



## Every Student Thriving

6 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

**World book day** was a great success and has set the stage for our world book month. Below is a taster of the staff contribution to launching the day with a plethora of characters from a range of fictional stories - How many can you name?



**YEAR 10 EXAMS:** I would like to compliment Year 10 for conducting themselves exceptionally well during their examinations over the past two weeks. This will be their first time under formal conditions and they rose to the occasion. This bodes well for the next year as they start the final lap of the track on the way to the GCSE finish line.

**HEADLINES:** This week has seen some quite disturbing news headlines regarding conflict in the middle east. We are very attuned to the fact that we have many forces children under our wing but also that this will cause a level of anxiety generally in children. We are monitoring this on a day to day basis but please do contact us directly if you have any concerns regarding your child's response to the conflict and tensions .

**ASTRONAUT TALK** - Selected Year 11 and Sixth Form students heard from astronaut Chris Sembroski, who flew on the first civilian crewed mission to complete a three day orbit of Earth aboard Inspiration4 and also from author Samantha Tauber whose book, VNCCII, is going to be sent to the first space library! A brilliant talk which explained that when looking at Earth from space, the 'overview effect' gives astronauts a sense of awe and wonder and many experience a realisation that humanity is very special. Our conflicts and disagreements, so significant on Earth, melt away when the planet is viewed from such a distance. Lots of ideas for our students to think about!

**ENRICHMENT WEEK** - To ensure our students take away the most from our scheduled Enrichment Week (previously known as Focus Week), I would truly encourage you to sign your child/ren up to as many day trips as you can. The closing date is drawing ever closer, so please do not hesitate or you may not get the trip you would like.

Finally our annual **Iceland trip** heads out today and I know that the students and staff will have a fabulous weekend of activities that will stay with them forever. Sometimes school is about opportunity and the creation of great memories.

Take Care - **Ian Brierly**

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



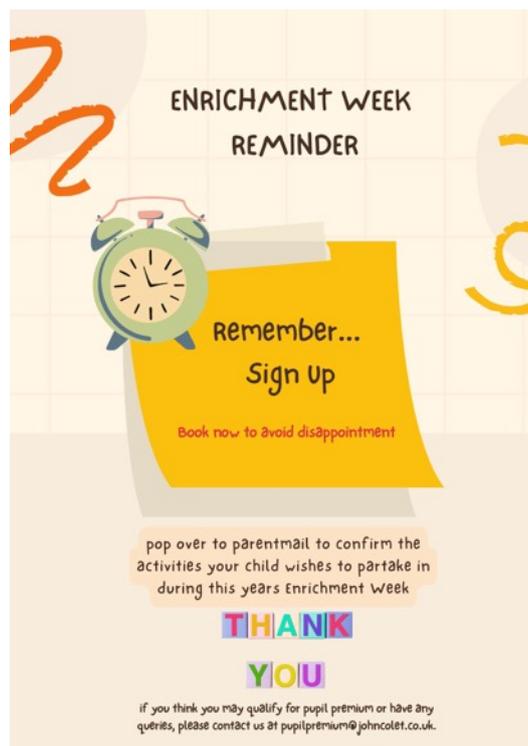
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# REMINDERS & NOTICES

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 11 additional mocks	09.03.26
Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening	12.03.26
Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening	26.03.26

### ENRICHMENT WEEK



### SAFEGUARDING LEADS & INFORMATION

If parents have any concerns about safeguarding 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)

**The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is Mr B Crawford**

### VACANCIES

- Casual Invigilators are required, full details are on our vacancies page.
- We are also looking to recruit a Governance Professional.

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

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### EID STREET FAIR 2026

Dear Adults of John Colet Students,

We are excited to announce our upcoming Eid Street Fair on **Monday 23th March**. This event has been organised by the Equity and Diversity School Council team and below is some information we think you might like to know about the event.

Our Eid Street Fair will be held at **lunch time** on the **23rd March** outside the **school hall**.

The fair will consist of the following stalls

- Henna tattoo ([adult consent required](#))
- Food and drinks
- Giant chalk drawings
- Art and & design competition

Each stall will require a £1 ticket, which can be purchased from the 1st March from outside the hall before school. All proceeds will go to putting on the event and supporting culture day in April this year.

We welcome your support for this event by donating food or beverages to provide during our street festival. If you wish to donate, please send your donations in with your child on Monday 23rd March and complete [the following form](#) about your food donation. We greatly appreciate your support for this celebration.

#### Food Donation Guidelines:

- **All food donations should be brought to school on the morning of Monday 23th March.**
- Please ensure that all dishes are **nut-free** and clearly labelled with a list of ingredients to accommodate dietary restrictions.
- If required, provide serving utensils for your dish. Please label with your child's name so we can make sure all items from home do return home.

Through this event, we hope to foster a sense of belonging and appreciation for the diverse backgrounds that make our school community unique. Should you have any questions or require further information, feel free to contact [lparrott@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:lparrott@johncolet.co.uk)

Thank you for your support in making this event a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

Warm regards - Equity and Diversity School Council Team

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# Every Student Thriving

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

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polylingo and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

### 9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

## Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



## Every Student Thriving

### TOOLED UP

**JOHN COLET is signed up to 'TOOLED UP' which means parents/carers get free access to ALL resources if they register.**

To register go to : [www.tooledupeducation.com/register](http://www.tooledupeducation.com/register) - Simply enter your details and the John Colet PIN which is: JCS2206



**How we talk to children matters. Words don't just communicate; they shape a child's sense of safety, identity and self-worth.** Sometimes harm caused by words is loud and obvious but more often it is

subtle, woven into everyday interactions. Research shows that repeated exposure to belittling or persistently critical language can affect children's emotional wellbeing and long-term mental health.

Reflecting on our language isn't about being perfect. It's about awareness - noticing when our words support growth or when they risk undermining emotional safety.

At Tooled Up, we've gathered expert insight to help you build children up with your words, nurturing resilience and confidence at every stage of childhood.

Supporting young children can sometimes feel challenging. In moments of stress or frustration we may fall back on approaches we experienced ourselves. While certain responses may stop behaviour in the moment, do they truly teach the lessons we want young children to learn? Our article [Smacking, Discipline and Listening to Children: Insights for Parents](#) explores **what physical punishment communicates to young children** and why warmth combined with firm boundaries is more effective.

As children grow they become more aware of identity and social norms. Playground language can sometimes be hurtful, and adults may feel unsure how to respond. [That's So Gay: How to Respond if Primary-Aged Children Use the Word Gay as an Insult](#) gives clear, **practical guidance for addressing this and any hurtful language calmly**, helping build empathy, respect and emotional literacy.

**During adolescence, language plays a powerful role in identity and peer dynamics.** Teenagers are particularly sensitive to criticism and comparison, making affirming communication vital. Our webinar [Words Matter: Protecting Young People and Children](#) explores **how words can support or undermine development**, providing strategies for adults to guide teenagers through this complex stage.

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**TITANS**  
FOOTBALL ACADEMY

**FRIDAYS**  
**AYLESBURY**

CLASS TIMES AND YEAR GROUPS:

- 17:00 - 18:00 RECEPTION TO YEAR 4
- 18:00 - 19:00 YEAR 5 TO YEAR 10

VENUE: JOHN COLET SCHOOL, WHARF RD, WENDOVER, AYLESBURY, HP22 6HF

- 1000+ children attending our development centres on a weekly basis
- Matches against pro clubs for selected players
- Over 75 children signed to pro clubs
- Tailored coaching programmes designed by ex and current professional academy coaches

Surface - 4G Astro

Must wear plastic moulded football boots

**CONTACT US NOW TO BOOK A FREE TRIAL** +44 7498 608268

**EASTER TRAINING CAMPS 2026**  
FOR AGES U12 to U15

**WEEK 1:**  
Tue 31 Mar | 1000 - 1200  
Wed 1 Apr | 1000 - 1200  
Thu 2 Apr | 1000 - 1200

**WEEK 2:**  
Tue 7 Apr | 1000 - 1200  
Wed 8 Apr | 1000 - 1200  
Thu 9 Apr | 1530 - 1730

**ALL AT BISHAM ABBEY**

**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:**  
[ADMIN@BUCKSHA.ORG.UK](mailto:ADMIN@BUCKSHA.ORG.UK)

**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

**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)

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