



Every Student Thriving

16 May 2025

Dear parent/carers,

This week I handed over our briefing to Mr Clarke...

Two years ago, following the retirement of our previous trip provider we sought other external travel agents to support our Y8 Battlefields trip. Despite approaching 3 well established companies the cost was nearly £200 higher than previous years. Understandably inflation and the credit crunch meant that for the first time in nearly 13 years there would not have been a battlefield trip.

To try and avoid this and cut costs we decided to organise and run in house, with staff taking on all aspects of the running, including the tour guide role! Whilst this created much more work, both before and during the trip, it enabled us to take twice as many students for a much reduced cost.

Four days is a long time for students to be away from their families. For many students it is the first time they have been away from their country without their parents. Watching them interact and explore their surroundings, making friendships and memories, it really helps to make all the preparation, responsibilities and stress worthwhile. On this trip alone we were able to take four students to the location that their relative is commemorated. All of whom were the first in their family to visit these markers.

Again we had glowing feedback from the hotel managers, shops and business that we frequented. Each commented how polite and well behaved our students were. Because of all this, trips remain one of my favourite parts of teaching, a truly rewarding experience.

Special thanks to Tomos of Masons, by far our best coach driver. Always happy to help and to adapt to any unforeseen travel challenges. Thank you to all the team who supported the operation of the Somme Ypres Battlefields trip 2025.

"Dear Mr Clarke,

I just wanted to email to say a huge thank you for arranging the trip to the battlefields of France and Belgium for year 8.

As soon as the trip was announced, my son was eager to be able to attend as it relates to one of his interests. He has only been home a couple of hours and he has not stopped telling us about and showing us pictures of his experience. I know this trip and the honour of being able to lay the wreath at Menin Gate is something he will never forget.

I'd also like to thank you for your time prior to the trip to chat to my son about his concerns and taking those into consideration. Please pass on my thanks to the whole team and especially Ms Collins for her help with medical needs. Once again, a MASSIVE THANK YOU for giving my son this opportunity to enrich his learning. "

Take Care - Mr Clarke

Ready - Respectful - Responsible



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REMINDERS & NOTICES

A POSITIVE REMINDER...

"Dear office,

I just wanted to take the time to positively feedback about the behaviour of some year 7 and 8 children this afternoon when a year 7 pupil fell over very badly on her walk to her pickup point after school. She had a head injury and was bleeding quite heavily and a group of pupils stopped, made sure she was ok and ran to get me from our pickup point whilst others stayed with her. Another pupil gave us tissues and missed his bus as he was staying with her.

It was lovely to see the Colet pupils all coming together and being so kind. The child who fell is ok (but a bit battered!). People are often far too quick to reprimand young people and to look for the negative and so I felt compelled to let you know how proud I am to be a 'Colet mum' today.

Thanks and regards"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End of half-term	-	23 May
Return to school	-	2 June
Year 10 MFL support evening	-	3 June
PGL Parents evening	-	11 June
FOCUS week	-	23 -27 June

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
- Exams Assistant
- Caretaker

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 MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®



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TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



Dear parents and carers,

Some of the toughest problems we face as families are the ones that make daily life difficult. If you have a child who suffers from allergies, however mild or severe, you'll recognise the feeling of second-guessing everyday activities and unfamiliar situations that might expose them to discomfort or risk.

Managing allergies starts with being informed and prepared. Understanding how they develop, what triggers them, the risks for your child, and the best approaches to treatment and prevention can make a big difference. It also helps to support your child in learning how to manage their allergy independently.

Tooled Up's go-to expert on allergies, Professor Adam Fox, is one of the world's leading specialists in paediatric allergy. In our most recent live Q&A [Ask Professor Adam Fox Anything About Allergies](#), he addressed a wide range of topics from food allergies to hay fever, testing and medication.

You can hear more from Professor Adam Fox in our three previous live webinars. One standout session, [Allergies and Asthma](#), explores the connection between allergies, asthma and eczema, and covers key topics such as steroid use, diet, desensitisation and various treatment options.

If you're looking to reassure your child and help make allergies feel more normal within the family, our curated list of [Books to Support Children with Allergies](#) showcases a range of engaging, relatable titles featuring characters navigating similar challenges.



Allergy Q&A with Professor Adam Fox



Allergies and Asthma



Books to Support Children with Allergies

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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 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



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.





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WALK to SCHOOL WEEK

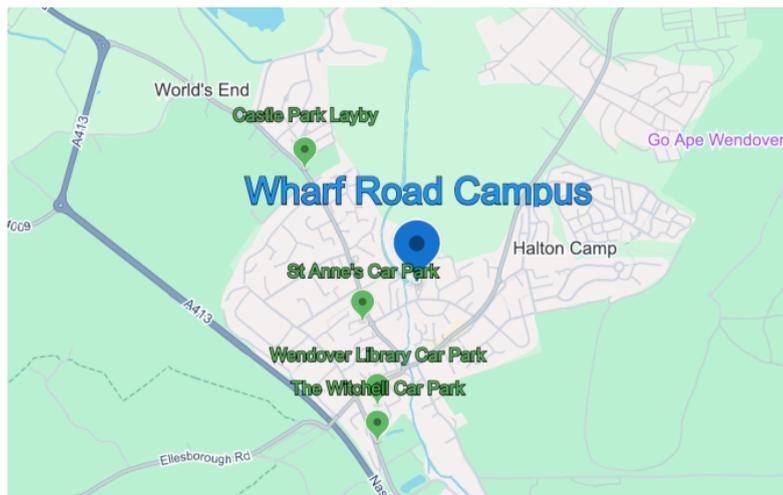
Next week is Walk to School Week. To support this and our endeavours to ensure our young people have a healthy and safe journey to school and other providers on the campus, we will be having an action day on Wednesday 21st May.

We know how much this issue matters to you as parents & carers, and we understand the complexities of trying to get our young people to school from many different locations.

Next week, and especially on Wednesday, we are asking all parents and carers to try to take green and active travel routes to the campus.

If driving is unavoidable, please park at one of the alternative drop off and pick up points identified on the map below and try to car share wherever possible. These points are all within a 10 minute walk of the campus.

We know if we work together we can reduce congestion and improve safety around the Wharf Road Campus.





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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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25K,
75K, 110K
Routes



Bucks radio

Tour
de
Vale

Charity
Bike Ride



Sunday 8th June 2025
Stoke Mandeville Stadium

tourdevale.com

info@tourdevale.com

01296 395995



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Advanced Notice

New Car Park Management Scheme at Wendover Health Centre

Start Date: TBC – notification to follow with confirmed date

Wendover Health Centre will shortly be introducing a new car park management system following feedback from patients about the difficulties finding parking when visiting the surgery. Many patients have experienced delays or have been forced to park off-site due to the lack of available car parking spaces.

We are making this change to improve parking availability for visitors to the surgery, who will be able to park for free by entering their vehicle registration upon arrival.

The car park will be managed by an external company, car park management experts, Parkingeeye. Westongrove will not be receiving any profit from this arrangement.

We recognise that finding parking can be difficult in the areas surrounding the surgery. Therefore, to support the local community, we have agreed with Parkingeeye to open the car park during the weekend for a small nominal fee.

This fee will need to be paid on arrival to the car park through the Evology Parking app, which can be downloaded through both the Google and Apple app stores.

The car park will be open to the public from 07:30 am on Saturday to 07:30 am on Monday. Any vehicles still parked on-site after 07:30 am on Monday, without a valid exemption, will be subject to a fine.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to improve access to our services for our patients.