



Every Student Thriving

29 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

With just three weeks left the marathon that is the Autumn term is nearly completed. It has been much 'fresher' this week with the cold biting down on us hard. This does create additional challenges in the morning but it is good to see students thinking ahead to ensure they arrive at school on time. As parents please be wary of that extra 5 minutes needed to defrost the car or negotiate slippery pathways if necessary.

Year 11 have kicked off the mocks in great style. They have demonstrated excellent attitude and behaviours and have impressed our highly organised examination team. We still have a week to go so it's important that they keep up their positive mental attitude. Mock outcomes will give us a clear steer for each individual student and help us to understand where gaps in knowledge exist and where we need to target our teaching in the new year. This is vital in supporting students in their next steps beyond year 11.

We had a very well attended 'Into the Sixth' evening which showcased our revamped sixth form ethos. Led by Ms Fanchi the evening paid host to over 300 parents/carers and created a hive of activity and interest as students perused the courses on offer in our main hall. As an institution we have raised the bar for entry into our sixth form with a clear vision that we are moving from #growingcharacter to #growingleaders. That involves greater freedom and independence for our students within an excellent framework of support and enrichment designed to create effective leaders of the future. We are big enough to matter but small enough to care and places are limited.

Sticking to the theme of sixth form, as part of our commitment to Challenge Partners I was with a group of senior leaders from a variety of schools last week assessing and challenging a sixth form college graded as 'outstanding' nestled in the outer reaches of a relatively affluent part of London. It was a fascinating experience and gave me a great opportunity to search out good practice whilst also reflecting on how effective and supportive our own provision is. It was notable that our warm approach to students was echoed in this institution but also that our teaching was of a similar standard (if not a little more engaging!).

As the Christmas season begins to get into its stride let's all make sure that routines remain consistent and students are given that extra little nudge everyday regarding uniform and equipment just to keep them from drifting as we reach the end of term.

Take care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 13 Mocks begin	-	Thursday 12 December
Xmas Concert	-	Thursday 19 December
Last day of term	-	Friday 20 December
INSET day	-	Monday 6 January
Students return on...	-	Tuesday 7 January

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 WORK EXPERIENCE

Our year 10 and year 12 students will be taking part in work experience from 23rd to 27th June and this is an excellent opportunity to help prepare our students for their next steps. **If anyone is able to offer a placement** to any of our students please contact Mrs Sinacore, our Careers Adviser tsinacore@johncolet.co.uk.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

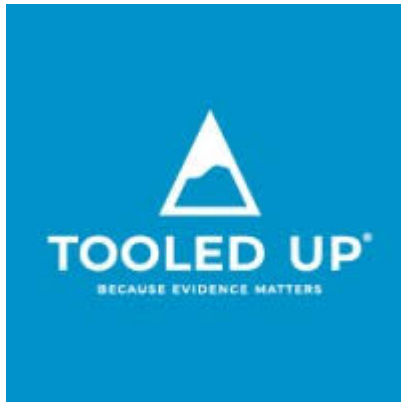
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>



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TOOLED UP ADVICE FOR PARENTS



White Ribbon Day takes place on November 25th each year. It is a global activism campaign dedicated to preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG).

With 1 in 3 women globally, experiencing sexual or physical violence in their lifetimes, it's never been more important to ensure that young people can identify and talk about the subject.

Dr Lisa Sugiura, Associate Professor in Cybercrime and Gender at the University of Portsmouth, made this [video](#) for Tooled Up giving an overview of gendered violence and sharing the latest research. If you're new to the topic of VAWG, or would like more information, try this resource for [parents](#) before discussing some of the themes with your child.

In this [podcast](#), domestic violence education expert Professor David Gadd discusses the best ways for parents and schools to teach boys (and girls) about good relationships and explores the topic of consent and boundaries.

In the UK, this year's theme for White Ribbon Day is "It starts with men." It highlights the importance of ensuring we connect with the boys and young men in our lives to talk through issues of misogyny and masculinity.

These [40 Family Conversation Questions](#) on misogyny and positive masculinity are perfect for discussing this sensitive topic at home.

Many parents understand that misogynistic ideas are spread online, and are worried about what their children might encounter on social media or at school. This [webinar](#) from Ellie Softley of Everyone's Invited explores how misogynistic ideology, such as that found in incel forums, is making its way into the mainstream, and how we can encourage young people to think critically about what they see and hear.

From Tooled Up's recent Reaching Boys Early conference, watch Dr Stephen Burrell's webinar [Cultivating Care and Connection with Boys](#). Dr Burrell discusses how boys' ideas of masculinity develop, and promotes practical tips that parents can use to help boys resist harmful narratives about gender.

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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
- trousers
- white shirts
- jumpers
- skirts
- 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 item please email uniformshop@johncolet.co.uk

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

Wendover Cricket Club

Join Wendover Girls Cricket

The **Girls Section** at Wendover Cricket Club welcomes new recruits to attend its winter indoor training programme.

When	Saturday 25th January - 13:00 to 14:00
Where	John Colet School sports hall
Duration	10 weeks excluding 23 rd February
Open to	Girls year 5 to 8 of any ability, soft balls will generally be used
Cost	1 st session free, £5.50 thereafter

For more info / to sign up
Contact: Jonathan Seabrook jseabrook@wendoveremail.co.uk or 07767-148 119

Needle felt your own Christmas decorations!

Wednesday 4th December
6:30 - 8:00 PM
All Ages

Friday 6th December
6:15 - 7:30PM
Years 5 & 6
7:45 - 9:00PM
Years 7 & 8

£2 Entry
For more info email:
admin@wendoveryouth.co.uk



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?



That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.





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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!