



Ready - Respectful - Responsible

Parent Briefing 8.12.23

Dear Parent/Carer,

This will be the last parent briefing of this term as next week we will be sending out our half-termly newsletter.

As I was driving in one morning this week there was a report on the radio concerning striking teachers elsewhere in the country who were **taking action over some extreme behaviours being demonstrated by students and, more disturbingly, parents.** It was an interesting report as the union representative was highly critical of **general public service cuts on family support and the impact this has had on parents and carers.** It is worth noting that the concerning behaviour was only from a small number of young people in the relevant school but the lack of support from carers and parents was severely impacting on the running of the school, as senior leaders were spending an inordinate amount of time dealing with poor approaches from such a small minority of parents.

I have noted in my previous headship and also at JCS that this is becoming an increasing issue. More so since COVID. **Schools need to maintain a positive, safe culture for adults and students.** On so many occasions I feel that with an open mind, and a positive approach to working in partnership, issues can be resolved amicably even if both parties do not see eye to eye. **School policies are critical to the orderly running of a school.** However, once in a while a situation arises that seems not to 'fit', in such cases constructive dialogue is a prerequisite for a successful outcome. **Whilst pondering this I wondered what advice I could offer the carers of our students. Here's two which I feel are helpful:**

- **Please where possible do not send an email 'in the moment'** as these can frequently be quite emotive and can appear aggressive. I write them too but tend to compose them as a document then re-read them to ensure my tone is correct and proper and I've removed all the 'vent' (Including the emotive adjectives.) **Then** I paste into an email and hit 'send'.
- **Fact find:** There are two sides to every story so gaining the school's view as well as your child's is a good form of role-modelling for young people and allows greater objectivity. This strikes a less accusatory tone and is more curious in nature; it is also fairer.

A new house reward will be piloted next week as the house with the highest points this term as of today will be given the privilege of a non-uniform day. A letter will be sent to parents/carers of the relevant students in the winning house. **This will indicate which house is the winner and those students only will be able to wear non-uniform.** If this is successful we aim to make it a termly reward.

Finally, it's a strange old world when 'Disney' gets mentioned as a potential safeguarding issue but the safeguarding advice poster for this week (See below) has some good general advice about how to manage access and content on streaming services such as Disney+.

Take care

Ian Brierly

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Year 11 Mocks** - 30.11.23 → 14.12.23
- **Christmas Concert** - 14.12.23 (6.30pm start)
- **End of Term + Xmas Jumper day** - 15.12.23
- **1st Day of Spring term** - 04.01.24
- **Year 13 Mocks begin** - 04.01.24
- **Year 9 Consultation Evening** - **11.01.24**
- **Year 8 Consultation Evening** - **18.01.24**

BUS ISSUES

It has come to the school's attention that there has been some **misuse of the school bus in the morning**, with children without passes managing to board the bus. This has led to eligible children not being able to board and being left behind. **Please kindly remind your children that they must not board the school bus without an official pass.**

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

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](#).

Reprographics Technician: A very important role helping staff prepare resources for students. The working pattern for this role can be very flexible.

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.

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

Committed To Excellence

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Rutherford 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.



Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f88add3c8b0c4919013eac0307037010a / https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=952616b1e1aac00590e0ad191910171710a / <https://help.disneyplus.com/terms/Brands/DisneyPlus/whats-new/prevention/#:~:text=Be%20wary%20of%20ads%20that,us%20to%20word%20for%20the%20best%20of%20both%20worlds>

UNIFORM

- **Shoes** - Please check that they will conform - there are diagrams on the website to help.
- **Piercings** - the rule is for a small, single, plain stud in the earlobe of each ear. Getting additional piercings that are not healed in time for the start of term means spending time in isolation until the item can be removed.
- Optional plain black v-neck jumper (worn with, not instead of the blazer). **A number of black sweatshirts have crept in. These are not acceptable.**
- **Plain outdoor coat**, no large logos. So no hoodies, zipped or otherwise.
- **No visible body art**, please ensure holiday tattoos are removed.
- Clear nail varnish may be worn but **fingernails must be short and nail extensions of any kind are not permitted.**
- **False eyelashes are not permitted.**
- **Jewellery** (except a watch and earrings as stated above) is not permitted. In the case of jewellery and other accessories, the student will be asked to remove the item, which will be confiscated. A parent/carer will then need to come into school to collect the item in line with school policy.

The full uniform policy can be viewed in the policies section of the school website.

WENDOVER PROPOSED SKATEPARK



VISIT OUR CROWDFUNDER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUPPORT US!

SCAN ME WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



THERE IS A SEVERE LACK OF FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WENDOVER AND WE ARE KEEN TO PROVIDE A SKATEPARK AS A FOCAL POINT

RECEIVE REWARDS IN RETURN FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Visit the Crowdfunder web page:
www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wendover-skatepark



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 for info

Interested? Get in touch...

E: wendoverladiesnetball@hotmail.com
Insta: [@wendoversparrowhawks](https://www.instagram.com/wendoversparrowhawks)



COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

3rd Thursday of each month!

Collecting positive ideas for the future of Wendover!

