



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy and vibrant week here at school, filled with exciting opportunities and fantastic learning.

Our Year 11 students have been engaging with a range of career-focused activities, including 1:1 guidance sessions and an inspiring assembly from the West of England Training Provider Network (WTPN) about apprenticeships. It's been wonderful to see them thinking ahead and exploring their future pathways with such enthusiasm.

Across the school, classrooms have been buzzing with energy—from creative cooking sessions in Food Technology to high-quality lessons that continue to challenge and inspire. A huge thank you to our staff for their dedication, especially during a time when illness has affected staffing levels due to the seasonal flu. We appreciate your understanding and support.

As always, we encourage excellent attendance wherever possible. Being in school every day makes a real difference to your child's progress, well-being, and sense of belonging. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please ensure you report their absence through the main office.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a healthy and restful weekend.

Serra Orumlu
Headteacher



Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN OUR SCHOOL THIS WEEK?

- ◇ **Foxes** enjoyed the Autumn sunshine this week on a nature walk around Victoria Park. We walked through the trees, hunted for conkers and had a play in the park too. Lots of fun!



- ◇ In **Otters**, we had a great start to the week when we investigated plant matter from the forest. The children were really engaged and did a great job identifying what they were looking at and how to group the plants. In maths we worked hard learning to order numbers to 10,000 and looking at ten more or less than a number. We started to innovate our story in English, and the children each came up with great ideas how to change the original parts. We finished off Thursday with a lovely time at the park with good sharing and lots of happy faces.
- ◇ There were school council representative elections this week and some excellent debates held across the school. All classes now have a representative and they will be meeting as a School Council together for the first time next week with some important decisions that need to be made across the school that we need student input on.
- ◇ On Wednesday, our **Year 10** students impressed us with their culinary skills by preparing a delicious soup in Food Technology. They also had a brilliant time visiting Bath City Farm as part of their land-based studies curriculum. The trip offered a hands-on opportunity to explore sustainable farming, animal care, and environmental practices in a real-world setting.
- ◇ This week, our **Year 11** students have been benefiting from personalised 1:1 sessions with our dedicated careers advisor. These meetings are designed to support each student in exploring their options, whether that's college, apprenticeships, or employment pathways. The advisor is helping students identify their strengths, interests, and ambitions, while offering practical guidance on applications, CVs, and interview preparation. It's been fantastic to see so many students engaging thoughtfully with their future plans and gaining confidence in the next steps of their journey. In addition, our Year 11 students took part in a valuable assembly led by the West of England Training Provider Network (WTPN), focusing on apprenticeship opportunities. The session gave students insight into the wide range of vocational pathways available after school, from engineering and digital careers to health and hospitality.

LET'S CELEBRATE

- **The top 10 students:**

- * James HC
- * Logan H
- * Callum C
- * Dylan G
- * Riley HS
- * Rayen S
- * Lily S
- * Leo P
- * Ethan B
- * Jim S

- **The group with the highest points** this week: 11X
- **Student of the week:** Harvey P
- **The most improved student:** Olivia C
- **Highest attendance of the week:** Foxes (98%), Hedgehogs (94%), Badgers (94%)

A huge congratulations to our top-performing students and classes this week!

Keep up the fantastic effort!



SAFEGUARDING

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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 60% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity
Community
Wellbeing
Respect

UNCERTAINTY
CONFLICT
FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 26% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 105. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinello Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinello.org.uk



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.09.2025