



Every Student Thriving

14 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last year we made an intentional change to our sixth form entry requirements. This was designed to build on the ambition that we feel is required throughout the school and that has been a keen focus at GCSE. We also placed a key focus on developing leadership skills in our sixth formers moving from an ethos of **#DevelopingCharacter** to **#GrowingLeaders**.

This has been transformational. Our current Year 12 students have brought an entirely new dynamic to our sixth form. This cohort of students have placed a strong emphasis on focussed application, ambitious learning and integrated involvement with the main school (From supporting our weaker readers in class to helping out at parents evenings.). It has also enabled our staff to focus their teaching on a consistently higher level of challenge and expectation.

It was therefore fantastic to see two sold out presentations at our **Into The Sixth** evening last night with our current year 11 students keen to find out more about what we have to offer in terms of courses and enriching opportunities. It also underpins the notion that our students are demonstrating an ambitious attitude to what they may wish to pursue after Year 11.

You may have read recently that the strain of flu that is likely to impose itself on us over the winter is a little more virulent than usual. With that in mind can I thank all of you for supporting the flu vaccination programme this week. These vaccinations are critical in not just protecting ourselves but also in stopping the spread and protecting others.



We've had quite the week of occasions with odd socks day, children in need, vaccinations and most importantly armistice day. As usual our brilliant sixth form were present during the **Remembrance Day** Parade in Wendover on Sunday for the laying of a remembrance wreath.

In support of continued causes Mr Brand has gone all **November** on us:

" Have you noticed that I look a bit different lately? I'm growing my green moustache for 30 days and it's not just a bold fashion statement. I'm doing it to raise funds for Movember, and I need your support. There are two ways you can contribute to my Mo growing effort: Donate online [here](#) or by following this QR code:



I'm supporting Movember because they're tackling some of the most significant health issues faced by men. Your donations will help them stop men dying too young. There's a lot riding on this moustache, so thank you. I appreciate your support! " - **Mo Bro Trajan Brand**

Take Care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20 November
24 November
11 December

Y12 Consultation Evening
Y11 mocks begin
Y13 mocks begin

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

The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is Mr B Crawford

VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor
- Learning Resources Co-ordinator

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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR 10/11 DECEMBER

We are excited to announce that John Colet will be hosting a Scholastics book Fair on the 9th, 10th and 11th December 2025. The fair will be open to all pupils, and will be held in the library at lunchtimes during that week. Pupils will be able to choose from a wide range of books. There will also be revision guides available to buy for the GCSE English set texts (A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and An Inspector Calls)

This is a great opportunity to buy yourself a new book, get an essential revision guide or get a head start on your Christmas shopping - all while making money for the school to help improve our school library. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

You can make payments in a range of ways:

- You can buy book vouchers for students to spend at the fair using the link below:
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>
- There will be a card reader at the fair, so pupils can make payments using their own bank cards / online payment methods.

We look forward to seeing pupils there. - Mrs Wilson

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Monday 17th November to Friday 21st November



Six children are killed or seriously injured on UK roads every day and road traffic injuries are the main cause of death among young people across the world.

Every educational provider on our school campus is committed to keeping the roads on and around our buildings as safe as possible.

We have noted more and more near misses on our campus and we fear it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident if unauthorised vehicles continue to gain access. We regularly note irresponsible driving and inconsiderate parking and this puts all campus users in danger.

You may feel it's acceptable to drive onto the campus — especially while the barrier is broken — but please consider the wider impact. **If every parent made the same decision, the safety of all children would be compromised.** This includes **your own child**, whose wellbeing is at risk when vehicles enter areas meant to be pedestrian-only. We urge all families to respect the no-drive policy and help us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

We believe that every young person has the right to take a safe and healthy route to and from their place of education each day. During the week commencing 18th November there will be a greater staff presence at the barriers and on the campus road in our attempt to challenge those who are gaining unauthorised access. We will be joined by representatives from Buckinghamshire Council as well as parking enforcement officers to help us reinforce this message.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you:

- Only authorised vehicles and delivery vehicles are permitted to drive onto the campus
- Vehicles should not be parked on double yellow lines, hatched areas or footpaths **at any time** - any vehicle must be parked in a marked bay
- Vehicles must not tailgate at barriers in an attempt to gain access
- There is a strict 10 mph speed limit in force on campus and that vehicles must be driven with care, giving way to pedestrians

By working together, we aim to make the campus a safer place for all children and young people. If you would like to get involved, please contact frances@spokenwordltd.com from Wendover Parish Council who will be organising a rota for manning the entrance barrier, turning circle etc. The more people who get involved the safer the campus will be for everyone.



Community
Boards



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PARENT SUPPORT : Click [HERE](#) for Higher Res PDF

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 33% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>



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TOOLED UP



World Kindness Day, celebrated every year on 13 November, **is a global reminder of the power of compassion and human connection.**

It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of nations and organisations committed to promoting

kindness as a universal value, transcending boundaries of race, religion and politics.

Acts of kindness, no matter how small, can create ripples that spread positivity, bridge divides, and inspire others to do good and Tooled Up has a wealth of resources to support this important topic.

For primary-age children, help them to build stronger, kinder friendships by using our activity resource [Treating Others Kindly](#). It gently **guides them to recognise subtle unkind behaviours** like exclusion or gossip and **to reflect on how these actions affect others.**

For teens, help them deepen their understanding of what kindness really means and the impact of relational aggression - something intended to hurt someone's personal relationships or social standing, rather than cause physical harm. [Treating Friends and Classmates Kindly](#) will **help you and your teen explore the subtle ways unkind behaviour can appear** in friendships **and to reflect on your family's values** when it comes to kindness and how to treat others.

As adults, let's reflect on how kind we are as individuals to our families, children, friends and colleagues. Unkind words that belittle or shame can deeply affect a child's self-esteem. Listen to our podcast [Words Matter](#) to learn the difference between an occasional 'cross' word and what might be considered verbal abuse.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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How to build Confidence and Self-Esteem

Online course for young people

Want to feel better about yourself? Want to feel more confident around other people?

If you're in school year 7 or above, then our online, 5-week course could be for you.

5 online sessions cover:

- Why the media affects how we see ourselves
- How to cope better with setbacks
- How to deal with peer pressure
- How to feel better about ourselves

"It was so fun, I learnt so much and enjoyed myself"

To secure your place or for more information, scan or click the QR code.

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



Proud to be part of



Tuesdays
23 September to 21 October
or
11 November to 9 December
6pm to 7pm




3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER
6.15-8.15pm







Wendover Youth Centre, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF
admin@wendoveryouth.co.uk



Free Parenting Programmes

Our parenting programmes will help you develop new and existing parenting skills, offer advice and build your confidence as a parent.

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LITTLE TALKERS
18 months to 3 years old

- Focuses on children's speech, language and communication skills and how parents can promote them
- Designed by Buckinghamshire Speech and Language Therapy

PARENT PUZZLE
0 to 5 years old

- Understand challenges and how to address them
- How to support your child's growth for calmer parenting

TALKING TEENS
11 to 18 years old

- Focuses on relationships within the family, communication, negotiating, decision-making and strategies to reduce conflict
- Learn more about teenagers and their needs

THE NURTURING PROGRAMME
3 to 11 years old

- Help deal with the challenges that come with parenting
- Think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel

BALANCEABILITY
2.5 to 5 years old

- Accredited learn to cycle programme
- Develops confidence, spatial awareness, dynamic balance, and how to ride without stabilisers

KEEPING YOUR CHILD IN MIND
All ages

- Work together in ways that support growing children and a calmer family life
- Explore the conflict between parents/carers both in a current or previous relationship



Scan me

01296 383293
familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Every Student Thriving

THE BUCKS
Hangouts

**FREE WIFI, FOOD,
GAMES AND MORE AT:**

**STOKE MANDEVILLE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**
Eskdale Road, Aylesbury, HP22 5UJ

Thursdays, 3:30pm to 6:30pm

**SCHOOL YEARS:
8 TO 11
6 TO 7 (COMING IN
DECEMBER)**

Buckinghamshire Council
Community Boards

**CONNECT
STARS**

**STOKE MANDEVILLE
PARISH COUNCIL**

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