



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first 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 p5-6. Here you will find advice and guidance as well as some important phone numbers. If you do have concerns or worries during the Half Term break, then do make your child's Head of House aware on our return in November.

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:

Yrs7-9: The Joe Dix Foundation (see additional information below)

Yrs7-8: Smashed Live (see additional information below)

On the 26th November we will be welcoming Paula Devaux who will be speaking to our Yr9,10 and 12 students about healthy relationships as a proactive intervention to tackling domestic abuse. If you think this topic could potentially be difficult or triggering for your child, please do inform their Head of House.

SAFEGUARDING:

The Joe Dix Foundation

The Foundation's goal is to raise awareness of child criminal exploitation, knife crime and gang culture in the UK. They want to help all young people to make better choices and live safer lives. If you would like to find out more about the Foundation, or seek advice and guidance, please click on the link: [For Parents - Joe Dix Foundation](#)

Smashed Live

Smashed Live provides live theatre to educate young people about the causes and consequences of underage drinking. However, it is just the starting point for further conversations around alcohol. If you would like to find out more, please click on the link: [Smashed Online Great Britain Parents Guide](#)



Anger Management in children: how parents can help

With thousands of children turning to Childline for anger issues support each year it's understandable to worry about what's happening and why. This NSPCC page is here to help you find ideas you can try to help you cope:

[Anger management in children: how parents can help | NSPCC](#)

Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

Working Together Illustrated Guide

Made especially for children and young people, a beautifully illustrated guide to Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) is now available — making key messages more accessible for children, young people, families, and practitioners.

[Statutory Guidance - Working Together Guidance](#)



Online Safety:

CEOP Education – ‘What to do when’ advice

The ‘*What to Do When*’ poster signposts parents and carers to advice, information and tools to support you with what to do when...

- Your child is asking for their first phone
- You’re worried about who your child is talking to whilst gaming
- Your child wants to join social media
- You’re worried your child might see something inappropriate online
- You’re worried your child might share a nude image, or already has
- You want to protect your child from online blackmail

Download the poster here: [‘What to Do When’ round-up](#)

AI Companions – Quick Guide

AI companions are artificially intelligent systems designed to engage users in human-like interactions, offering emotional support, companionship, entertainment, and more. These systems use natural language processing, generative AI, and emotional recognition to hold remarkably human-like conversations, asking and answering questions, offering advice, and providing the emotional connection that many people seek.

The link provides a useful help sheet to remind us of the risks, as well as advice and guidance available: [AI Companions](#)

Online Safety for Parents - London Grid for Learning

The London Grid for Learning has developed a new [Parent Online Safety Toolkit for Schools](#). It has been designed to help empower parents to keep their children safe and start those key safeguarding conversations. It is based on the latest research, risks and trends around generative AI, social media and gaming.

WELLBEING:

Wellbeing at Wymondham College

Friday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. The Wellbeing team at the College put this fantastic video together which provides an overview of the service they provide: [Wellbeing at Wymondham College](#)



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 Half Term 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**.

Safeguarding @ Wymondham College

Parent and Carer Newsletter – October 2025



<p>Call 999 to contact emergency services for urgent assistance</p> <p>Call 101 for Police Non-emergency line</p>	<p>Call 111 NHS Non-emergency advice line (Option 2 for urgent mental health issues)</p>	<p>Safeguarding concern for a child?</p> <p>Norfolk: Call Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) 0345 800 8021</p> <p>Suffolk: Customer First 0808 800 4005</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Helpline 24 hrs: Call 0808 2000 247</p> <p>Norfolk and Suffolk: Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services Helpline Call: 0300 561 0077</p>	<p>Childline - If you're under 19, you can talk to Childline about any concern you have. Call: 0800 1111.</p>
<p>Papyrus - If you are (or know a young person) thinking of suicide, Papyrus offers confidential suicide prevention advice. Call: 0800 068 4141</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>NSPCC: If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, contact the helpline for advice and support. Call: 0808 800 5000.</p>	<p>Kooth - Free Online counselling and peer support for 11 - 25 year olds.</p>	<p>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</p>

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