



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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20th December 2024

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter of 2024 – how quickly this term, and indeed this year, has flown by! I know that many of the children and staff are ready for a two-week break and are very much looking forward to the holiday!

School has been so busy over the last fortnight with Christmas performances, special events and trips and rounding off this term's learning! On Wednesday of this week, our school choir visited Charlotte James Care Home where they dazzled the residents and locals with their beautiful singing! They were made to feel so welcome and the children thoroughly enjoyed it! Thank you to Mr Mansfield for organising and leading this event! Our choir also represented us so incredibly well at the JT MAT Christmas Concert on Tuesday, which you can read more about further on in the newsletter.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have supported the school over the past term in so many ways. It has been wonderfully successful, and we have achieved so much in such a short space of time! The staff who work in school would like me to pass on their thanks to you for all the lovely gifts, cards and kind words you have showered them with this week, all of which they are incredibly grateful for. I would personally like to thank them once again for their continued selfless dedication, full commitment and assiduous devotion to all the children in school. The staff have looked after the children's wellbeing, worked exceptionally hard to support children with their learning, ensured the curriculum is delivered effectively, promoted safe routines and behaviours and made learning fun and exciting. They are an absolute privilege to work alongside. What a team!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very peaceful and fun-filled Christmas and to our families not celebrating the festival, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable two-week break. Happy New Year from all of us at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 6 January 2025!**





JTMAT Christmas Concert

The children of our choir enjoyed a fabulous day and evening at John Taylor High School on Tuesday as they sang as part of the JTMAT Choir. Fifteen schools from across the Trust came together to perform a range of traditional and modern festive favourites.

Miss Martin-Mills worked tirelessly all day, conducting the children so that their singing was at its best! We were not only treated to a hot lunch, but one of Santa's elves also popped in with some gifts and to say "hello".

Despite the wintry weather outside, a great time was had by all, and we look forward to doing the same next year! Our choir did us very proud!

I must pass on our sincerest thanks to Mr Blanchenot, Head of School at JTHS, Charlotte Crutchley, Assistant Headteacher at JTHS and the rest of the fabulous team for hosting this event!

Christmas Donations

Over the course of the festive season, the school has been asking for donations from parents and staff to support two charities very close to our hearts – St. Giles Hospice and the YMCA. We like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who were able to make contributions when you came to enjoy our Christmas performances. We are delighted to announce that a total of **£200** was raised and we know that both St Giles and the YMCA will be very grateful for this money in supporting the wonderful work that they do.



Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents

There will be a meeting for children and parents on **Thursday 9 January 2025 at 3.30pm** in the Year 6 classroom about the forthcoming residential trip to Laches Wood. This is a great opportunity to discover more about the itinerary, essential information and to ask any burning questions that you may have. For parents who are unable to attend, a copy of the presentation and kit list will be uploaded to the class website page.

Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Monday 3 February 2025

It is with regret that **After School Club** will not be open on **Monday 3 February 2025**. This is due to staff having to attend essential training that cannot be rescheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but the rest of the sessions run as normal.



Nursery Places Still Available!

Please note that there are still a few places left in our nursery, so enquire if you or someone else you know within the community, would like a place in our outstanding school. Further information can be found on our school website [Admissions](#) page on how to apply for a place and we look forward to receiving your application.



Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2025 will open on 1 November 2024. The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire County Council Website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2025.

The school office has a letter informing parents about the process, which we are happy to distribute to prospective families. If you would like a copy of this, please contact us.

'Tis the Season to Recycle

With the wonderful festive season upon us why not make some conscious changes to save money and the environment.

Gü Pots

Gü glass dessert pots are something we've all kept hold of. As handy as they seem, they usually end up sitting in the back of the kitchen cupboard, waiting to be put to use. These iconic glass ramekins are recyclable, but it's even better to get creative and repurpose your ramekins. If you're a ramekin hoarder check out some of these uses for your Gü ramekins:

- creating candles in them
- placing tea lights in them to save spending money on holders
- being used as paint pots for children
- making even more desserts
- growing plants in them
- and did you know that Pringles lids fit perfectly on top of Gü ramekins?



Online Safety Tips

Social media apps such as TikTok and Instagram are immensely popular among children and young people: Ofcom found that 96% of children have their own profile on at least one of these platforms by the age of 17. These apps feature short-form, algorithmically tailored content ensuring that their users spend as long as possible viewing posts and videos.

As parents and educators, it is vital for us to safeguard the children in our care if – or more likely, when – they use social media. However, the question then becomes “what exactly can we do?”

This week's expert-led guide is here to answer precisely that, offering top-level advice on keeping children and young people safe as they navigate the digital landscape.

FREE Uniform!

We continue to accept donations of old uniform via the box situated outside the school office for any parents who wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box outside the school office. If you need any uniform, you will need to pop down to the **Family Hub** on Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ. The Family Hub do not have the capacity to reply to emails but do have uniform on site all year round and are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm.



Reading Corner

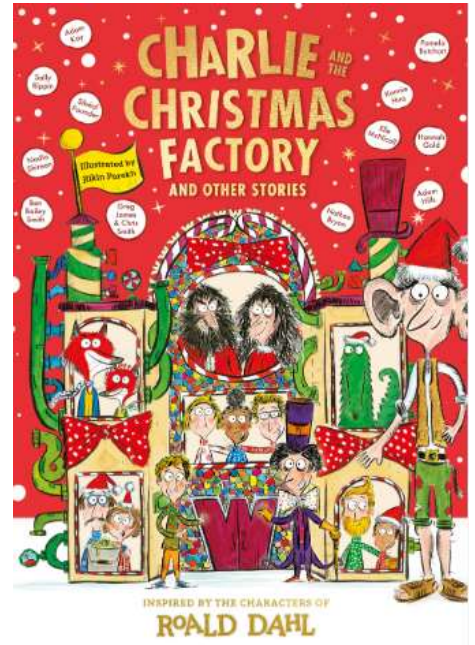
This week's recommended read is for children aged 11+...

Charlie and the Christmas Factory

Written by Various Authors

As gratifying as gobbling down a whole globe of Terry's Chocolate Orange in one go (and every bit as chunky!), *Charlie and the Christmas Factory* presents a bedazzlement of Dahl-inspired tales for the festive season, all tied together perfectly by Rikin Parekh's lively illustrations.

The concept is top-notch — twelve writers creating a brand-new story based on their favourite Dahl character. So here we have, for example, Sibéal Pounder, author of the Witch Wars Adventure series, imagining how Charlie might celebrate Christmas in the Chocolate Factory, while TV star Adam Hills, now also a writer for children, explores what the Gigantic Australian Crocodile wants for Christmas in a madcap adventure that also involves Old Grandma Possum, Wimble the Wombat and Cackledackle the Kookaburra.



Meanwhile, Elle McNicoll's heart-warming contribution sees Matilda move from hoping she's not on Santa's naughty list to enjoying a rather magical Christmas miracle.

With twelve stories, *Charlie and the Christmas Factory* is a great book to gift as part of a pre-Christmas countdown — why wait until the big day to unleash the magic of Christmas, and the magic of Roald Dahl, for that matter?

Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Please note, we can only accept and administer **prescribed medicines** that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration and dosage.

When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am and state clearly reasons for absence.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil, every day!** Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are Reception AND Year 1! Here are the latest figures...



Reception	100%	Target
Year 1	100%	
Year 2	96.7%	97%
Year 3	98.1%	
Year 4	97.5%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	99.4%	
Year 6	97.5%	96.3%
Overall	98.5%	

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	Raafae A	Kinza S
Year 2	Aadam A	Sofia K
Year 3	Esme E	Penelope T
Year 4	Azaan M	Kai S
Year 5	Hadi K	Afrah M
Year 6	Erin S	Tabatha L

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Ava M
Year 1	Sada C
Year 2	Jakub K
Year 3	Esme E
Year 4	Jackson B
Year 5	Zaef R
Year 6	Anaya A






Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 20.12.24)	50	38	48	58
Position	2 nd – 3 points	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	1 st – 4 points
Running Total	10	11	11	18

Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Trent**, who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something blue) on Friday 10th January 2025.

Hot Lunch Options 06.01.25 – 10.01.25

WEEK 1	 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	 Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian burger with crispy diced potato	 Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Shortbread	 Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



EAT WELL **GROW STRONG**

KEY

-  1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
-  MEAT FREE MONDAY
-  CHEF'S CHOICE
-  PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

A WORLD OF FUN WITH FOOD

Allergens and Intolerances
All of our food is kitchen/ factory certified and prepared on site daily. We have an allergen procedure in place, so please ensure you make our catering team aware of your allergens/ your child's allergens prior to using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

It has been such an exciting, fun-filled week in school with lots of festive activities and lots of singing, laughter and exciting adventures going on in our classrooms.

The days were even more exciting when we wore our Christmas jumpers and had a surprise visitor - Santa Claus – right before we had our Christmas dinner!

It has been an amazing half term, and we are all so proud of the progress the children have made and the wonderful way their personalities have shone! We are certainly ready for a break now and look forward to new adventures when we return in January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 rd January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 th January to Friday 31 st January 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 th February 2025
INSET Day	Monday 24 th February 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 th February 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 th May 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 12 th May 2025 to Friday 16 th May 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 rd May 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 5 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 th June 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 3 rd July 2025, 9.00am
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 4 th July 2025
School Closes for Summer	Friday 18 th July 2025, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 21 st July 2025

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 th January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 rd January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 th January to Friday 31 st January 2025
Shobnall Stars – After School Club <u>ONLY</u> Closed for Staff Training	Monday 3 rd February 2025
Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Introduction to Worry Parent Workshop	Tuesday 4 th February 2025, 3.30pm
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 7 th February 2025
PFA Valentine Disco	Friday 7 th February 2025: - KS1, 3.45pm – 5.00pm - KS2, 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 10 th February 2025, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 th February 2025
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12 th February 2025, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 th February 2025
INSET Day	Monday 24 th February 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 th February 2025
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March 2025
Comic Relief	Friday 21 st March 2025
Year 5 Hampton Court Palace	Thursday 27 th March 2025
Eid al-Fitr	Sunday 30 th March 2025/Monday 31 st March 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Tuesday 1 st April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Wednesday 2 nd April 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Parents	Wednesday 2 nd April 2025, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Thursday 3 rd April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Friday 4 th April 2025
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 4 th April 2025, 5.00pm
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Monday 7 th April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Tuesday 8 th April 2025
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Wednesday 9 th April 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 th April 2025, 2.00pm



Train to Teach
in Local Schools

Primary (3-7) · Primary (5-11) · Secondary (11-16)

Funding for Selected Routes
Full or Part-Time Routes
Gain School Experience

The John Taylor SCITT
jtscitt.co.uk

THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 23rd December - Monday 4th January
(excluding weekends and bank holidays)

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.

We can help with:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic

Burton and Uttoxeter
01283 504487

Cannock and Lichfield
01283 352113

Stafford
01283 352097

Tamworth
01785 301027



*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

BURTON & UTTOXETER MHST

Schools we work with:

- Anglesey Primary Academy
- Burton Pupil Referral Unit
- Loxley Hall School (Manor Hall Academy Trust) Secondary
- Paget High School
- Scientia Academy (Primary)
- Victoria Community Primary School
- Christ Church Primary School
- De Ferrers High School Academy
- Eton Park Junior (a deFerrers Trust)
- The Fountains High School
- The Fountains Primary School
- Lansdowne Infants (a deFerrers Trust)
- Shobnall Primary School
- Abbot Beyne Secondary School
- Edge Hill Junior School
- Holy Trinity CofE Primary
- Paulet High School
- Riverview Primary School
- Robert Sutton Catholic School Secondary
- Tower View Primary School
- Violet Way Primary Academy
- Dove CofE Primary Academy
- Oldfields Hall Middle School
- St Marys CofE First School
- St Joesphs Catholic Primary School
- Thomas Alleynes High School
- Tynsel Parkes CofE Primary Academy
- Windsor Park CofE Middle School

CANNOCK & SEISDON MHST

Schools we work with:

- Redhill Primary School
- Moorhill Primary School
- Bridgtown Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- West Hill Primary School
- Redbrook Hayes Community Primary School
- Littleton Green Community School
- Heath Hayes Primary Academy
- Churchfield CofE Primary Academy
- Kingsmead School
- Cannock Chase High School
- Cardinal Griffin Catholic College
- St Lukes CofE Primary School
- Five Ways Primary School
- Landywood Primary School
- Bilbrook C of E Middle School
- Chaselea Alternative Provision Academy
- Cherry Trees School
- Forest Hills Primary School
- Great Wyrley Academy
- Lane Green First School
- Jerome Primary School
- Moat Hall Primary Academy
- Norton Canes High School
- Norton Canes Primary Academy
- Perton Middle School
- The John Bamford Primary School
- Hazleslade Primary Academy
- Staffordshire University Academy

STAFFORD MHST

Schools we work with:

- Burton Manor Primary School
- Castlechurch Primary School
- Doxey Primary & Nursery School
- Flash Ley Primary School
- John Wheeldon Primary Academy
- King Edward V1 High School
- Penkridge Middle School
- Sir Graham Balfour School
- St. Leonard's CofE First School
- Stafford Manor High School
- Veritas Primary Academy
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
- St Leonard's Primary School
- St Austin's Catholic Primary School
- Walton Hall Academy
- Walton Priory Middle School
- Silkmore Primary Academy
- Marshlands School
- Blessed William Howard Catholic School
- Bailey Street Alternative Provision Academy
- St. John's C of E Primary Academy
- The Weston Road Academy
- Tillington Manor Primary School
- Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

TAMWORTH MHST

Schools we work with:

- Kettlebrook Short Stay
- Landau Forte Academy Qems
- Moorgate Primary Academy
- St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
- Two Rivers High School
- Oakhill Primary School
- Glascote Academy
- Lakeside CP School
- Amington Heath Primary
- Two Rivers School
- Anker Moor Primary Academy
- Landau Forte Amington
- Two Gates Primary
- Hanbury's Farm Primary
- Tamworth Enterprise College
- Landau Forte Academy 6th Form
- Ashcroft Infants School
- Florendine Primary School
- Dosthill Primary School
- Landau Forte Academy Greenacres
- Anker Valley Primary School
- The Woodlands Community Primary
- Birds Bush Primary
- Three Peaks Primary Academy
- Stoneydelph Primary
- Wilnecote High School
- Wilnecote Junior School
- Heathfields Infant Academy

LICHFIELD MHST

Schools we work with:

- Boney Hay Primary School
- Charnwood Primary School
- Chase Terrace Primary School
 - Chase Terrace Academy
- Chasetown Community Primary School
 - Erasmus Darwin Academy
 - The Friary School
 - The Rawlett School
 - Saxon Hill Academy
 - Queenscroft
 - Rocklands School
 - The Bridge Academy
 - Willows Primary School
 - Netherstowe High School
 - St. Chad's C.E. Primary School
- St Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerningly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College