

Ready - Respectful - Responsible

9 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to the parent who contacted us regarding the **resolution issue with the safeguarding poster**. I will now attach a link to a higher resolution in the title banner which should now allow parents/carers to access a version of any poster I share that is more legible.

A huge thank you to Mrs Sinacore and her team for the excellent **careers fair** which took place on Wednesday of this week. Every student had an opportunity to visit the fair and engage with employers and further education institutions. It was a very engaging experience and feedback from students, staff and the relevant companies was very positive.

This week we began to finalise our Year 11 support programme on the run up to the final examinations. This involves revision techniques, an after school programme, a boost day, assemblies and weekly reward incentives. **The whole programme is predicated on a 'positive mental attitude'.** Many students did well on their mocks but for others it was a wake up call. Fundamentally I am of the view that every child has the potential to move at least two grades between mocks and the actual examinations. All it takes is a 'can do' attitude and the willingness to commit to hard work and prioritise a three month period that effectively impacts on the rest of their lives.

To kick off here is the link to <u>TOP TIPS FOR REVISION</u> and also a link for the <u>AFTER</u> SCHOOL REVISION ROTA.

We have also had information from the examinations regulator **regarding Artificial Intelligence and assessment.** I've included the poster below for your information. The vast majority of young people will fully understand the implications of the use of AI to cheat examinations, however it is still vital that we make the implications of using this clear.

This week sees the launch of Focus Week. Initially, just to Year 7 and 8 but this will be followed by Year 9 after half term. Focus Week is a fantastic opportunity for students to make those golden memories, taking place from Monday 24th to Friday 28th June 2024. All students in year 7 to 9 will be off timetable, with Year 10 and 12 off engaging with work experience during this time. Students not attending the planned residentials over this week to Bushcraft, PGL and Cornwall will have the chance to work on their skills of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication; whilst also building their cultural capital and, ultimately, having fun along the way.

Students are encouraged to take up as many of the opportunities available as possible, with financial support available for those families in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant or Free School Meals. More details will be released by the finance team in the coming days, but please encourage your children to be excited to foster new friendships and learn new skills. **Should you have questions then please direct them towards either the Finance team or Mr Crawford.** Here's to great weather and lots of fun!

Take care - Ian Brierly

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

• INSET day - 19.02.24

Return to school
 20.02.24

• Year 10 Consultation Evening - 22.02.24

• Year 7 Consultation Evening - 21.03.24

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

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.

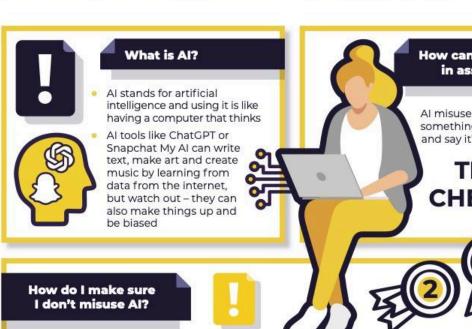
SAFEGUARDING SUBSTANCE AWARENESS - SNUS

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



JCQ Al and Assessments A quick guide for students



How can AI be misused in assessments?

Al misuse is when you take something made using Al and say it's your own work.

THIS IS CHEATING!







- Name the Al tool you used
- o Add the date you generated the content
- o Explain how you used it
- o Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got

Declare it's all your own

work - When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references

What happens if I misuse AI?

If you've misused Al, you could lose your marks for the assessment - you could even be disqualified from the subject.

Know the rules

O You're not allowed to use Al

tools when you're in an exam

o Your teachers will tell you if you're

doing your coursework - the rules

will depend on your qualification

allowed to use AI tools when

o Even if you're allowed to use AI

tools, you can't get marks for

content just produced by AI -

your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work

DON'T RISK IT!



REMEMBER

Misusing AI is cheating!

Know the rules Talk to your teachers Reference clearly

TOOLED UP FOR PARENTS



MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS.

What can we do within family life to promote, boost and protect children's mental health?

An important first step is to ensure that our children are able to voice concerns: talk about anything that upsets or distresses them, and access trusted and supportive adults. A great way to prepare the ground for these open conversations is to talk with children about who they would go to for help when they need it. Younger children might enjoy our Five Fingers of Support resource, while older children might be encouraged to map out support with our Who Is There For Me? planner.

The quality of relationships that our children enjoy in their lives is fundamentally important for mental health and wellbeing. Many parents, though, recognise the challenge of juggling career needs and family time. We spoke to Dr Gauri Seth for this <u>webinar on connecting with our children</u> whilst leading a high-stress lifestyle. If you have a child who lives apart from you, you can get some ideas for sustaining connection in this <u>webinar</u>.

For younger children, play is vital for learning to build relationships and is proven to benefit mental health, reducing anxiety and increasing social and emotional competence. This <u>video</u> contains tips for facilitating high-quality play with your children, which is also a great way to connect with them. For older children you can be a little braver and involve them in a conversation about family life. These <u>conversation starters</u> about family values are a great way to consciously consider and strengthen family connections.

Never be afraid to 'lean in' as a parent and to ask what is going well for your child or what has been tricky for them recently. <u>Debriefs at dinnertime</u> serve as important occasions to talk about daily challenges, model coping strategies or promote gratitude. Tune into this <u>podcast</u> with Cambridge University's Mishika Mehrota all about how dinnertime chats can improve children's mental health.

Please remember that within the Tooled Up platform, you will find interviews with many eminent psychiatrists and clinical psychologists who offer informative responses to a variety of common questions. For starters, try our <u>Q&A</u> with Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Anna Conway Morris, Professor Tamsin Ford's <u>talk</u> on improving young people's mental health, Dr Dennis Ougrin's <u>webinar</u> on supporting young people who self-harm, and Dr Meinou Simmons' <u>Q&A</u> on mental health in children



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SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION



Mr Crawford Deputy Headteacher DŠL



Be Safe, **Be Kind**

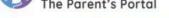


Mrs Rowland *Operational Safeguarding Lead DDSL

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





- · Do you have an autistic child?
- · Are you recognising difference in your child and you're exploring neurodivergence?

NEW ONLINE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR PARENTS

Our new service can help. We're a charity founded in Buckinghamshire in 2001 offering specialist education and support to children with sensory, communications are communicative to the communicative services of the communicative services are considered to the cons and interaction differences.

We believe every child has the right to high quality education & support and that whole-family well-being is vital if a child is to achieve the best outcomes.

The Parent's Portal was created from having worked with parents and carers and listened to their needs. We can now offer an online solution to help parents to better understand their child's needs and differences and also navigate the SEN



For £10° per household per month, The Parent's Portal offers 24/7 access to:

- Information & guidance to help you support your child's journey through home, school and social life.
- Content curated by practitioners with 20+ years lived experience.
- Evolving library of videos, workshops, forums and webinars.
- Practical strategies and tactics to try at
- home & in school. Guidance on EHCPs & the SEN process.
- · A non-judgmental peer support network, to exchange ideas, feel listened to and affirmed.



The Portal is so easy to use and it's packed with helpful stuff. We just wish we had samething like this when our little boy was growing up. We had nowhere to turn, so this would been a lifeline for our family." Portal User, June 2023

Join today: www.portal.autismearlysupport.org.uk



Services for children & families

Circle Centre Nursery (formerly known as The Puzzle Centre) established in 2001, our specialist pre-school setting near Buckingham has had 4 consecutive "Outstanding" Ofsted reports. We have a multi-disciplinary team who offer a needs-led, specialist curriculum for children age 2-5 years with sensory, communication and interaction differences.

Therapies & Assessments Our speech & language and occupational therapists can work directly with children to offer either one-off assessments or ongoing programmes of support. Our assessments and reports are often used to support EHCP applications.

Parent & Carer Support is integral to all of services as we believe whole family well-being is key to achieving the best outcomes for a child.

"Words can't quite describe how grateful we are for all the support and love you have given our family. You have taught our son so much, Helped him to express himself and how to experience different things - it means the world to us. Every day we thank our lucky stars that we are part of such a wonderful community."



Consultations with our specialist therapists or teachers who work with practitioners in their own classrooms/schools or with specific

Support & training from our specialist team to enable you to improve your autism practice in your school or local

authority.

Bespoke, intensive intervention tallored on request to meet the needs of your setting or service.

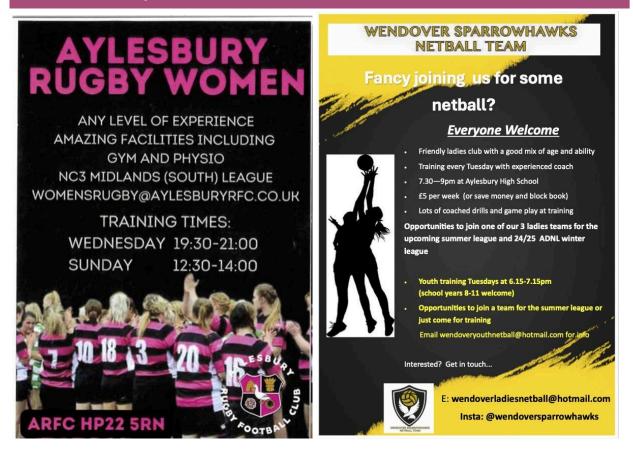


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LOCAL UPDATES / EVENTS



COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

3rd Thursday of each month!

Collecting positive ideas for the future of Wendover!



