



Every Student Thriving

20 June 2025

We are about to enter one of the busiest times of the school year with a multitude of enrichment experiences, transition activities and preparation for the 25/26 academic year.

Year 8 students received their allocated GCSE options this week. If you have questions or queries about these, please ensure you follow the links sent in the letter. The whole transition to our new information management system has been relatively smooth but it has also been a massive undertaking and we thank you in advance for your patience as we navigate this process using our new system.

Next week is Focus Week which is rammed full of great character building experiences for our students. Please ensure that water, hats and sunscreen are locked and loaded for the week. A reminder that children should be wearing school PE kit both in school and on day trips **unless otherwise instructed by the trip leader**.

Post Focus Week the school induction programme begins for our new year 7 cohort and our new year 12 cohort. These are always lively and positive events as we welcome new members into the Colet family and support others into the next stage of the educational journey.

We will also be running our first 'Culture Day' in order to celebrate and appreciate the wide variety of cultures that contribute to our community. I am pleased to announce that as part of the Culture Day Food Festival on Thursday 3rd July, we can also celebrate by wearing cultural dress! Teachers and Students alike. So please encourage your child to wear something that represents their Culture and Heritage. Cultural dress encompasses a wide array of clothing styles, each deeply rooted in traditions, history and identity of specific cultures or regions. These garments often reflect a community's values, beliefs and cultural structures.

Examples could be;

- Sari, a draped garment often made of silk with diverse regional variations
- Kimono, A long robe garment, worn for formal occasions
- Kilt, A pleated tartan-pattern skirt associated with scottish identity
- Dirndl, a traditional dress consisting of bodice, blouse skirt and apron

I look forward to seeing the different types of dress worn. Please remember to be respectful and avoid cultural appropriation. It might be worth having conversations at home to explore family origins and the meaning of any garments within them. This is **not a mufti day**, if students choose not to wear cultural dress they are to wear their school uniform.

So it will be a busy end to the term and as usual I'd like to thank you for your continued support of everything we do - it is very much appreciated!

Take Care - Ian Brierly

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REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FOCUS & Year 10 Work Experience week	-	23 -27 June
Year 6 Induction Days	-	1 & 2 July
Culture Day	-	3 July
Year 12 Induction Day	-	4 July
Sports Day	-	8 July

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor
- Geography / Business Studies teacher

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

SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION

Thames Valley Police have made us aware of incidents of sextortion and catfishing which have been taking place involving members of the Aylesbury Vale communities, where young girls are particularly vulnerable. Please can parents regularly check their child's devices for any evidence of this. Should you wish for advice on Online Safety, Sextortion, Child Sexual Exploitation or other digital safety matters then [please visit our website here](#) or contact the Safeguarding Team at the school.

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

YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY - 4 JULY

REMINDER :During the Induction Day on Friday 4 July students will find out about life in the sixth form, try taster lessons in their chosen subjects and discover more about the careers and next step opportunities that we offer. We warmly encourage all offer holders to attend. If your child is unable to attend, please email sixthformadmissions@johncolet.co.uk

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Year 12 Induction Day at
John Colet School



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Friday 4 July 2025

Conditional offer holders are invited to
spend the day at JCS
8:30am–2:30pm

**TASTER
LESSONS**

**MAKE NEW
FRIENDS**

**MEET THE
TEAM**

**TALK TO
STUDENTS**

More info to follow!

#GrowingLeaders

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

AGE RESTRICTION
4+

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

18
CENSORED

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

BUY NOW!

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>



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TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT



The natural environment is precious to us all - being outdoors gives us an escape from the busy world of work and education, and offers our children new opportunities for learning and pleasure.

An increasing amount of **research confirms** what many parents and educators know intuitively: **spending time in natural spaces** and **exploring the outdoors** can **bring** real and lasting **benefits to wellbeing, self-esteem** and **social skills** development.

These Tooled Up resources will help children to explore, have fun and learn in natural spaces.

Our list of [75 Things to Do Outside](#) is **packed with suggestions for primary-aged** children who need a little encouragement to step into the outside world! Why not set a challenge for your child to see how many they can complete?

This **downloadable guide** to [Beach Science for Teens](#) offers **enriching, challenging activities and concepts** that are perfect **for older children** visiting the coast.

We all want our children to have an enjoyable, but safe time in the sun. **Sun safety** is an **essential skill for all children to learn**, especially when they're growing into independence. This resource on [Keeping Children and Teens Safe in the Sun](#) **was created by a Consultant Dermatologist** and will help you ensure your family are protected on scorching summer days.



[75 Things To Do Outside](#)



[Beach Science For Teens](#)



[Keeping Children and Teens Safe in the Sun](#)

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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



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
Integrated Care Board



How to...

Move up to Secondary School Course for year 6s

Getting ready to move up to secondary school? Not sure what to expect? Our 6-week course could help.

We will cover:

- what to expect at secondary school
- making friends and dealing with peer pressure
- tackling your fears and worries
- getting organised

For more information and to book your place scan the QR code.

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



Monday 9 June
to Monday 14
July 2025



Aylesbury
Southcourt
Family Centre
Plus



4:00pm
to
5:00pm





CULTURE DAY
Thursday
3rd July

TICKETS:
Standard Ticket : £1.50 - 2 dishes
Premium Ticket : £2.50 - 3 dishes
Deluxe Ticket : £4.50 - 5 dishes
Unlimited Ticket : £6.00 - Eat as much as you like

FOOD WILL BE SERVED FROM THE BEGINNING OF BREAKTIME UNTIL THE END OF LUNCHTIME. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OUTSIDE THE HALL (WHERE THE EVENT WILL BE TAKING PLACE)

BAKE SALE:
Mini cakes, Brownies, Cookies = 75p
Cupcakes, Rice krispie clusters, Flapjacks = £3.00
Cake slices, Rocky road = £1.50
(NOT INCLUDED WITH TICKET)

Help us raise money for children involved in conflict





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Police Update



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
The Farmhouse, Thames Valley Police HQ
Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NX
01865 541957
pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk
www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

10 June 2025

Dear Headteacher,

Child exploitation and online harm video resources

Education plays a critical role in early intervention and crime prevention, and as the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, I am committed to supporting schools in crime prevention awareness and building long-term trust between young people, their communities, and policing.

I will shortly be sharing my Education Strategy with you, which aims to achieve a consistent and informed approach to youth engagement by Thames Valley Police with the support of my office. In advance of that I am pleased to share some current activity - two short videos that have been commissioned by the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) which sits within my portfolio:

- [Child Exploitation \(opens in YouTube\)](#)
- [Online Harm \(opens in YouTube\)](#)

You will be aware of the prevalence of crimes affecting young people across the country including child exploitation and online harm and it is the VPP's mission to prevent these events from occurring by educating parents, carers and those working with young people.

The videos have been prepared using subject matter experts and the lived experience of victims. They have been funded through the Violence Prevention Partnership and compliment awareness training the VPP offer for professionals and those working with young people.

Whilst the videos are relevant to anyone working with young people, they have been designed to be Thames Valley generic and primarily aimed at parents and carers of school aged children.

I would be grateful if you were able to circulate these links to parents and teachers through your existing school communication channels. We will be sharing the videos more widely to Thames Valley residents through the media and our online communication channels in mid-June.

I hope you will agree that the videos are an excellent platform to raise awareness in the community and can offer guidance to parents and carers who may have concerns about their children or young people in their care.

In addition, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the free [Stay True to You](#) resources developed by the VPP last year. Stay True to You is an evidence led approach, available for any parents and adults working with young people, supporting positive conversations and helping young people make their own, good choices.

If you have any queries about the videos or other resources, or would like further information on the training offered by the Violence Prevention Partnership, please email Christopher.ward@thamesvalley.police.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber

Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley