



WEEKLY PARENT & CARER BULLETIN
21 JULY TO 22 JULY AND 1 SEPTEMBER TO 5 SEPTEMBER

KEY DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD

Events	Dates
END OF SUMMER TERM	22 July
START OF AUTUMN	2 September

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

The school will finish for the summer term on Tuesday 22 July.
Students with free school meals will be able to collect their lunch at break time.

Students will be dismissed by the Head of Year from the following times:

Year 7	12.00pm
Year 8	12.05pm
Year 9	12.10pm
Year 10	12.15pm

START OF AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 2 September		
YEAR GROUP	ARRIVE FROM	TUTOR/ASSEMBLY
Year 7	11.15am	11.30am
Year 10	11.45am	12.00pm
Year 12	12.15pm	12.30pm

Wednesday 3 September		
YEAR GROUP	ARRIVE FROM	TUTOR/ASSEMBLY
Year 7	8.30am	8.55am
Year 8	8.45am	9.00am
Year 9	9.15am	9.30am
Year 10	10.00am	10.10am
Year 11	10.00am	10.10am
Year 12	10.00am	10.10am
Year 13	8.30am	8.55am

CAREERS

1. WORK EXPERIENCE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMES FOR 2025–26

The Enrichment Partnership offers flexible, employer-led career workshops and alternative work experience programs for students Year 7 to Year 13—perfect for those unable to secure traditional placements. Activities include career talks, skills development, mock interviews, and more, designed to boost confidence and employability. Pricing is flexible to ensure accessibility. For details, contact michelle@enrichmentpartnership.com.

2. BRENTFORD FC: FREE EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

Brentford Football Club is offering an exciting opportunity for students through Jumpstart. This is a free two-day employability programme taking place on 18 and 29 July. Open to ages 16 to 20, the programme is designed to help participants become truly work-ready. Sessions include CV workshops, self-branding guidance, an introduction to LinkedIn, interview tips, and mock interviews with feedback. Delivered in a relaxed, supportive environment with input from professional partners. For more information, please contact youth@brentfordfcst.com.

MUSIC

3. CADENZA MUSIC CENTRE – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2025/26

Applications are now open for Cadenza 2025/26, Ealing Music Service's flagship music centre, which offers monthly rehearsals in Ealing and a wide range of ensembles for young musicians of all abilities, from beginners to Grade 6+. Following the success of the recent Royal Albert Hall concert, Cadenza continues to provide a friendly and enriching environment with expert tutors and over 19 ensembles including orchestras, jazz bands, choirs, percussion groups, and more. Find out more and apply at www.ealingmusicservice.com/cadenza.

ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

4. BECOME AN ALUMNI AMBASSADOR – INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

We are at a pivotal and exciting stage in our journey as a school community, building meaningful, lasting connections with our alumni. As we grow this network, we are proud to launch our Alumni Ambassador programme. We are seeking passionate former students who want to give back, share their experiences, and make a difference to the life of the school. Whether you left last year or decades ago, your journey matters. As an Alumni Ambassador, you will act as a bridge between the school and its alumni community, helping to support current students through mentoring, events, outreach, and more. This is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the life of the school, inspire young people, and strengthen the legacy of our alumni family. Join us. Be part of the next chapter. All prospective Alumni Ambassadors will be subject to relevant safer recruitment and safeguarding checks, as the safety and wellbeing of our students is central to everything we do.

5. FRE

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

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