



# Every Student Thriving

26 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today is National Teaching Assistant's Day and a day to celebrate and recognise the work that teaching assistants do in schools. At John Colet our Teaching Assistants are referred to as Learning Support Assistants.

At our school, we're lucky to have an extensive team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). You may hear your child mention them, or see them around in classrooms. But what do they actually do, and why are they so important?

**Supporting Children in the Classroom:** LSAs work alongside teachers to give children that little bit of extra support when they need it. Sometimes this means helping a whole group with their work, at others it's sitting alongside one child to guide them through a tricky task.

**Building Confidence:** Many children just need a bit of encouragement to believe in themselves. LSAs are brilliant at breaking things down into smaller steps, celebrating progress, and helping pupils feel proud of what they can do.

**A Friendly Face:** For lots of children, LSAs are a trusted adult they can turn to. Whether it's a wobble in learning or a tricky moment in the playground, LSAs help children feel safe and supported.

**Helping Teachers Teach:** Because LSAs can give that focused support, teachers are freed up to keep the whole class moving forward. It means everyone benefits — not just the children receiving direct help.

**Inclusion for All:** Every child deserves to feel part of school life. LSAs play a big role in making sure children with additional needs or disabilities can join in lessons, activities, and friendships just like everyone else.

LSAs are a huge part of what makes our school a supportive and successful place for children. They're not just "extra hands" — they're trained professionals who make a real difference to learning and wellbeing every single day. If you would like to recognise the work and/or support of any of our LSA's please visit the National Teaching Assistant Day website [HERE](#). It serves to remind us that not only does every child matter in school but so does every adult.

A reminder that next week is our Year 6 Open Evening. Both sessions of the Head's address are fully booked but you may still visit the school regardless.

Support for Year 11 Mock Interviews: Following the great feedback from previous years and growing interest from our current Year 11 students, we are pleased to be hosting mock interviews on Wednesday 15th October 9.30am-12.30pm. **If you are able to support this valuable event and help our students gain interview experience please get in touch by emailing [careers@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:careers@johncolet.co.uk).**

Take Care - Ian Brierly

**Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic**



## Every Student Thriving

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 October  
3 October  
6 October  
13 November

Year 6 Open Evening  
INSET Day  
Year 6 Open Morning  
'Into the Sixth' Open Evening

### CURRENT VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor

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](mailto:safeguarding@johncolet.co.uk)

### PE KIT

- Bottoms - JCS Shorts, JCS Skorts, JCS navy leggings or plain black/navy leggings
- Top - JCS T-Shirt
- JCS half-zip or JCS Blue Hoodie (**Other forms of top or Hoodie are not acceptable**)
- White socks (required for every sporting activity)
- Long Blue socks (required for both rugby and football)
- Sports trainers that do not mark surfaces.
- NO Nike pro-style shorts or converse style trainers

### MESSAGE FROM TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

Dear Parents,

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Many thanks

**TEMPEST**

**Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic**



## Every Student Thriving

### INTRO: To 'RIGHT TO CHOOSE FOR AUTISM/ADHD ASSESSMENT' WORKSHOP

We will be running a session in collaboration with Propel to support any parent/carer or guardian who is considering an ASD and/or ADHD diagnosis or who are currently on the CAMHS waiting list for this.

### **Introduction to Right to Choose for Autism and ADHD Assessment workshop.**

#### Workshop Overview:

This workshop is designed to help parents and carers understand the NHS Right to Choose process for ADHD and autism assessments.

#### We will cover:

- Your legal rights as an NHS patient in England to choose a provider for ADHD or autism care.  
Step-by-step guidance on how to request a referral from your GP.
- An overview of the ADHD and Autism 360 services, delivered in partnership with the Propel programme.
- Practical advice on completing referral forms and providing supporting evidence.
- What to expect during and after the referral process.

#### Workshop Details:

Date: Monday 29th September

Time: 4pm - Location: John Colet School - Led by: Miss Bendel SENDCo

This will be an informative and supportive session, aimed at helping you navigate the referral process smoothly.

#### How to Attend:

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 25th September by contacting [klansdown@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:klansdown@johncolet.co.uk)

We hope you can join us and look forward to supporting you through this important process.

Best wishes, - Miss Bendel - SENDCo



## Every Student Thriving

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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

#### ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

#### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

#### GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

#### CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

#### ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### I WANT TO BELIEVE

#### CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

#### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

#### MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

#### REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

### Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an adviser to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

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



# Every Student Thriving

## TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT

### DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

You have been gifted annual access to the **Tooled Up Education Platform**, designed to provide you with holistic parenting resources throughout your child's educational journey at their school.

## 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TOOLED UP



#### 1 We are the village.

Behind the platform, is a research team that is passionate about helping and supporting you and your family. We always say, 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we mean it. Whatever you need, whatever you want us to research for you, we are one email away.



#### 2 We run online conferences too.

All Toolled Up members are able to attend our live, online conferences and watch them back in their own time. We run conferences on a wide range of topics, such as autism, ADHD, and the Early Years.



#### 3 We pride ourselves on our responsiveness.

Try us out. Register your free account and then send a 'parenting support' question via our site. See what comes back! If we don't have a resource already to signpost you to, we will create one for you.



#### 4 Life can be uncertain, but you can count on us to help.

We are here for you and welcome all questions. Turn this page over to see what other Toolled Up parents have asked us recently. Use the 'get support' button on our site to get in touch!



#### 5 We are famous for our mental health resources, but we do so much more!

Our platform contains hundreds of resources designed to promote early intervention and ward off mental distress, but guess what? Our platform also contains hundreds of resources on learning, resilience, sport, digital technology and just anything going on in family life! No need for Google.



#### 6 You can keep us in your pocket!

We have optimised our website for mobile devices.



#### 7 We believe there is a manual for parenting.

We believe that the available research evidence can guide us all as parents towards what is optimal when bringing up children. We look to that research and engage with academics all over the world to locate the golden nuggets that busy, loving, aspirational parents need to 'try and apply' in parenting to good effect.



#### 8 Whatever your child is interested in, interests us.

Perhaps your child is passionate about fossils, hockey, chess, Minecraft or swimming? Perhaps older children are considering university places, jobs or alternatives to both. Whatever their pathway to greatness, if there is anything we can do to support you to support them, tell us about it!



#### 9 You're in good company.

Our weekly newsletter, **Wednesday Wisdom** is read by over 10,000 parents and teachers every week but only Toolled Up registered parents can unlock the toolbox at the end of each newsletter. [Register](#) your account and then take a peek at any edition.



#### 10 We are open 24/7, 365 days of the year.

When schools shut for the holidays, our research team remains open to help you get any information that you need and to signpost you to information or resources that can assist you.



To set up a new account, go to:  
[members.tooledupeducation.com/sign-up](https://members.tooledupeducation.com/sign-up)

Enter your first name, surname, email address and the **school PIN** to set up your account and join the Toolled Up Community!

SCHOOL PIN

jcs2206

# Every Student Thriving

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



How to deal with...

### Stress, Anxiety and Low Mood

#### Online course for young people

Would you like to feel better about life? Do you feel stuck and need some tips on how to move on?

If you're in school years 7 and above, our online course could be for you. Sessions run on Friday afternoons and Tuesday evenings.

#### Sessions cover:

- What stress, anxiety and low mood are
- Strategies to feel better
- How to deal with setbacks
- Planning for a brighter future

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

For more information or to secure your place, scan or click the QR code.

If you need help please email [familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



15 August to 29 August (3 weeks)  
1:30pm to 3:30pm

or

22 September to 20 October (5 weeks)  
6pm to 7pm



SCAN OR  
CLICK ME



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](mailto: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

## 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

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, 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

01296 383293  
[familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)





**Every Student Thriving**



Come to an evening of talks & discussion about the impact of smartphones on childhood. Expect open, non-judgemental conversation.

Hear from professionals representing education, medicine, psychology & policing, and from a local teenager.

A discussion and Q&A session will follow the presentations.

Understand the latest evidence and how we can work together to support our children.

## When

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025  
7.30pm – 9pm

## Where

Aylesbury High School, HP21 7SX



Reserve your seat by scanning the code or visiting [Eventbrite - Let's Talk: Children and Smartphones](#)



Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

**Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic**



## Every Student Thriving

### JOHN COLET SCHOOL NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SHOP

Open Every Day 8.15 - 8.45 am



We have a good selection of  
**blazers, trousers, skirts, jumpers, shirts and PE kit items**  
all at **NO CHARGE** and looking for a good home!  
(We also have a limited number of coats/jackets and shoes)

*\*Parents are welcome to make a donation via ParentMail*

Students can **get** new uniform items, **borrow** items (if they have forgotten theirs) and **exchange** items  
(e.g. swap a smaller blazer for a bigger size)



Thank you for all your support however due to the  
lack of space in our shop **we CANNOT ACCEPT any  
donations until further notice**

Students and parents can email [uniformshop@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:uniformshop@johncolet.co.uk) to request uniform items or **visit the school website** for more information. Please note we cannot guarantee we'll have the size you need in stock



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

**STOKE MANDEVILLE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Eskdale Road, Aylesbury, HP22 5UJ**

**Thursdays, 3:30pm to 6:30pm**



Community  
Boards



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

**Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic**





**Every Student Thriving**

**Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic**