



Every Student Thriving

7 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a busy few weeks here at John Colet with students engaging in a plethora of opportunities and activities. I thought I'd give you a quick snapshot of how enriching life at John Colet can be:

No 10: Last Friday we were cordially and exclusively invited to Downing Street in London as part of their educational outreach programme. Mr Ballantyne, Mrs Sinacore, Mrs Pearcey and Mr Clarke ably escorted a group of Year 8 students into No 10 for a day of insight into the private and the public life of our prime minister.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: Mrs Lark ran the first full school council of the year and we were all extremely impressed with issues raised by the students and the way they articulated their thoughts and ideas. Mrs Lark has implemented a new system which focuses on leadership and empowerment of students and this has created some excellent opportunities for character and leadership development.

SIXTH FORM STUDENT AMBASSADORS: I meet regularly with the sixth form student ambassadors and they have been keen to reimagine the rewards system in our sixth form with a vision of providing tangible and meaningful incentives to enhance the culture of #growingleaders. They have also considered improvements in facilities from new doors to parking spaces.

RHS AWARD: We are very pleased, after several years of working through the award scheme, that our school has been awarded the RHS School Gardening Awards Level 5. This is the highest school award given by the RHS and students have had to demonstrate their gardening knowledge, awareness of the benefits of gardening and gardening in every season. The work will continue on developing the growing areas around the school with more pollinator patches planned and developing more habitats for wildlife around the site.

CHARITY: We had a lovely letter from Hector's House who were our identified local charity for the funds raised from the December non-uniform day: *'Thank you so much for your support for Hector's House. Your very kind donation helps us deliver essential education, raise awareness, and provide support for suicide prevention and mental health. We are deeply thankful for your kindness and generosity in making a difference for people in our communities' 🌟* The amount you have raised of £341.79 could help to fund sessions of therapy for people in crisis, that really couldn't happen without your help.'

Next week we continue our enrichment programme with one of our key annual events. On Wednesday we will be looking forward to welcoming nearly 30 exhibitors to our annual careers fair. This year we have a wide range of employers, universities and colleges attending and all students will be allocated a timeslot throughout the day to attend and find out more about the post 16 and post 18 options available.

All in all a busy and vibrant start to the year!

Take care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Careers Fair	-	13 February
Year 11 Consultation Evening (4.00-7.00)	-	13 February
Half-term begins	-	17 February
GCSE Food Practicals	-	24 February
GCSE Additional mocks	-	10 March
Year 9 Consultation Evening	-	13 March
Year 7 Consultation Evening	-	27 March

CURRENT VACANCIES

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

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

WHARF ROAD TRAFFIC SURVEY

The local traffic support group would be really grateful if you could fill in the survey below regarding traffic/parking concerns in Wharf Road. Your views would be very much welcomed!

[TRAFFIC SURVEY](#)

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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



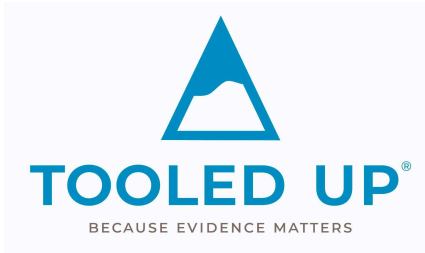
The National College®

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



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TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



The digital world has much to offer in terms of learning, resources and building relationships, but we all know it has a darker side too.

Safer Internet Day 2025 on February 11th is a global initiative that encourages individuals, schools, and organisations to engage in discussion about protecting personal information, combating cyberbullying, and fostering responsible internet use. It aims to help users of all ages make informed choices in order to navigate the online world safely.

At **Tooled Up** we've always delved deep into the research on internet safety, and **our** plethora of **resources cover** every angle from **parental controls** and **social media**, to **deepfakes** and **doxing**.

[Digital Risks and Harms: Fresh Insights](#) shares the **latest research** on **how children use** the **internet**, and the **harms** they can be exposed to. **In this webinar**, Professor Aiman El Asam guides us through the **results of the Cybersurvey**, an ongoing piece of **research** with **young people** in the UK **reporting** on their **online experiences**.

There are a number of downloadable resources included in [Raising a Child in the Digital Age](#) that **encourage parents to consider what a healthy online life looks like**, and the role that the internet plays in children's lives as they grow up.

If your child has access to a device, should you try to control what they view?

Researcher Dr Maria Stoilova of the London School of Economics joined us for this fascinating podcast on the [Pros and Cons of Parental Controls](#).

Finally, **this popular webinar asks** [What Exactly is a Smartphone-Free Childhood?](#) Dr Kathy Weston discusses **important questions about screen time** and the rationale behind delaying children's transition into the online world.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Half Term is nearly here and what better way to spend a day than giving back to the environment with the fantastically awesome Chiltern Rangers. Great for families, Duke of Edinburgh students and pretty much everyone. Come alone or bring a friend.

Follow the link below to see what's happening in and around High Wycombe and sign up to any or all of the sessions you like the look of. No experience is necessary, we provide everything you need including hot chocolate and biscuits!

If you have any questions or need more information, please email info@chilternrangers.co.uk.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/february-half-term-4030063>

Diana Crawcour
Business Manager
Chiltern Rangers CIC
01494 474486



FEBRUARY HALF TERM



Come and join us this February Half Term.

Enjoy your local woodlands, parks and the great outdoors!

Why not bring the whole family?



No Experience
Necessary!



Engaging Activities



All Ages Welcome!

JOHN HAMPDEN VACANCY

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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 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



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Year 7 to 8 only RCN: 1165035

empower U

empowerU is a 6-week interactive mental health training program designed for students (aged 11-13) to develop foundational mental health first aid and essential life skills.

Benefits for young people:

1. Practical tips for self-care and resilience
2. Strategies to stand up to bullying and embrace inclusion
3. Navigate the digital world and staying safe
4. How to build a stronger, more positive mindset

Why Join?
Learn to tackle challenges, grow your confidence, and create your path to a happier, healthier YOU!

Where and When?
Starting from: Tuesday, 25th February / 4-6pm
Location: Southcourt Family Centre Plus, Aylesbury
Register: mindofthestudent.org.uk/empoweru

Mind of the Student is a registered charity (1165035) in England and Wales.

JOHN COLET SCHOOL

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SHOP

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

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

BINGO night

Friday 14 February
Eyes down at 7.30pm

Wendover Memorial Hall
Tickets cost £10 per person
Raffle and bar from 7pm

chilternsneurocentre.org/bingo

Registered Charity Number: 800853

Buckinghamshire Family Learning

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 (FMW/B022)

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

