

## *Parental Communication & Engagement*



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### **Message from Headteacher**

On Monday, we hosted a panel of women from South Staffs PLC to talk to girls in Years 9 and 10 for 'Women in Engineering Day'. The girls got to hear about jobs in Project Management, Quantity Surveying and Civil Engineering. It was a really interesting session and a big thanks to our visitors for coming in!

On Tuesday, Ms Froggatt and Miss Legge took 20 students in Year 10 to the UCAS Fair at the NEC. This was a fabulous event enabling our young people to talk to Universities, Apprenticeship providers and Employers from around the country and help them to start considering Post 18 options. The students had a great time and enjoyed bagging lots of freebies from the exhibitors!

Massive thank you to Mrs Downie for organising the Year 10 Citizenship & Religious Studies trip to Shrewsbury prison on Wednesday. Students were phenomenal and their behaviour was impeccable.

Year 7 Scholars Programme students have all done amazing and 5 students have achieved a first and the rest have achieved 2.1 which is just fantastic.

As you may know, it was our Year 11 Prom on Thursday and a good time was certainly had by all. Thank you to everyone involved with this and special thank you to Miss Legge and Ms Froggatt who spent over an hour setting up the balloon arch! It was really successful evening and magical seeing all the kids having the time of their lives on the dance floor!

Best wishes.

**Mrs Sutton**  
**Headteacher**

### **Events/Reminders**

- Year 9 Exams - WC 30 June 2025;
- Year 6 Induction Evening - Monday 30 June 2025;
- Year 6 Induction Days - Tuesday 1 July 2025 & Wednesday 2 July 2025;
- DoFE Practice Expedition - Friday 4 July 2025.

## Updates

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](https://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 material. 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.



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