



## Every Student Thriving

3 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you have had a good week. We have certainly reached that time of the year when the temperature is beginning to shift and there are sniffs and coughs taking hold of both adults and children. Can I continue to encourage you to apply the **'tough love'** formula of getting your child into school with minor ailments. This, in and of itself, is about building resilience and learning how to manage 'the self' when feeling slightly under the weather. Thank you.

We have now established our **AI working party**. This will be looking at AI use in school, the pros, cons, dangers and positive management of this new but rapidly prevalent technology. Staff are now actively researching the use and management of AI in schools operating on a wide brief that will result in some clear policy directions for all to adhere to in due course. Our aim is to embrace this new tool in a positive manner with clear policy driven boundaries and safeguards in place. During the week beginning 13 Oct assemblies, led by Mr Crawford, will be exploring elements of AI with our students.

We are very mindful as a public body that we could be vulnerable to the more unsavoury aspects of AI and we are thus reviewing several of our policies in light of AI and social media aspects. As adults we also need to demonstrate proactive and positive use of this technology but also be mindful of the pitfalls and safety issues. As such we are now asking parent/carers to ensure that when they meet with staff or attend any event at school (consultation evenings, concerts etc.) that mobile phones or other such devices that could be used to capture media images or sound or other such media be turned off out of respect for staff and students in school.

I'm pleased to report that our recent **fire drill** was exceptional with students and staff exiting the building in an extremely orderly fashion and in a new record time. It was good to see the vast majority of students being very mindful of each other and respectful of the fire drill. Next up will be our **'Critical Incident' lockdown drill**. This will happen within the next few weeks and will utilise our new Audiobant address system. Students will be fully prepared for this drill.

Our **'Jeans for Genes'** awareness day was very successful and marks the beginning of several charity and/or awareness raising days that we have calendared for the year. It was also very notable that our sixth form Head Students did all the heavy lifting in terms of promoting and coordinating this event. This was excellent example of great student leadership and fully aligned with our sixth form mission to #GrowLeaders.

**Year 9 parents**, please be reminded that the form to request to change GCSE Option subjects will close at 9am on Monday 6th October. After this point, there will be no further opportunities to change. Thank you for your patience whilst we try to meet your requests.

Take Care - Ian Brierly

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





## Every Student Thriving

# REMINDERS & NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 October

23 October (Thursday)

13 November

Year 6 Open Morning

School finishes for half-term  
(2.55pm finish)

'Into the Sixth' Open Evening

### CURRENT VACANCIES

- Cover Supervisor
- Exam Assistant
- Learning Resources Co-ordinator

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 CAREERS

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).**

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## Every Student Thriving

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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
3

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

#### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

#### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

#### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

#### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

#### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

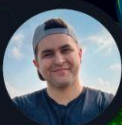
As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

#### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>





## Every Student Thriving

TOOLED UP - PARENT SUPPORT

# YOU ARE INVITED TO A COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOP



Let's Take Action Together for a Greener Wendover & Villages!

Join us for an exciting, hands-on workshop where we'll explore practical ways to create warmer homes, cleaner energy, healthier food, thriving nature, and better-connected travel. Together we'll uncover solutions to cut costs, strengthen resilience, and make our community greener and healthier—for all of us.

#### WHAT YOU'LL FIND AT THE WORKSHOP

- Learn how action on Homes, Energy, Food, Nature, and Travel can cut costs, boost wellbeing, and build resilience.
- Discover steps you can take to shape your environment and help Wendover & Villages thrive for generations to come.
- Get involved in creating our Community Climate Action Plan—covering warmer homes, cleaner energy, healthier food, thriving nature, and better-connected travel.
- Let's make a difference together! By coming along, you'll be part of the change—and we'll make it fun, practical, and inspiring.



Join us and be part of the action!  
Scan the QR code for your free ticket  
or visit [/CommunityClimateActionUK](#) on Facebook for event details.

**WHEN & WHERE**  
10am–3pm Saturday,  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Weston Turville  
Village Hall, School  
Approach, Weston  
Turville HP22 5RW





# 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, 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

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](#)



**SMARTPHONE  
FREE CHILDHOOD**

Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

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## 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)**

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**Every Student Thriving**



**Buckinghamshire  
Family Learning**



## **Support your Child's Mental Health and Wellbeing Y10&11**

**Monday 13 October, 7-9pm, online**



Join this 1-week, online workshop to help your child develop confidence, manage stress, anxiety and friendships.

To book your FREE place, phone 01296 383582 with code FMWB022 1ONA, click on the link or scan the QR code.

SCAN ME



bucksadlearning



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adultlearningbc.ac.uk



Funded by  
UK Government

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