



Every Student Thriving

25 April 2025

Dear parent/carers,

Recently our Year 12 students won awards at the EKFB Carbon Heroes Project designing a product that could help reduce the carbon footprint of the project. The team worked with mentors [Chris O'Malley](#) from EKFB and [Neil Nightingale](#) from Speedy Hire. The team presented their idea to senior executives on 1st April and, fantastically, we won several key awards.



Neil Nightingale from speedy Hire commented prior to the awards: ***"The innovative thinking and creativity (of the students) has been outstanding; they are***

a credit to your school". He also followed up with some great feedback to Mrs Sinacore who was critical to our success: ***"It has been a pleasure and wonderful experience ... to be part of this valuable project . Many thanks for welcoming me into your School environment and having faith in me . I must say what an incredible School environment you have and a fantastic teaching and leadership team . Most importantly I want to thank you personally for believing in this and giving the students the opportunity; motivation and encouragement to get this over the line as successfully as they did. Without everything you personally did for them this wouldn't have been possible ."***

Our students gained the award for **best pitch, best innovation and team player award**. Mrs Sinacore and the school were very proud of the team and the effort they put in as well as the great feedback from industry experts.

Next week John Colet Young Enterprise Students will be presenting at the Bucks Young Enterprise evening so we wish them all the best as our entrepreneurial spirit continues to flourish!

We also had some lovely feedback from parent/carers following our Easter Barcelona trip: ***"I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks to all the staff for organising an amazing trip to Barcelona which I know will provide a lifetime of memories for all the kids involved. My son couldn't stop talking about how much he enjoyed the football matches, playing football on the beach and the theme park. The experience has clearly made a lasting impression on him, and I am grateful for the care and dedication that went into planning every detail of the trip."***

"I just wanted to thank the PE department for giving my daughter the opportunity to go to Spain with the school...dealing with teenagers on a residential is not an easy job! My daughter had such a great time on the tour and was sad when she was home and it was all over. These trips are so good for personal skills development and so necessary, but only possible if staff are prepared to take on the challenge!"

Take care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INSET Day	-	2 May
Bank Holiday	-	5 May
Year 8 History Trip	-	10 May

THE MEDICAL ROOM

We have had some recent issues with parents/carers who are telling their child to come to the medical room if they are feeling unwell for our medical officer to call to get them collected. A number of these students are well enough to stay in school and when this is explained the students become rude and confrontational using the notion that 'my mum/dad said..'

Please support us by ensuring that the right messages are sent to your child about remaining in school. If you send your child into school then they are well enough to be here and the medical officer is eminently qualified to judge if a student should be sent home. Thank you.

CAREERS

Lunchtime Employer Talk Monday 28th April

TEAM Academy will be coming in at 1.15pm on Monday 28th April to talk about engineering and mechanic apprenticeships within the automotive sector. They were very busy during our career fair so have kindly offered to come back and talk to interested students.

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

- Science Technician
- Cover Supervisor
- Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form

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

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



Dear parents and carers,

We hope that you and your families are settling into the new summer term. We are writing as we wanted to remind you that our school subscribes to Tooled Up Education.

This gives you **privileged access** to an online platform packed full of **resources, podcasts, webinars, activities and practical advice** to help **support you** in all matters to do **with parenting and family life**.

Here are two quick resources highlighting how you can make the most of your Tooled Up membership.

- **10 Things About Tooled Up Parent Benefit Sheet** - this is attached to the email
- [Tooled Up Tour Video Link](#) - this is a 5 minute video walk through of the platform, showing you how to navigate its features

If you have already signed up for an account: simply click this [link](#) to access

To register for your free account now: click [Create my Tooled Up Account](#), enter your email address and our unique school PIN (available from the school office).

To view the platform on your phone: click this [link](#) or scan the QR code with your phone camera.



If you have any question, please just click on the '[Support](#)' button on the website and one of the Tooled Up team will be happy to assist you.

[NETFLIX: ADOLESCENCE](#) → RESOURCES

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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 portal.autismearlysupport.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



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board



A FREE two-hour workshops for parents and carers of children at Secondary school in Buckinghamshire

Help your Child to Think Critically to Gain Confidence and Self-Esteem (FMWB023)

Support your child to build self-esteem and confidence by developing problem solving strategies and creative thinking.

Wednesday 23rd April, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Help Your Autistic Child at Home Workshop (FMAC134)

We will help you to understand autism and its characteristics. Help you create a supportive and inclusive environment for your child at home.

Wednesday 7th May, 9:30am - 11:30 am

Thinking About Volunteering Workshop (FMVW018)

Build your confidence and explore volunteering as an optional step to start or return to employment.

Wednesday 30th April, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

To book your FREE place, choose a date and 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.



[Buckinghamshire Adult Learning](https://www.buckinghamshireadultlearning.org.uk) [Bucks Adult Learning](https://www.bucksadultlearning.org.uk) [adultlearningbcac.uk](https://www.adultlearningbcac.uk)

Funded by UK Government



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COMMUNITY EVENTS



CRICKET COACHING MASTERCLASS

Learn from the pros and take your game to the next level

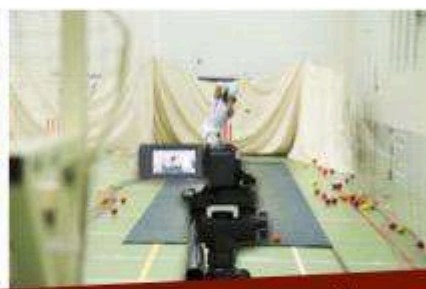
**Coaches: Andy O'Connor, Numan Javid, Brenden Fourie &
David Ripley (All Level III or IV with First Class Playing Experience)**



Specialist 121 & Net Coaching

28th – 30th May (hour slots from 9.30am)

From £55 per session @ Stowe School



All abilities catered for. For more information and to book, please email
info@cricketcoachingmasterclass.co.uk

www.cricketcoachingmasterclass.co.uk

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SCHOOL TRAVEL UPDATE

Currently over 1,700 young people travel to schools and facilities on the Wharf Road Campus every day. With significant number of young people travelling, it brings with it a lot of vehicle-based traffic, and this is causing significant problems for all those that use the campus and the local residents. Together, the Wendover Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council and the Wharf Road Campus groups - including the three schools, childcare providers, youth centre and swimming pool - have been working in partnership over the last couple of years to find solutions.

According to a recent traffic count survey, paid for and organised by this group, there are more than 900 vehicles accessing Wharf Road and Manor Road every morning between 8-9am, and similarly between 2.45-3.45pm, leading to significant problems in terms of accidents and near misses involving children, inappropriate parking, unauthorised access to the campus site and congestion in the wider area.

Alongside the traffic counts, a parent/ carer travel survey was also conducted, which identified some of the key thoughts and concerns of those using the campus. Young people's safety was identified as the top priority, with many respondents choosing not to allow their children to walk or cycle to school independently due to the current issues around traffic and parking. However, it was also recorded that many parents/carers feel that they need to drive due to time constraints and the cost and availability of public and school transport.

Sue Barnes, Headteacher of John Hampden Infant School says "We continue to be very concerned about the safety of our pupils travelling to and from school, and we need to encourage positive change. We want our pupils to be using green and active travel routes where they can. If you need to drive, we ask those parents to respectfully park away from the main school roads and walk the last part of your journey. We also want a calm start to the day, with less anti-social behaviour around the campus entrance - and ensuring emergency access for the Campus and residents at all times—thank you in anticipation of your support."

Cllr Rob Goodall for Wendover Parish Council has said: "When we spoke to our residents about transport in Wendover, this was identified as the number one issue out of a long list. We have been working hard with our partners to investigate solutions and see where, with collaborative working with Buckinghamshire Council, who control the road and that has overall authority for the highway network, we can look to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of our children travelling to school." It is important that we seek to provide an environment that enables everyone to safely travel to and through the area and we will be seeking to challenge those that are parking and driving inappropriately and anti-socially."

So, what next?

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- This working group we will be holding numerous walking, cycling and greener travel awareness days at the Campus and surrounding roads.
- Car users in the main were open to parking away from the Campus. We will be working together to clearly communicate alternative options for dropping off and picking up.
- Other measures are being investigated, from physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, to additional safer crossing points and car sharing schemes - all addressing the growing congestion and traffic pressures, and local concerns.

For any further information (including further details of the surveys) or to help support this initiative please get in touch with Cllr Robert Goodall Robert.goodall@wendover-pc.gov.uk