



Every Student Thriving

14 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have been captivated by several issues in the news this week but one in particular caught my eye : **School readiness.**

A coalition of early-years educators in England, endorsed by Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, has developed a **“school-readiness” skills checklist** aimed at helping parents prepare children aged four for reception classes. Key skills include toilet training, using cutlery, taking turns, sharing toys, recognizing their names, hanging coats, paying attention, and managing emotional expression. The guidance responds to teacher complaints about children arriving at school without basic skills. A survey by Kindred Squared revealed differing views between parents and teachers on school-readiness, with many parents believing their children were ready, but teachers disagreeing.

The initiative aims to bridge this knowledge gap and ensure equal opportunities for all children from their first day of school. Concerns have also been raised about **“lockdown babies”** born during the Covid pandemic, showing **widespread speech and language difficulties, exacerbated by increased screen time and reduced home conversation.**

Another initiative that I heard about was a primary school instructing their younger children **how to brush their teeth.** This sounded very well organised in a fun fashion and was aimed at creating habits and routines that last for a lifetime. But controversy surrounded the notion of what the parent/carer role was in all of this.

Both of these notions struck me as **equally troubling and encouraging.** We have certainly experienced a small number of students in recent years who have not seemed school ready. Equipment issues, inability to adhere to boundaries , tantrum based responses to basic, polite instructions have all been notable in their increase. Communities and schools responding to this through routine based initiatives is a good example of public service impact - however, on the flip side, what is happening with some aspects of how we are promoting the importance and responsibility of parenting?

Jonathan Haidt, the well respected American social-psychologist, has written an excellent book entitled **‘The Anxious Generation’** which makes the argument that children are being rewired by technology at critical development points and not by the usual ‘play based’ human interactions of old. This leads to all sorts of **anxiety inducing habits,** reduced emotional resilience and an inability to manage emotions that would have previously been worked out through social ‘play’ and some coaching from parents.

Parents do need refreshed support and guidance in this era of heightened technological influence which is essentially overpowering their influence - the need for working together in partnership for our young people is stronger than it has ever been. **‘Partnership power’** is the way and where this has been strong at John Colet we have seen good impact. So, I feel we do need to get back to adults coalescing in communities that aid our young people in becoming ready for school, ready to learn and ready for life.

Take care - Ian Brierly

Ready - Respectful - Responsible



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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 7 Consultation Evening
End of Spring Term

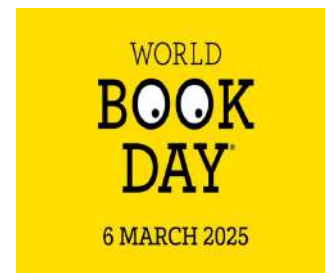
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27 March
4 April **(2.55 finish)**

WORLD BOOK MONTH

As part of our world book month celebrations, we are looking forward to welcoming the popular author Adam Connors to speak to year 8 and 9 pupils next week. If you would like to order any signed copies of Adam's books following the event, the link to order books is:

[Bookshop — Authors Abroad](#) .



Parents are asked to add their child's name and form at checkout. Please order books by 2nd April and they will be posted to arrive at school with signed bookplates in.

TRAIN DISRUPTION

Please be aware that in a couple of weeks there will be disruption to the train service from Aylesbury into Wendover during the school travel hours. We will post further information in due course.

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Business Studies Teacher
- Cover Supervisor

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

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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READING SKILLS : Click [HERE](#) for practical tips



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can contact with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Upscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®



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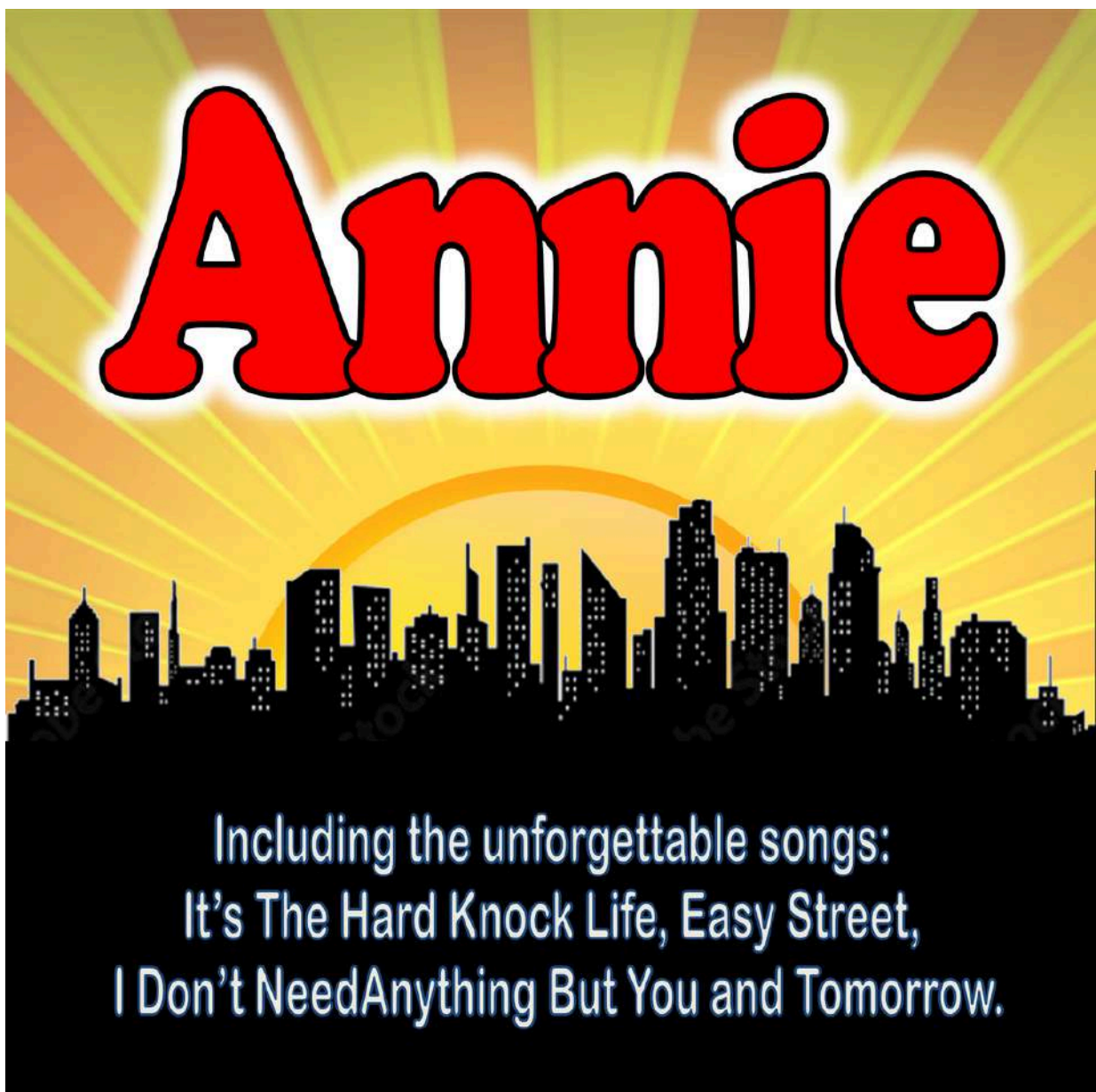
ELGIVA THEATRE - ANNIE THE MUSICAL

A golden opportunity this week to support local theatre and a John Colet Student.

Alice Cockroft in year 9 will be playing Annie in Annie at The Elgiva next week. Her shows are Thursday night (13 March) and Saturday night (15 March) .

Tickets are still available here

<https://elgiva.com/annie-panda-players/>



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QUIZ NIGHT !!

Friday 21st March

MEGA RAFFLE

QUIZ

JOHN COLET SCHOOL

PRODUCTION FUNDRAISER

CASH ONLY
18 + OVER

Fully Licensed Bar!
Bar opens at 18:15
Last orders at 22:30

Quiz starts at 19:00

PRIZES

Cash prize for the winners

Bottle of wine to the runners up

Max Team size 6
£10 Entry Per Person

John Colet School Canteen on Friday 21/03/25, arrive at Reception from 18:15

Scan to Sign Up!

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RAMADAN

**ARE YOU FASTING
FOR
Ramadan?**

IFTAR BOXES ARE AVAILABLE!

FROM 3RD MARCH TO 29TH MARCH

Our kitchen team is preparing Iftar boxes daily. Please place your order the day before (or earlier if possible) to ensure availability. These boxes will be ready for collection at the end of each day.

**TO PLACE AN ORDER, KINDLY
CONTACT YOUR CATERING TEAM!**

BOXES ARE £2.70 EACH, OR **FREE OF CHARGE**, IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A FREE SCHOOL MEAL

by **culinera**

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT


**sing out for
mental health**



12th April 2025
Aylesbury
Waterside Theatre

Hundreds of Buckinghamshire singers join forces **to raise awareness of the impact of singing on mental health** in a ground breaking concert.


With host
Andy Collins

Scan the QR Code for tickets





www.singoutfor.org

 **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 (FMWB022)

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Mind Morning:
Theme - ADHD**



CREATING A **FREE SPACE FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS** TO MEET, MINGLE AND NETWORK WITH OTHERS WHO CAN RELATE, WHILST ENGAGING WITH VARIED TOPICS, TO HELP LEARN NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT AND BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR CHILDREN.

TO BOOK ON SCAN QR CODE BELOW
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

SCAN HERE



Monday 31st March 2025	9:30am - 10.30am	THE GATEWAY, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF,
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**FRIDAY THE 21ST OF
MARCH IS
WORLD
DOWN SYNDROME
DAY**



PEOPLE WHO HAVE DOWN'S SYNDROME WILL HAVE SOME LEVEL OF LEARNING DISABILITY. THIS MEANS THEY'LL HAVE A RANGE OF ABILITIES. THEY MIGHT NEED MORE REGULAR CARE

ON 21 MARCH, CHOOSE SOME SOCKS THAT ARE GOING TO GET NOTICED!

THEY MIGHT BE MISMATCHED SOCKS OR YOUR BOLDEST AND MOST COLOURFUL SOCKS, WHATEVER TAKES YOUR FANCY!





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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Aylesbury United FC will be hosting their annual Community Day on Saturday 22nd March 2025 when The Ducks play Kidlington FC in our Southern League fixture (3pm kick off). There will be some **family fun and child-friendly activities within** the ground from 1.30pm and at half time, as well as the football match itself.

It will be **free entry for all those who complete the registration form** (linked below).

The venue is The Meadow, Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE, which is where Aylesbury United FC currently play their home games, as we have been homeless and playing out of town for the last 19 years.

Please find below a link where more details about the Community Day can be found including how to register for free entry. **Registration will close at midnight on 18th March 2025.**

<https://aylesbury.football/events/register-now-for-free-entry-to-the-2025-aylesbury-united-community-day>



Register now for FREE entry to the 2025 Aylesbury United Community Day

This season's Community Day will take place on Saturday 22 March 2025 (Non League Day) when we welcome Kidlington to The Meadow (Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE) for our Pitching In Southern League Division One Central match.