



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our second Safeguarding Newsletter of this academic year. Please do take some time to read the information contained within this newsletter. Can I draw your attention to the last section: **Support when the College is closed** on p4. Here you will find advice and guidance as well as some important phone numbers. If you have concerns or worry during the break, do make your child's Head of House aware on our return in January.

As ever, there is a wealth of information to share, but if there are certain issues or concerns that you would like us to cover, do let us know.

This Half Term we have continued to enhance student knowledge and understanding of key safeguarding themes:

- Yrs9,10,12: Paula Devaux spoke to our students about healthy relationships as a proactive intervention to tackling domestic abuse.
- Yr12: Safeguarding Assembly – Consent
- Yr8-11: Safeguarding Assembly – Blackmail and Sextortion
- Yr7: Safeguarding Assembly – Healthy Relationships

SAFEGUARDING:

Online Safety:

Swiggle, a Child Friendly Search Engine – South West Grid for Learning

Swiggle is a child friendly search engine from the South West Grid for Learning. The search engine is ad free and like other search engines it's free to use. Included in the Swiggle engine are reporting tools, a screen cover widget, a search blocker and more. It works on tablets and mobiles and puts educational results first. If you're interested in finding out what Swiggle can do, please follow the link below:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/services/swiggle/>



CEOPS: Engaging with parents and carers blog

'Engaging with parents and carers' blog explores some of the barriers parents and carers may face when it comes to protecting your children online. It offers practical ways to help build your confidence through simple, supportive actions. Parent and carer help sheets blog also signposts to clear, age specific resources on how to talk to your children about online safety: [Parent and carer helpsheets](#)

WELLBEING:

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Winter 2025

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun activities will run during the Christmas holidays over **between 22 December and 5 January**. Children aged 5-16 (or 4 if in Reception) receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy free activities including a free, nutritious lunch. To find out more information, please click on this link: [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance



Evidence from research commissioned by the Department of Education shows that any time absent from school can affect final GCSE and A level grades, thereby impacting on future choices. **A student with 95% attendance at the end of an academic year, will still have missed 9 days of school (almost 2 weeks).**

For this reason, I wanted to remind you of our expectations around attendance and how to contact our attendance team. If you would like to see a copy of our **Attendance Policy**, you can find it on the website [here](#).

Please be aware that you will receive a half termly communication from the Attendance Team regarding your child's most up-to-date attendance percentage. You can also access your child's daily attendance on MCAS.

Saturday lessons:

Our expectation is that students in Yr7-11 attend **all** Saturday lessons. It is a normal teaching day and contributes to our longer holidays.

Illness:

If you think your child is unwell, please utilise the NHS advise page that details when you should keep a child at home and when they can attend school when suffering from minor illnesses. This link is below.



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school> and [Is my child too ill for school poster](#)

I have also included an additional link from the UK Health Security Agency: “Should I keep my child off school?” Click the link below to access this:

[Should I keep my child off school checklist poster](#)

Attendance Queries:

If you have any attendance-based queries, please direct them to: e.cronin@wymcol.org

When communicating an absence via email or phone, please make sure the full name, year group and reason is provided.

Please remember to contact us every day of absence on attendance@wymcol.org for students in Yr7-11 and attendance6@wymcol.org for Yr12-13.

Please use the online form for requesting a Leave of Absence: [Leave of Absence Request 25/26](#) and include as much detail as possible.

Expectations:

To support student attendance, parents/carers are expected to:

- Ensure their children attend the school every day that the school is open and on time.
- Ensure that their child returns to school as soon as possible after a period of illness.
- Support their children’s attendance by keeping requests for absence to a minimum and only in exceptional circumstances.
- Not expect the school to automatically agree any requests for absence and not condone unjustified absence from school.
- For all EXEATs, half terms and end of term breaks, students are expected to remain in school until the day we break up and return by the specified date on the College calendar.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Please find on the link, information the Department of Education and Norfolk County Council have requested be shared with parents regarding changes to the legal attendance framework which has been in place since September 2024. This sees a change to the issuing of fines in relation to absence:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>



*Safeguarding support when the College is closed:

With the break approaching, I would like to remind parents and carers of the support that is available to young people and their families whilst the College is closed.

Any **non-urgent safeguarding** concerns will be followed up by the school when it re-opens **after the break**. If it cannot wait, please contact the **Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS)** on **0344 800 8020** for a child living in **Norfolk** or the local MASH team (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) for a child living outside of Norfolk. Information on regional MASH teams can be found on local County Council websites. If you believe a child to be at risk of **immediate harm**, please call **999**.

Call 999 to contact emergency services for urgent assistance Call 101 for Police Non-emergency line	Call 111 NHS Non-emergency advice line (Option 2 for urgent mental health issues)	Safeguarding concern for a child? Norfolk: Call Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) 0345 800 8021 Suffolk: Customer First 0808 800 4005	Domestic Abuse Helpline 24 hrs: Call 0808 2000 247 Norfolk and Suffolk: Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services Helpline Call: 0300 561 0077	Childline - If you're under 19, you can talk to Childline about any concern you have. Call: 0800 1111.
Papyrus - If you are (or know a young person) thinking of suicide, Papyrus offers confidential suicide prevention advice. Call: 0800 068 4141	Samaritans - If you just need to talk, any time of the day or night, these services offer confidential advice from trained volunteers. Call: 116 123	NSPCC: If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, contact the helpline for advice and support. Call: 0808 800 5000.	Kooth - Free Online counselling and peer support for 11 - 25 year olds.	Young Minds Crisis Messenger text service provides free; 24/7 crisis support for young people who are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support. Text: YM to 85358

Further information, advice and support can be found on our College website [here](#).