should thrive in a safe and kind environment.

Take care - Ian Brierly

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

Wherever you read our newsletter from, there's a good chance you've seen plenty of weather in the last couple of weeks! With freezing temperatures chilling the UK, closely followed by Storm Isha lashing the country with wind and rain, we've all had to think about the power of nature. And whenever there's something interesting happening outside, there are questions from your children and a chance to discover and learn!

Here at Tooled Up we have an ever-expanding list of resources for engaging children in broadening their knowledge and finding out more about the world around them.

Do you know what a *weather bomb* is? We worked with meteorologist David Bowker to create [20 Fun Facts About Storms](#) to share with your children. If your little ones find fierce wind and lightning scary, it might help them to understand a bit more about the science behind the storm. You can follow storm facts with cloud facts, using David's [Types Of Clouds Quiz](#), perfect for the budding weather-watchers in your family.

After cloud facts, try fire facts! Try our [Science of Fire Quiz](#), from science teacher Lucy Haseler. Lucy also created this fun and educational list of [Questions for Bathtime](#). Every part of the day can be a learning opportunity, especially if it teaches you why your fingers and toes go wrinkly in the water!

If you're lucky enough to live on the coast, we have **beach science** activities for both [primary aged children](#) and [teens](#).

Even more inquisitive children – and their inquisitive parents – will love our [Learning Through Intrigue](#) questions covering such ground as why drinks are fizzy, why some people are left-handed and where freckles come from! For older children, our [Scientific Questions for Curious Teens](#) activity tackles some more in-depth topics.

Of course, learning about the natural world means engaging with the threats facing it. In this [podcast](#), Dr Verity Jones of the University of the West of England talks about climate change education, and how we can help our children through a barrage of dire warnings and anxiety.

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 [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people



7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### 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.



## 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)

## 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



Buckinghamshire  
Council





# Valentine's Postal Service



Order a small gift containing  
a chocolate, sweet and  
personalised message



**Price £2.00**



**50p extra for entrance  
song upon delivery**



Order yours from 6th form  
members at the canteen at  
break and lunchtime



Delivery during form time



**5-9th February**



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

Interested? Get in touch...



E: [wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](https://thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle)

Email [kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org](mailto:kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org) | [thepacecentre.org](http://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 2707807 | Registered Charity No. 101133