



"Through hard work, inspiration, mutual respect and enjoyment, we will achieve success together."

April/May 2019

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Dates for your Diary:

Finish for half term: 24 May
Half term: 27 - 31 May
Multi Terrain Run: 9 June
School Diversity Week:
1 - 5 July
Sports Day - 5 July

Note from the Headteacher

Following Celebration Assemblies for Years 11 and 13 we have now entered the formal external examination season. We wish all students every success and will continue to support their revision and exam preparation right through the season. This is also the extended period when the Hall becomes an exam venue. Students have only outside areas to sit and eat food served by the Canteen, though some classrooms are opened in poor weather. I am sorry to have to report that the school's bid for capital funding to build a stand alone canteen failed. We submitted two bids, each of over £1 million, towards improving electrical wiring around the school and separately the Canteen as academies are allowed to submit two bids each academic year to the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) for Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) funding. The first of the bids was successful, which is good news, but there is great disappointment that the Canteen bid failed. We are in the process of submitting an appeal and I have written to our local MP, David Lidington, seeking his support. Parents living in David Lidington's constituency could also write seeking his support in overturning this decision or at least ensuring that the school is successful in the next round (bids submitted by December 2019 and outcomes announced in March/April 2020). I have given a form of words below that could be used, but I'm sure you can present your own views just as or even more strongly:

*House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Email: david.lidington.mp@parliament.uk*

Dear Mr Lidington MP,

I was extremely disappointed to hear that John Colet School's bid to the Education and Skills Funding Agency for funding to build a school canteen was refused. My child, XXX, has been a student at the school for XXX years and although the school does its best to provide seating accommodation for eating at lunchtime in the Hall any significant event requiring this space means the students have no indoor eating space. This is particularly difficult during the winter and summer exam seasons when the Hall is unavailable for eating for weeks on end.

I would urge you to do everything you can to help the school overturn this decision when it submits an appeal or help it find alternative funding to ensure it has the facilities expected in all schools.

Yours sincerely,

XXX

Landen lands investment in London

Students in years 9 and 10 were offered the opportunity to participate in an 8 week enterprise incubator facilitated by Mr Adams with the end goal to obtain real investment for their business idea.

Our very own Scott Landen in year 10 successfully entered his idea and attended a demonstration day in London to pitch to real life business investors, network with other entrepreneurs and celebrate entrepreneurial spirit.

His idea, a Science revision app that uses Artificial Intelligence to tailor revision was well received in the room with investors choosing to invest an initial £500 with more once his business is up and running.

Congratulations to Scott - we look forward to seeing your App very soon!

Science trip to Weston Turville Infant School

On March 27 2019, six students from John Colet School went to Weston Turville Infant School to deliver a quiz. There were five rounds; including two activities. It was a fun experience and an interesting opportunity. The children were very enthusiastic and participated accordingly. They seemed very excited and were very energetic. Everyone joined in and had different ideas. We had interesting conversations and they were all very collaborative.. Overall, it was a great experience for all involved and we are looking forward to organising another quiz for others to enjoy.

Kiara Cookson and Matilda Dicken

Model United Nations 2019

A HUGE well done to Year 9 students Niamh C, Ewan M, Luca J, Aidan B, Ted S and Thomas P who represented JCS at this Years Bucks County Model United Nations. The students undertook a busy two full preparation days ahead on final debates and presentations at The Gateway in Aylesbury in conjunction with Secondary and Grammar Schools across the County.

A special mention to Ewan who received an award for outstanding public speaking.

Well done Ewan!





Our first day at University

We left school in the morning full of excitement and indefinite expectations as none of us really knew what University was like and what the day ahead of us entailed. We drove to Oxford and took a little tour around the city looking at the local Colleges and libraries (including the Bodleian Library) to then arrive at Jesus College, one of 38 (soon to be 39) colleges that make up Oxford University.

All four schools that were at the University for the Scholars Programme then went to a lecture theatre to discuss what we were going to do that day, what the Scholars Programme involved and to inspire us to work hard in our lessons that day. We then went to our first lesson.

We took a journey back to 1789 in our first tutorial lesson with our PHD tutor. It was a very helpful and engaging experience and we were all starting to understand what studying at University is like and were starting to appreciate the hard work and determination of students studying at Oxford.

Lunch was then served in the Grand Hall before our first lecture. I was served an amazing spaghetti bolognese with a piece of chocolate cake, it was truly delicious! Our first lecture followed where we discussed persuasive techniques and how to portray points and ideas in a structured argument.

After about half an hour of this we stayed in the lecture theatre for a 20-minute question and answer session before another tour of the Colleges and libraries in the area. These questions, answered by one of the teachers of Jesus College, were extremely helpful in helping us to not only understand what it is like to study at Oxford, but what University life involves.

Overall, this day was incredibly useful and has helped me to realise how much work and effort I need to put in to my work to reach my goals in the future (and a thank you to Miss Abslom for the Brilliant day).



Samuel (Year 8)

Spring Head of Year Commendation Students



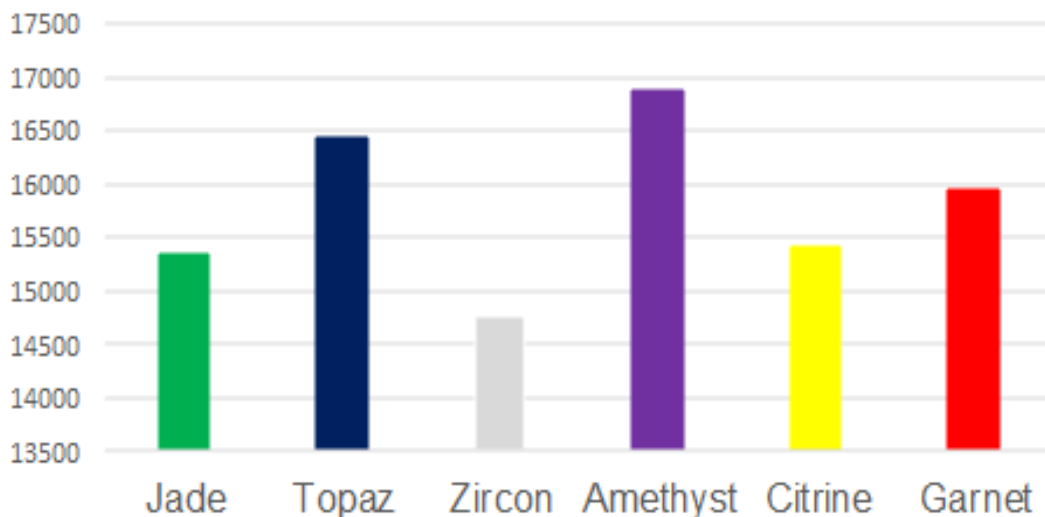
Year 7:Niamh Walton & Woody Ladyman
Year 8:Zola Williams & Sam Ashford
Year 9:Alfie Fretwell & Honey Roberts
Year 10:Anu Ogunjinrin & Ollie Hucklebridge
Year 11:Phoebe Ford & Jack Busby
Year 12:Elenor Guess & Nathan Mount
Year 13:Hannah Cass & Corey Meehan

Congratulations!!

to these students who have
demonstrated their consistent,
positive attitude to learning
throughout the last term!



House Points at time of publication



BOOK SALE!!

Monday 20 - Friday 24 May

Come down to the library and pick up a bargain. Used books starting from just 10p and new books from £3.50. All profits will be going towards new stock for the library.

Read for Good sponsored reading event Year 8



Year 8 students have been invited to participate in a sponsored reading event this term and students have been issued a sponsorship form should they wish to take part in this worthy cause.

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important – they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. Read for Good provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. Children unable to leave their beds can choose books from our specially designed mobile bookcase which wheels right up to their bedside. Because they are brand new, the books are safe for those at high risk of infection.

Read for Good's vision is for all children in the UK to be given the opportunity, space and motivation to develop their own love of reading, benefiting them throughout their lives – for good. One of the reasons kids don't read is lack of motivation. One of the things that motivates kids is helping other kids. Our simple (but brilliant) idea is to link the two.

And it works...

some 3,000 schools are involved in our Readathon every year encouraging almost one million pupils to love reading all of the UK's major children's hospitals now receive regular deliveries of brand new books and storyteller visits, reaching 100,000 hospitalised children each year schools receive 20% of whatever they raise back for their own library. In the last five years alone, we've given almost £800,000 worth of free book vouchers to participating schools.

Numerous studies show that reading changes lives: from educational outcomes and social mobility to emotional well-being. There's also ample evidence to demonstrate that enjoyment drives the core skill of reading and that motivation is an integral element of reading well. Our loop of children reading to help other children in hospital is both time-tested and ingenious. We're raising money *and* readers.

Many thanks for your support and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tara King. JCS

Attendance Matters

We are sure you will agree that attendance at school is very important and we work hard to try and ensure that all students feel able to attend John Colet School every day. Research has shown that students who have high attendance rates achieve better GCSE results, showing a direct link between attendance and academic success. When students attend school regularly, they are also more likely to join in with extra-curricular activities such as clubs and sport. They can spend more time with their friends and are able to fully participate in school life. To support this, we expect students at John Colet to have an attendance rate of at least 97%.

If a pupil has an attendance rate of 90%, this is equivalent to missing one half day every week or the equivalent of four school weeks of lessons in the school year. If a student in Year 7 continues to have a 90% level of attendance, this is equivalent to missing one half of a school year by the time they come to sit their GCSE examinations.

Every School Day Counts



Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING
(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!

We follow the guidelines for attendance set out by the County Attendance Team. As such, we monitor pupil's attendance on a 5 week rolling basis throughout the year, and identify students whose attendance is of concern. During the course of the year we will, if necessary, contact you if your child's percentage attendance is less than 90% or we have unexplained absences. If we do contact you, we would like to reassure you that we wish to work with parents/carers and your child to find ways to improve their attendance.

There may be occasions when we request to see evidence such as medical appointments; please be assured that this is part of our standard procedure. This process is designed to be a supportive measure to enable us to work together in increasing your child's attendance, and along with it increasing their chances of success. We also encourage students to arrive at school on time, and sanctions such as detentions may be applied for persistent lateness.

Whilst we recognise that pupils do suffer from illnesses or are unwell, we want to work with you to encourage your child to attend school, in order to achieve at least 97% attendance in the school year. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact your child's tutor, Head of Year or Di Bull, our Attendance Officer.



My name is Laura North and I am the Family Liaison Officer (FLO) here at John Colet School. A key part of my role is to liaise with parents of identified pupils (generally Pupil Premium children and Services (RAF) children). I am a point of contact to assist parents with advice, guidance and support for both you and your child.

I work alongside the Heads of Year, the Attendance Officer, the Learning Mentor and the Student Support Officers to support the pupils and families in our school community.

If you feel you would benefit from my support, please drop me a line at the email below. No matter how large or small -an upcoming posting or general issues regarding attendance, for example, please do contact me and I will endeavour to support. I also have links with outside agencies who offer a wealth of information and support.

I am in school Monday-Thursday so please feel free to phone or come and talk to me.
(Mon and Tues 8.30am - 2.15pm and Wed and Thurs 8:30am - 12.15pm).

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with me, please contact the school office or email me:
familyliaison@johncolet.co.uk

12-hour Frisbee

Can you imagine throwing a flimsy plastic disk around with some teachers, students, ex-students and unicorns? Well on 26th April that's exactly what happened for twelve hours from five thirty in the morning to five thirty in the evening. The event raised **£2370.74**, (this included £391.25 that was raised via 2 student online "Just Giving" accounts) and was a total success apart from a few aching legs and sore muscles.



Ultimate frisbee started as an American college sport played on an American football pitch. As you might have noticed, we don't have one of those so the sports hall had to do. The aim of the game is to have one of your team catch the frisbee in the opponent's D, however similarly to netball, you cannot move with the frisbee. It is a high pace sport similar to ice hockey with rolling subs, which makes doing it for twelve hours a fairly gruelling and tiring process.

The event started 11 years ago while our very own Mr Stow was in 6th form. He and his friends started playing frisbee in 2006 and his passion for the game pushed him to start the event. Originally he wanted it to be a 24-hour event, however, after being convinced what an awful idea that was he settled for the slightly less difficult (still mental) 12 hours.

Luckily after Mr Stow went to university (one with a frisbee team of course) the tradition carried on and, apart from one year, it has happened every year since.

Every year it is for a different charity. There has been Cancer Research, Ollies Fund, and this year it was Make a Wish. Whether it's starring in their own films, walking with dinosaurs, going on an amazing holiday, meeting a celebrity hero, or having a bedroom makeover; make a wish grants varied, personal and life-changing wishes for children suffering from life-threatening and terminal illnesses. They go above and beyond to grant amazing wishes to very amazing children; their One True Wish made a reality at a time when they need it most.

Big thanks to Jenny W, a year 10 student who played a big part in organising the event and Dylan N and Josh M for running around in onesies to add some colour in the early morning. The event truly was an amazing success raising money for a great cause and keeping up a long and rich tradition of friction burns, never-ending chafing, and unicorn onesies.

Morgan S



Cheerleading Competition in America

Phoebe R, Ellie L, Phoebe R, Poppy A, Olivia P and Evie P competed against the best of the best in the preliminary rounds on Thursday 2 May at ESPN Wide World of Sports, Orlando. There were a whopping 65 teams from across the world in their division and they had to finish in the top 20 to move forward to the finals on day 2.

After battling against teams from America, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Japan, Australia and the UK they finished day one in 17th place. This placing beat all expectations, so moving into the finals was a huge success in it's own right. After tweaking their routine slightly for the Finals they managed to increase their score and climb a huge 5 places, meaning they are now ranked 12th in the world!

I cannot explain how huge this achievement is, a real success story for the Aylesbury based club that is just 5 years old! The team and coaches have all worked so hard over the past few months and the early morning training sessions every Sunday certainly paid off.

Thank you to you and your staff for encouraging and supporting the girls and allowing them the opportunity to take part in this competition, it is hugely appreciated.

Beckie R - (parent of Phoebe R)



Year 8 History trip to Ypres and the Somme May 2019

Year 8 students have enjoyed another successful trip to the battlefields of the First World War. We began our journey on Saturday morning, leaving John Colet bright and early to catch the Eurotunnel with a group of 45 excited students. We spent the first few days of our trip in the Ypres Salient, a strategically important area which saw fierce fighting and huge casualties throughout the First World War. Here the students visited several cemeteries and memorials and heard the remarkable and heartbreaking stories of many brave individuals who fought and served; such as Jack and Jim Hunter, Nurse Nellie Spindler, Harry Patch and Valentine Strudwick who died aged just 15. Students also got to see some preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood, which really gives them a sense of what it may have been like. As well as visiting the largest of the Commonwealth War Cemeteries, at Tyne Cot, we also visited the German cemetery of Langemark. On Sunday evening three students laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the Menin Gate, the memorial to 54,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who fought in the Ypres Salient and whose bodies were never found.

On Monday we made our way down to the Somme, visiting sites on the way commemorating the contribution of Australian, Indian and Portuguese troops. We also saw the site of the Christmas truce in 1914 where soldiers came out of their trenches, exchanged gifts and played football together in a remarkable display of humanity. On Tuesday we visited the excellent Sir John Monash Centre, an interactive museum which allows students to see and hear original testimonies of soldiers and footage of the First World War. Our last visit was to the impressive Thiepval Memorial, a site which commemorates the 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who fought in the devastating Battle of the Somme, whose bodies were never found.

As well as packing in all this important history students also got to enjoy a night bowling and a shopping trip to City Europe. It was a hugely successful trip, enjoyed by students and staff alike.



POLITE REMINDER

Please be reminded that students should be in school by 8:25 am, with registration taking place at 8.30 am each morning.

Please also be reminded that if a student is off sick from school, the school needs to be notified each morning by 8:30 am by telephone or email.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance Officer



A MASSIVE **THANK YOU** TO STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL AND TO 'THE RED BOX PROJECT'

John Colet was nominated to receive a donation of Sanitary Towels, Tampons and Pants.

The Red Box Project helps to ensure that "no young woman misses school or suffers embarrassment because of her period"

The Red Box Project is a community-based, not-for-profit initiative, which aims to support young people throughout their periods by providing red boxes filled with free period products to local schools.

Please check out their website - <http://redboxproject.org>

Thank you - Matron





May 2019

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our final Mufti day, we raised a fantastic £798! This brings the total raised from the three Mufti days this year to £1,965, which is BRILLIANT. We are currently working with Mr Harty and the staff to determine the best way to distribute this money within the various departments. We hope to provide an update to all parents and carers in the next newsletter once the projects have been confirmed.

Dates for your diary:

Wendover 5/10km Multi Terrain Run – Sunday 9th June

Thank you to everyone who is hosting a board advertising this event – please encourage your children, family and friends to sign up and take part in this run!
<http://buytickets.at/johncoletschoolpta/229958>

If you're able to help on the day then please let us know, pta@johncolet.co.uk or message us via Facebook, thanks.



Sports Day – Friday 5th July

If you're able to help with refreshments on Sports Day please do get in touch, email pta@johncolet.co.uk or drop us a message via Facebook – thanks!

Thank you for your continued support, we really do appreciate it.

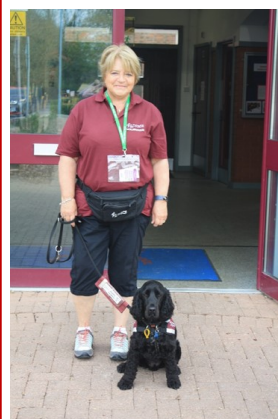


Introducing Kooth

Kooth is the UK's leading mental health and wellbeing platform that provides a free, safe and anonymous online support for young people. The service is supported by the NHS and Buckinghamshire Education Authority, and is available to anyone between the ages of 10 and 22.

Kooth offers live, text based, chats with experienced professional counsellors up to 10.00pm every night and young people can book a chat with a particular counsellor. Counsellors are trained in a range of psychological approaches including CBT, DBT, humanistic and psychodynamic psychotherapy. Kooth also provides access to self-help resources, moderated forums and discussion groups. Kooth's aim is to reduce the stigma of mental health, and by providing access to mental health support, prevent issues getting worse. While we take measures to ensure we are physically healthy, we sometimes overlook the need to ensure mental health. Kooth provides support in a way in which young people feel comfortable with accessing, please take the time to visit their website and discuss with your children.

Miss Palmer



Safeguarding with our 4 legged friends

Recently we have had a number of canine visitors to School. Indi, a trainee hearing dog for the deaf, did some of his training with us, familiarising himself with a school environment and getting to know a school layout. I am pleased to say that he has now qualified as a hearing dog for the deaf and in June he will be living with a deaf teacher who will be working within a school environment to teach deaf children sign language.. We are pleased to be able to assist this local charity and look forward to welcoming more trainees in the future.



As part of ensuring that John Colet School is a safe, nurturing learning environment for our students we have recently had a search dog in school as part of the Thames Valley drug awareness project. The dog visited most classrooms and students were fascinated to see the dog at work. We took this opportunity to talk about keeping safe and reporting any behaviours that students are concerned about. The search dog was on his break when the students were also at break, providing an opportunity for the students to pet him. The morning was very positive, with students and parents supporting this initiative.

I am sure that many of you have pets and know the value of animal company. We have been working with Pet As Therapy (PAT) to introduce dogs as therapy dogs and support mental health of our students. Therapy dogs have been known to reduce stress, anxiety, improve attendance and motivation as well helping students increase their understanding of responsibility, and developing empathy and nurturing skills. We will soon be offering a bookable service for students to have a PAT session with Bridget and others during the school day. Research supports the principle that engaging with a PACT dog does have a positive effect on mental health and can improve student outcomes.

Miss Palmer

School Diversity Week

is coming up.....

1 - 5 July

Look out for further information!



Miss Ellwood

Donations Welcome!

We are looking for any wooden picture frame donations.
All sizes are welcome and they don't need to be immaculate.
These will be used for one of our Focus Week activities and will be greatly appreciated.
Please bring all donations to the school office.

Thank you!

The John Colet Inklings Club



The Inklings were an informal group who met, discussed and encouraged creative writing between the early 1930s and late 1949. Members included J.R.R Tolkien and C.S Lewis

The John Colet Inklings ...

will look at extracts from a range of novels, focus on creative writing and lively conversations to help prepare for the English GCSE's.

Year 9's (EN5)

Wednesdays 3.00pm-4.00pm



Don't forget to bring your water bottle to school EVERYDAY!!!



Keeping hydrated increases focus, energy and relieves fatigue. It boosts your immune system and prevents headaches.

Make sure you refill your bottle before school, during break time and at lunchtime.

Thank you - Matron



We have numerous items of lost property including coats, odd shoes and trainers. If you are missing any, please ask your son or daughter to come to Matron's Office - all unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of term.



HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR START TO THE DAY?



There is no better way to start the day than eating a healthy breakfast as it will lift your mood and get you ready for the day ahead.

Eating breakfast kick-starts the day and..

- Provides the body with essential nutrients and vitamins
- Boosts energy and concentration levels
- Helps stabilise blood sugar levels, which regulates the appetite

Including breakfast in your daily routine will become part of a healthy lifestyle.





TERM DATES 2019-20

AUTUMN TERM

First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 September - Transition Day for Years 7 and 12 Thursday 5 September - Term starts for Years 8-11 and 13
Half Term	Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November
Last Day of Term	Thursday 19 December

SPRING TERM

First Day of Term	Tuesday 7 January
Half Term	Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February
Last Day of Term	Friday 3 April

SUMMER TERM

First Day of Term	Monday 20 April
Half Term	Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May
Last Day of Term	Friday 17 July

Staff Training Days

Monday 2 September 2019
Tuesday 3 September 2019
Friday 4 October 2019
Monday 6 January 2020
Tuesday 5 May 2020

Bank Holidays in Term Time

Monday 4 May 2020



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For more information visit:
www.igetmaths.org

email marc@igetmaths.org
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