



# Every Student Thriving

28 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week I hand over the briefing to Mr Ballantyne who thought it would be great to share with parents and carers the experience of visiting Number 10 Downing street with Year 8 students:

## “Year 8 Students Visit 10 Downing Street

On **Friday, 31st January**, a group of our **Year 8 students** had the incredible opportunity to visit **10 Downing Street** as part of the prestigious **Lessons at No. 10** initiative. Accompanied by four members of staff, the students stepped through the iconic black door and into the heart of the British government, where they experienced a truly memorable day.

The visit began in the **State Dining Room**, where **Mr Clarke** delivered an engaging and interactive lesson on **Winston Churchill**. Students explored Churchill's leadership during World War II, his famous speeches, and his lasting impact on Britain. The session sparked lively discussion, with students demonstrating impressive knowledge, curiosity, and thoughtful contributions. Following the lesson, the group embarked on a guided tour of **Downing Street**, learning about its **rich history, famous residents, and daily operations**. They explored rooms where major decisions shaping the country have been made, gaining a unique insight into the workings of government.

A highlight for many was the chance to meet **Larry, the Chief Mouser**, who has been a Downing Street resident for over a decade. Students were delighted to see the famous feline in his home, adding an extra special touch to the experience.

Throughout the visit, our students represented the school exceptionally well. They showed **great enthusiasm, respect, and impeccable behaviour**, making a fantastic impression on the staff at Downing Street. Their insightful questions and keen engagement were praised by the organisers, and it was clear they made the most of this unique learning experience.

This once in a lifetime visit provided students with a deeper appreciation of British history and government. We are grateful to the **Lessons at No. 10** team for hosting such an inspiring and educational experience, and we are incredibly proud of our students for their exemplary conduct throughout the day.”

This is another fine example of the lengths that staff will go to create great opportunities for our students to enrich their thinking and spark their curiosity.

On another note can I remind parents and carers to ensure the uniform code is followed accordingly. This year has seen a marked improvement but we have noted, of late, a small group of girls wearing excessive jewellery and not wearing their blazer to school. The uniform is about promoting equality and a business oriented mindset, so we would appreciate your continued support in ensuring that the code is followed as your son/daughter steps out into the fresh morning air!

Take care - Ian Brierly & Kareem Ballantyne

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## Every Student Thriving

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>GCSE Additional mocks</b>	-	10 March
<b>Year 9 Consultation Evening</b>	-	13 March
<b>Year 7 Consultation Evening</b>	-	27 March
<b>End of Spring Term</b>	-	4 April (2.55 finish)

### WORLD BOOK MONTH

**World book month** begins on Monday 3rd March. We are very excited to be celebrating reading for pleasure as a school community for a full month. As part of the celebrations, all pupils will be given the first 10 minutes of every lesson across the curriculum to read for pleasure. Please remember that a reading book is an essential part of the school equipment, and every pupil should have a reading book with them at all times. They will definitely need it next week!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
6 MARCH 2025

### CURRENT VACANCIES

- Learning Support Assistants
- Business Studies Teacher
- Cover Supervisor
- Student Support Officer

Please check our website for further details [here](#).

### 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)

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

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **WHATSAPP**

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

With more than two billion active users, 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. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

**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 they want to message. Therefore, if a 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 the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

**FAKE NEWS**

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow 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.

**CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES**

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

**VIEW ONCE CONTENT**

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen 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 protection of privacy.

**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 is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user'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.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**EMPHASISE CAUTION**

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it 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.

**ADJUST THE SETTINGS**

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings 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 a 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**

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

**DISCUSS GROUP CHATS**

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

**THINK BEFORE SHARING**

Help children 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 that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

**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.





**The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



## Every Student Thriving

This Saturday marks Zero Discrimination Day 2025. Founded by the United Nations, it promotes inclusion and equality in all UN member countries, and the right of everyone to live a full and productive life.

The day highlights the need to combat inequalities of all kinds: gender, age, health status, sexual orientation, race and class.

At Tooled Up, celebrating diversity is a key part of our work with parents and schools. Our **resources** are **aimed at** encouraging acceptance and **helping children understand themselves and the different groups** in the world around them.

**If your child hears** or experiences **prejudicial language**, are they equipped to challenge it? We share tips in [Supporting Your Child to Step Away From and Challenge Harmful Talk in Their Peer Group](#). This resource also **includes useful advice for parents whose children are using denigrating language** towards groups of people.

For those with primary aged children, **we spoke to Vese Aghoghovbia**, founder of Philly and Friends **who explained the importance of younger children encountering diverse toys and stories** in everyday life. Listen to Vesa in this webinar [Representation in Early Years Toys and Books](#).

It is **important for children to be accepting of "non traditional" families** be that their own or that of their peers. Our activity [Fantastic Families](#) is a wonderful way **to open a conversation and explore different family types with primary aged children**.

the online world.

RAMADAN

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ARE YOU FASTING  
FOR  
**Ramadan?**

**IFTAR BOXES ARE AVAILABLE!**

**FROM 3RD MARCH TO 29TH MARCH**

Our kitchen team is preparing Iftar boxes daily. Please place your order the day before (or earlier if possible) to ensure availability. These boxes will be ready for collection at the end of each day.

TO PLACE AN ORDER, KINDLY  
CONTACT YOUR CATERING TEAM!

BOXES ARE £2.70 EACH, OR **FREE OF CHARGE**, IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A FREE SCHOOL MEAL

by **culinera**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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## Every Student Thriving

**Aylesbury United FC will be hosting their annual Community Day on Saturday 22nd March 2025** when The Ducks play Kidlington FC in our Southern League fixture (3pm kick off). There will be some **family fun and child-friendly activities within** the ground from 1.30pm and at half time, as well as the football match itself.

It will be **free entry for all those who complete the registration form** (linked below).

**The venue is The Meadow, Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE**, which is where Aylesbury United FC currently play their home games, as we have been homeless and playing out of town for the last 19 years.

Please find below a link where more details about the Community Day can be found including how to register for free entry. **Registration will close at midnight on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

<https://aylesbury.football/events/register-now-for-free-entry-to-the-2025-aylesbury-united-community-day>



### Register now for FREE entry to the 2025 Aylesbury United Community Day

This season's Community Day will take place on Saturday 22 March 2025 (Non League Day) when we welcome Kidlington to The Meadow (Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE) for our Pitching In Southern League Division One Central match.



# Every Student Thriving

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



### 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 ease 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.



## Wellbeing Online Workshops Monday 7pm-9pm



For parents and carers with child/ren in Years 10 and 11. Help your child manage their wellbeing and mental health. To book your FREE place, contact our enrolment team on 01296 383582, scan the QR code or click on the [link](#). For more information call/text Kathryn on 07770 641997



24 February - Y10 and 11: Help your child build confidence, friendships, and manage stress workshop (FMWB022)

3 March - Support your ADHD child at home workshop (FMAC135)



## Every Student Thriving

### JOHN HAMPDEN VACANCY



### The John Hampden School Wendover

### Midday Meals Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy from March 2025 for a Midday Meals Supervisor

Working hours would be 12 noon – 1.30pm Monday to Friday (7.5 hrs per week) term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children, however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Start date: as soon as possible in March 2025

Closing date: Monday 31st March 2025

The salary will be Bucks Pay Range 1A.5 (£23,104 Pro rata, £11.98 per hour)

If you are interested in this post please call the school office on: 01296 622629 or email: [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) to receive an application form.

Please return completed applications as soon as possible. Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and John Hampden School Wendover reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

#### **Safeguarding Statement**

**The successful candidate will have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as stipulated by the Child Protection Policy. Safer recruitment procedures are in place and any appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and statutory**