



Every Student Thriving

7 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn Term. Nights are beginning to draw further in and that winter hibernation feeling will soon be upon us so what better time to pick up a book!

GET BRITAIN READING: Here at John Colet, we prioritise reading for pleasure and encourage our young people to read regularly for pleasure. As part of this, John Colet is supporting the ['Get Britain reading' campaign](#) run by the Sunday Times. The campaign asks that we pledge to read for pleasure for 10 minutes every day for six weeks. Our aim is to encourage reading habits which will remain with the young people into adulthood. Positive reading habits are proven to increase literacy levels and improve mental health by reducing anxiety and depression.

We are encouraging parents and carers to also 'take the [pledge](#)'. When young people see adults read it helps to support a positive association with books and demonstrates that we value and prioritise literacy. We hope that you will support the campaign and that you and your young people find enjoyment in a book.

CHEERLEADING SUCCESS: We are delighted to announce that two John Colet students: Ava and Tia, have qualified to compete at the World Cheerleading Championship as part of 'Chaos,' Aylesbury Cheerleading Academy's (ACA) first ever Level 5 Worlds Team. They are the first students from the school and among the first from their club to be selected to compete at this prestigious and unparalleled international event.

Chaos has qualified to compete at The Cheerleading World Championships, an event that brings together the best teams from around the globe under the governance of the International Cheer Union (ICU). This historic milestone is made even more special by the involvement of two students from John Colet, marking the first time ACA has reached this level. We wish them every success!

LEGGINGS - A reminder that any form of leggings other than sports leggings for PE are not permitted as part of our uniform. We have noted that some students are wearing boot-cut leggings instead of boot-cut trousers. These are not acceptable attire for school. Our policy does allow for boot-cut black trousers. We will be checking trousers next week to ensure that the uniform policy is being adhered to.

CAR FREE DAYS - Please see below for information regarding our campus car free days on 17 and 19 November. It would be fabulous if you could support us in making the campus car free for these days.

ODD SOCKS DAY - Monday 10 November is the anti-bullying initiative 'Odd socks day' and I would encourage all of you to engage by wearing odd socks on this day.

INTO THE SIXTH - Finally, a reminder that our sixth form open evening is next Thursday from 6-8.

Take Care - Ian Brierly

Ready - Respectful - Responsible - Kind - Authentic



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REMINDERS & NOTICES

INTO THE SIXTH @ JCS



**THURSDAY 13
NOVEMBER 2025**

6:00 - 8:00PM

At our open evening you'll
have the opportunity to:

- Meet current students and our dedicated staff
- Learn about our courses and exciting enrichment offer
- Ask questions and find out more

Reserve your ticket via [Ticket Source](#)



#growingleaders



Follow us on
Instagram
[@jcs.sixthform](#)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 November	Anti-bullying: Odd socks day!
11 November	Remembrance Day
13 November	'Into the Sixth' Open Evening
14 November	Non-uniform day - Children In Need / Gambling with Lives
20 November	Y12 Consultation Evening
24 November	Y11 mocks begin
11 December	Y13 mocks begin



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
- Learning Resources Co-ordinator

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

PE KIT

- Bottoms - JCS Shorts, JCS Skorts, JCS navy leggings or plain black/navy leggings **NOT** boot-cut 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

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Hello

On 17 and 19 November 2025 we will be celebrating World Car Free Day. This will mean there is restricted access to the Campus for cars to give our young people a taste of what it's like to be able to travel to and from school and nursery without the congestion and pollution. **There will be no access to Campus between 8-10am in the morning and 2-4pm in the afternoon except in exceptional circumstances for staff and students.** Please see the map below detailing the area of closure.

As most of you will be aware, we've been trying to address issues with traffic congestion in the Wharf Road Campus area for a long time. The number of cars trying to come near to the site has become very hard to safely manage and we are asking anyone who drives to try and find alternative places to either park and walk your child to school or drop off for them to walk the final leg of the journey. Please see a map below where we've identified authorised places for you to park.

We have surveyed parents and carers recently and the overwhelming message was to permanently make the area safer for young people to get to school and day care. We know for some of you coming by car is the only viable way to get your young people to school. We understand this and want to work together with you to find better alternatives than driving to the Campus entrance. If we all work together, we can make a much healthier and safer environment around our schools and nurseries.

We're looking at lots of ways in which to encourage this change and action days like this are part of that strategy.

Thanks for your help in advance.



Community
Boards



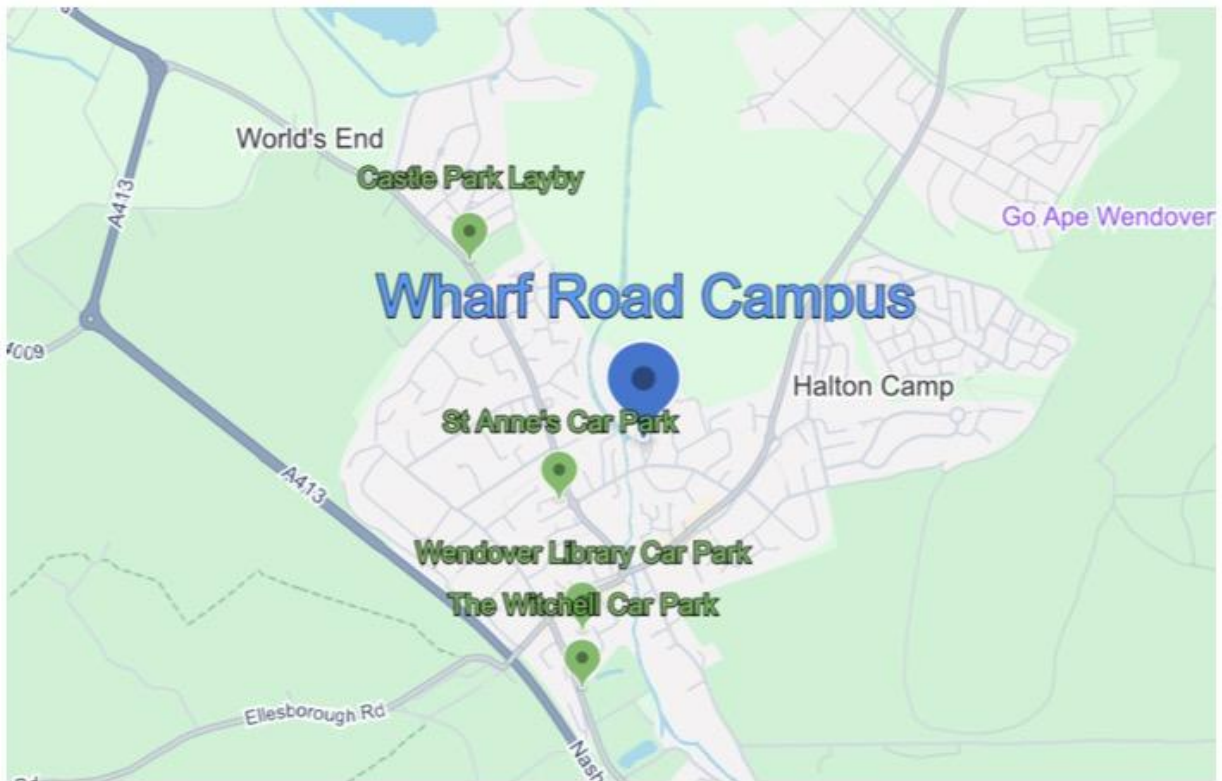
See next page for a map of alternative parking spaces. Please avoid coming down Wharf and Manor Road on the day.

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Alternative parking on 17 & 20 November





**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)**

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

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

AGE RESTRICTION

PEGI 12

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

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

Every Student Thriving

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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

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

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



3D PRINTING WORKSHOP FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 6.15-8.15pm



**Wendover Youth Centre, Wharf
Road, Wendover HP22 6HF**
admin@wendoveryouth.co.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

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