



Every Student Thriving

21 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE UPDATE: We have, for this academic year, reviewed our balance of teaching and assessment across year groups to ensure it best fits the purpose of enabling students to have an accurate understanding of their progress and effective feedback, with time to respond and learn. The most valuable feedback students receive is in-the-moment information from their teachers as part of every lesson, with formal assessment forming one part of effective assessment and progress. As a result, each year group will now receive a progress report, linked to a learning cycle assessment, twice per year, in addition to the annual Parents Evening and ad hoc communication with teachers as required. The schedule for this is:

Year Group	Progress Report Published		
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
7		✓	✓
8	✓	✓	
9		✓	✓
10	✓		✓
11	✓	✓	
12	✓		✓
13	✓	✓	

The Autumn reports will be released on Arbor for the relevant Year Groups on Thursday 11 December.

SLEEP: Given the number of conversations we have with parents of children with ADHD/suspected ADHD, this research video really highlights the impact of lack of sleep. Although there's no easy answer, good sleep hygiene and a consistent reasonable bedtime is really highlighted in this handy summary. Find the video [HERE](#).

A gentle reminder that we have a 72 hour response time to emails. There are times when staff are not in school for personal reasons which may mean on rare occasions this target may not be met. Please be mindful of this.

And finally we have had a full-on week of **celebration assemblies** with Heads Of Year leading on a week of public affirmations about how fantastic our students have been since the beginning of term. Well over 200 bronze awards were given with some students already achieving silver and gold. Tutor awards were also presented along with recognition for our 100% attendees. This marks the start of a new cycle of celebration assemblies designed to 'accentuate the positive and latch on to the affirmative' in a more public and celebrated fashion. It was delightful to witness!

Take Care - Ian Brierly

Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic



Every Student Thriving

REMINDERS & NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24 November

11 December

19 December

Y11 mocks begin

Y13 mocks begin

Last day of term 12.20pm finish

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

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

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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

AGE RATING **18**

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it is for people aged 18 and above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. There are also special rewards for reaching 'Intimacy Levels': once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

TOOLED UP

Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic



Every Student Thriving



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the science of creating machines and computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human intelligence.

From voice assistants like Siri and Alexa, to personalised recommendations on Netflix or YouTube, it may be surprising to realise that AI is already part of our everyday lives and many children and young people are engaging with it in various ways, whether to help with homework or to talk to it as a friend.

The pace of change can feel bewildering but Tooled Up has a number of resources designed to help you navigate this important topic.

As AI becomes an integral part of life, children and young people have a unique opportunity to explore and benefit from its possibilities. **Our guide Everyday AI: Transforming How We Live and Interact** offers a glimpse into its workings, including how we already are, and could, utilise it.

With many children now using AI Chatbots for learning, companionship and as a confidante, it's important to ensure that they don't replace trusted relationships or real-life experiences. **AI Chatbots: What Parents Need to Know** provides practical support to help parents guide young people to use them safely.

How are children engaging with generative AI and what do they need to stay safe, informed and empowered? In **Supporting Children's Use of Generative AI** Dr Nomisha Kurian, a leading researcher on AI and children's wellbeing, offers practical insights highlighting what child-safe AI could look like and why children must be included in the conversation.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic



Every Student Thriving

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

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

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

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

Proud to be part of
Family Hub Network
Buckinghamshire

Winter Wonderland Market

Sunday 30th November // 9am - 1pm
Adams Park Stadium, Hillbottom Road, Sandy, SG12 4HJ

Join us for a winter market with a wide variety of craft stalls, food and drink outlets, entertainment, stadium tours, the chance to buy Christmas gifts from the club shop, the opportunity to stay on to watch live football on TV in Monty's!

FIND OUT MORE
WWFC.COM

Free
Parenting
Programmes

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

Proud to be part of
Family Hub Network
Buckinghamshire

Scan me

LITTLE TALKERS	THE NURTURING PROGRAMME
<p>18 months to 3 years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on children's speech, language and communication skills and how parents can promote them • Designed by Buckinghamshire Speech and Language Therapy 	<p>3 to 11 years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help deal with the challenges that come with parenting • Think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel
PARENT PUZZLE	BALANCEABILITY
<p>0 to 5 years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand challenges and how to address them • How to support your child's growth for calmer parenting 	<p>2.5 to 5 years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited learn to cycle programme • Develops confidence, spatial awareness, dynamic balance, and how to ride without stabilisers
TALKING TEENS	KEEPING YOUR CHILD IN MIND
<p>11 to 18 years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on relationships within the family, communication, negotiating, decision-making and strategies to reduce conflict • Learn more about teenagers and their needs 	<p>All ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

01296 383293
familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic



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)**

Logos for Buckinghamshire County Council, Community Boards, Connect Stars, and Stoke Mandeville Parish Council are displayed.

Campus Safety

As you are probably aware, the organisations on campus supervised vehicle movement on two days this week. Thank you to everyone who followed the rules and drove safely; thank you also to those who passed on positive comments. It is clear that many of you appreciated the reduced traffic.

To help further improve safety, we have asked that the following reminders are shared with all parents and staff using the campus:

- Only attempt to drive beyond the barrier if you are authorised to do so; display your permit or be ready to show ID as required
- Do not allow passengers to get out into the road - use the drop off bay at the campus entrance; pedestrians should use the footpaths – including adults
- DO NOT PARK OR WAIT in the drop off bay; doing so can create a traffic hazard
- DO NOT PARK on double yellow or hazard warning lines
- DRIVE SLOWLY – there is a 10mph limit for a reason

Important Information