



Every Student Thriving

13 June 2025

Dear parent/carers,

There is no doubt that recruitment of teaching staff across the country is becoming ever more challenging. Teaching is an all consuming profession made up of highly qualified,



caring and committed professionals who give us their all. They have always had many demands placed upon their time and energy - the advent of increased use of email and the impact of COVID seems to have sent some of these demands into overdrive in recent years ... and yet they continue to care and do their best. I was struck many years ago about the potential number of interactions a teacher may undertake in one day - at least 1500. This includes decision making, questioning, pupil support, instruction, parental communications, collaborations and of course ... marking!

Aligned to this is all of the insane work of every adult in an educational community whose efforts underpin everything a school delivers. LSA's, receptionists, finance roles, technicians, admin staff and student support workers all add value to the day to day running of a school (and in many cases keep the ship afloat!)

With that in mind Wednesday of next week is officially 'THANK A TEACHER DAY' - This day is about appreciating the hard work **of all those who help create an impact on children and young people across early years, schools, and colleges.** The work they do is vital to opening up opportunities for children and young people. It would be great to remind ourselves how valuable and much needed these professionals are. If you or your children would like to send a thank you to ANY member of our staff you can send a

[free personalised e-card](#)

to express your gratitude. It's a simple way to make someone's day and acknowledge the vital work happening in education in your local school.

REMINDER : All Year 11 students who have accepted their conditional offer to JCS Sixth Form are reminded to confirm their attendance at our Induction Day by logging into their account on Applicaa by Monday 16 June. During the Induction Day on Friday 4 July students will find out about life in the sixth form, try taster lessons in their chosen subjects and discover more about the careers and next step opportunities that we offer. We warmly encourage all offer holders to attend. If your child is unable to attend, please email sixthformadmissions@johncolet.co.uk

Take care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

**** PARENT ALERT ****

We have been alerted by some parents that an ex-pupil of the school is distributing vapes in the community. This may be taking place after school as students make their way home. We would urge you to check school bags/blazers etc for vapes and please to report anything untoward to us a.s.a.p.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FOCUS & Year 10 Work Experience week	-	23 -27 June
Year 6 Induction Days	-	1 & 2 July
Year 12 Induction Day	-	4 July
Sports Day	-	8 July

CAREERS

Work Experience

We still have a number of our year 10 students looking for a work experience placement for 23rd-27th June. If you are able to offer a placement please contact Mrs Sinacore, our careers adviser at wex@johncolet.co.uk, we are particularly keen to find placements in construction, carpentry or sports related roles.

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor
- Geography / Business Studies teacher

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

SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION

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

YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY - 4 JULY

Year 11 students who have accepted their conditional offer to JCS Sixth Form are invited to our Sixth Form Induction Day on Friday 4 July. During this day students will find out about life in the sixth form, try taster lessons in their chosen subjects and discover more about the careers and next step opportunities that we offer. Students will be sent more information on the day by email over the next few weeks.

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Year 12 Induction Day at
John Colet School



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Friday 4 July 2025

Conditional offer holders are invited to
spend the day at JCS
8:30am–2:30pm

**TASTER
LESSONS**

**MAKE NEW
FRIENDS**

**MEET THE
TEAM**

**TALK TO
STUDENTS**

More info to follow!

#GrowingLeaders

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PARENT SUPPORT : Click [HERE](#) for practical tips



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

Real
Fake

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

CENSORED

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



The natural environment is precious to us all - being outdoors gives us an escape from the busy world of work and education, and offers our children new opportunities for learning and pleasure.

An increasing amount of **research confirms** what many parents and educators know intuitively: **spending time in natural spaces** and **exploring the outdoors** can **bring** real and lasting **benefits to wellbeing, self-esteem** and **social skills** development.

These Tooled Up resources will help children to explore, have fun and learn in natural spaces.

Our list of [75 Things to Do Outside](#) is **packed with suggestions for primary-aged** children who need a little encouragement to step into the outside world! Why not set a challenge for your child to see how many they can complete?

This **downloadable guide** to [Beach Science for Teens](#) offers **enriching, challenging activities and concepts** that are perfect **for older children** visiting the coast.

We all want our children to have an enjoyable, but safe time in the sun. **Sun safety** is an **essential skill for all children to learn**, especially when they're growing into independence. This resource on [Keeping Children and Teens Safe in the Sun](#) **was created by a Consultant Dermatologist** and will help you ensure your family are protected on scorching summer days.



75 Things To Do Outside



Beach Science For Teens



Keeping Children and Teens Safe in the Sun

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT / ACTIVITIES



The Parent's Portal - a free online support tool for Buckinghamshire parents

To provide early help and guidance and an online community of support, Buckinghamshire Council have partnered with specialist local charity Autism Early Support, to offer parents unlimited access to The Parent's Portal.

This is a self-guided learning tool, designed for parents of children aged 2-17 years who:

- Have noticed differences in their child and they're exploring neurodivergence.
- Have Googled, 'is my child autistic?' or 'what is ADHD?'
- Have an autistic child(ren).
- Are awaiting a neurodevelopmental assessment.

Since its launch on 1 December 2024, nearly 700 Buckinghamshire families have signed up.



Scan the QR code to register or visit portalautismearlysupport.org.uk/bucks-registrations

Using the Parent's Portal

The Parent's Portal by AES is an online resource that contains:

- **Resources to watch and read** - A multimedia library of information available to view and download, available 24/7, covering topics such as reasonable adjustments to school distress, neurodiversity and SaLT, and use of medication.
- **Live workshops and parent support groups** - Interactive sessions on key topics, bookable in advance, and delivered by speakers with lived experience and professionals in the field.
- **Discussion forums** - Exchange ideas and perspectives with parents and practitioners.

Recent feedback from parents:

94% of parents felt they had a better understanding on topics after attending workshops.

82% felt better equipped to support their child or young person.



The resources are split into four sections:

- Understanding my child
- Supporting my child with education
- Supporting my child at home
- Family relationships and sibling support

No referral is required for families to use the Parent's Portal, and registration with Autism Early Support is simple and straightforward.



Funded by





Head to be part of

Family Hub Network

Buckinghamshire



How to... Move up to Secondary School Course for year 6s

Getting ready to move up to secondary school? Not sure what to expect? Our 6-week course could help.

We will cover:

- what to expect at secondary school
- making friends and dealing with peer pressure
- tackling your fears and worries
- getting organised

For more information and to book your place scan the QR code.

If you need help email: familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Monday 9 June to Monday 14 July 2025



Aylesbury Southcourt Family Centre Plus



4:00pm to 5:00pm



SCAN ME



CULTURE DAY

Thursday 3rd July

TICKETS:

- Standard Ticket: £1.50 - 2 dishes
- Premium Ticket: £2.50 - 3 dishes
- Deluxe Ticket: £4.50 - 5 dishes
- Unlimited Ticket: £6.00 - Eat as much as you like

FOOD WILL BE SERVED FROM THE BEGINNING OF BREAKFAST UNTIL THE END OF LUNCHTIME. TICKETS WILL BE ONLY ABLE FOR PURCHASE OUTSIDE THE HALL (WHERE THE EVENT WILL BE TAKING PLACE)

BAKE SALE:

Mini cakes, Biscuits, Cookies - 75p

Cupcakes, Biscuits, Chocolate, Fudge - £3.00

Cake slices, Red velvet - £1.50

(NOT INCLUDED WITH TICKET)

Help us raise money for children involved in conflict

