



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Safeguarding Newsletter of 2026. 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 p5. 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.

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 and wellbeing themes:

- Yrs 7-13: Kooth Assembly (offers free, safe and anonymous support for anyone aged 13+)
- Yr8-11: Safeguarding Assembly – County Lines
- Yr12: Safeguarding Assembly – Sharing of Nude images, Cyberflashing & Revenge Porn
- Yr7-13: Safer Internet Day (10.2.26)
- Yr7-13: Children's Mental Health Week (9.2.26-15.2.26)

SAFEGUARDING:

Parent webinars on county lines and criminal exploitation (Ivison Trust)

The Ivison Trust is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach.

During March 2026, the Ivison Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

More information and booking details are available at:

<https://ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars/>



Online Safety:

Safer Internet Day 2026

Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 10th February. The theme for this year was “Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI”, with the emphasis on helping young people develop confidence, critical thinking and good judgement when using digital tools, rather than fear or restriction. For more information, click on the links below:

Top tips for parents and carers:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Top tips for children and young people:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

TALK: What I wish my parents or carers knew

Parenting today can feel overwhelming, especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide from the Children's Commissioner aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

There is also an activity pack parents/carers can share with their child that was created with children and young people to help open up conversations around managing online habits.

['What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew...' - Talk Centre](#)

WELLBEING:

Children's Mental Health Week: 9-15th February

This year's theme is 'This is my Place' and we know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To that end, our newly trained Yr12 Mental Health First Aiders (MHFAs) have been introducing themselves to students in the main school houses every lunch time this week. Through a variety of activities our students have had the opportunity to sit and chat or simply have some quiet time. We have also been very lucky to have our Pets as Therapy Dogs (Bear, Belle and Jorgi) for an extended visit on Thursday and Friday. After half term, our MHFAs will visit main school houses on a weekly basis to continue building these relationships and, in turn, our students' sense of belonging.

If you want to understand more about your young person's mental health, find the right help for them or hear from other parents who've been there, Young Minds can help: [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)



Young Carers: The Nest Activity Days - Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th February 2026

If your child is a Young Carer there are 2 activity days available during Half Term. Click on the link below to apply:

[The Nest Activity Days - Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th February 2026](#)

Family Action

Family Action is a national charity supporting families through change, challenge and crisis. In Norfolk in Waveney, they offer a range of support to individuals and families within local communities through projects. Norfolk and Waveney Autism and ADHD Support Service support parents/carers of children and young people recently diagnosed or awaiting assessment for autism/ADHD. The service aims to promote a better understanding of neurodivergence, how it may impact behaviour and offers practical strategies to parents/carers. The service offers telephone support, free courses, workshops, monthly newsletters, drop ins to meet other parents/carers, a supportive Facebook group, information and resources and signposting to relevant services. Self or professional referrals welcome from adults across Norfolk and Waveney.

[Family Action - Talk Centre](#)

Hub of Hope

The Hub of Hope is the UK's largest mental health support directory. Whether you want to find a service to help you feel better or you want to support someone who is struggling, they can help.

[Mental Health Support Network provided by Chasing the Stigma | Hub of hope](#)

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](#).