FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2026
ISSUE 6

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## BLUE COAT STUDENTS SHOW EMPATHY THROUGH FOODBANK COLLECTION

**Small acts of kindness can make a big difference, and our Blue Coat students have shown just how powerful generosity can be!** During our recent Empathy Week, students came together to collect an impressive **237 items for South Liverpool Foodbank**, demonstrating that compassion and community spirit are very much alive at Blue Coat.

The initiative formed part of our wider British Values and Character Education programme, complementing a session focused on charity, social responsibility and the importance of supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. Students were encouraged to put their understanding of empathy into practice by making a positive difference to families experiencing hardship in our local community. There was a fantastic response from across our school community, with all six Houses contributing to the collection. **Franklin House led the way with an outstanding 71 items.** Merits were awarded in recognition of students' efforts, with form certificates celebrating their collective contributions.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who supported this initiative. Beyond the impressive number of donations, the collection demonstrated the kindness, generosity and sense of social responsibility that we seek to develop in all our students.

A huge thank you to our students, families and staff for their support. This is a wonderful example of our school motto, **Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Ourselves, but for All**, being brought to life through meaningful action.








# BUILDING CONFIDENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our Year 7 pupils recently embarked on their highly anticipated transition residential to the Conway Centre in Anglesey from Friday 9th to Saturday 10th October 2026.

The overnight trip provided our newest students with a fantastic opportunity to bond, conquer new challenges, and fully immerse themselves into our school community.



**Developing Confidence and Friendships**
Located in a stunning setting, the Conway Centre is a premier residential activity provider renowned for its rewarding educational and adventure programmes. Our Year 7s threw themselves into a full itinerary of thrilling indoor and outdoor adventure activities.

The trip was specifically designed to support the transition process, helping pupils build self-confidence, develop teamwork skills, and forge lasting friendships outside the traditional classroom environment. From navigating group challenges to sharing meals and staying in the secure residential accommodation, the students showed exceptional spirit and support for one another.



**A Huge Thank You to Our Staff**
A trip of this scale simply cannot happen without an immense amount of planning, energy, and dedication. A massive thank you goes out to our incredible Year 7 team and the wonderful staff who worked tirelessly to facilitate this unforgettable experience. Our staff gave up their own time—including their Friday evening and weekend—to ensure that every single pupil was supported, safe, and encouraged. From coordinating the activities and transport to providing round-the-clock care in the residential blocks, their enthusiasm and commitment made this transition trip a resounding success.



**A Fantastic Start to the Year**
The behavior of our Year 7 pupils throughout the 2-day, 1-night stay was exemplary. They represented the school wonderfully, facing every new challenge with enthusiasm and a smile.
We would also like to extend our gratitude to parents and carers for your support with the preparations and payments. We look forward to seeing these newly strengthened friendships and skills flourish over the rest of the academic year!







## ANCIENT GREEK SUCCESS FOR BLUE COAT STUDENTS

Nine Year 11 and 12 students are celebrating their success in this year's Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek, with the majority achieving an impressive Distinction.

Over the past two years, the students have dedicated one lunchtime each week to immersing themselves in the language of Homer and Sophocles. Guided by Dr Lawell, they undertook a significant amount of additional and independent study, challenging themselves academically while developing valuable skills in self-reliance, perseverance and independent learning.

Their commitment has certainly paid off, with an excellent set of results recognising the hard work they have put into mastering this demanding ancient language.

Dr Lawell said: "I'm very proud of our students who gave up their time to stretch themselves academically in this very demanding ancient language. They clearly enjoyed the course and the results are a testament to their hard work."

At Blue Coat, we are extremely proud of our languages provision, and extracurricular opportunities such as Classical Greek allow students to take their learning even further. Alongside our Latin provision, the enthusiasm for Ancient Greek demonstrates the enduring appeal of Classics within the school.

Congratulations to all nine students on their fantastic achievement!

Students interested in taking on the challenge of Classical Greek themselves should look out for details of the next course, which will be shared soon.





## TRUSTEE VISIT SUPPORTS SCIENCE REVIEW

On Tuesday 13 October, we were delighted to welcome Rebecca James, Chair of the Finance Committee, to The Blue Coat School as part of our Science Review Day.

During her visit, Rebecca met with students from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 as part of a series of student voice activities, providing a valuable opportunity to hear directly from pupils about their experiences of learning science at Blue Coat. Students shared their views on the curriculum, the quality of teaching and the opportunities available to them to develop their scientific knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

Student voice is an important part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement, ensuring that pupils' experiences and perspectives help inform our evaluation of teaching and learning across the school.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rebecca for her time, interest and continued support of the school. A special thank you also goes to all our science staff for their hard work, professionalism and enthusiastic participation throughout the review day. Their dedication and commitment to providing high-quality science education are greatly appreciated.

# YEAR 12 STUDENTS ENJOY DEATH OF A SALESMAN AT THE EVERYMAN THEATRE

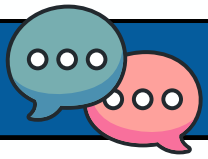
Our Year 12 A-level English Literature students enjoyed a visit to Liverpool's Everyman Theatre to watch a performance of Arthur Miller's acclaimed play, Death of a Salesman.

The visit provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience this powerful work of American drama brought to life on stage. As a key text in their A-level studies, seeing the play performed helped students deepen their understanding of its characters, themes and dramatic techniques, particularly its exploration of ambition, family relationships and the American Dream.

Experiencing live theatre is an essential part of studying drama at A-level, allowing students to consider how performance, staging and directorial choices shape an audience's interpretation of a text. The trip will provide valuable material for future classroom discussions and examination preparation.

A huge thank you to Mrs Conway and Mrs Bennet for organising and leading the visit, and for continuing to provide our students with enriching experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom.





## TALKING TEENS – FREE SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS

Parenting teenagers can be both rewarding and challenging, and at The Blue Coat School, we recognise the importance of supporting families through these important years.

We are pleased to be hosting **Talking Teens**, a free five-week programme delivered through Liverpool City Council's Family Hubs, designed to help parents and carers navigate the ups and downs of teenage life.

The programme offers a friendly, relaxed environment where parents can share experiences, develop practical strategies and explore common challenges, including managing disagreements, improving communication, understanding teenage behaviour and encouraging young people to express their feelings.

Sessions will take place at **The Blue Coat School on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am to 11.30am**, beginning with a registration session on **4th November**, followed by sessions on **11th, 18th** and **25th November** and **2nd December**.

Each group will consist of approximately 8–10 parents, supported by two trained group leaders. Refreshments will be provided, and parents are welcome to attend individually or with a partner or friend.

**Places are free but must be booked in advance.** To reserve a place, please contact Mrs Donohue on **0151 733 1407** or Leanne on **07885 610854**.

We warmly encourage parents and carers to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to build confidence, strengthen family relationships and support their teenagers through adolescence.

## SIXTH FORM STUDENT DEVELOPMENT DAYS – EXPLORING FUTURE PATHWAYS

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional opportunities for personal development and careers education, we are delighted to welcome representatives from **Newcastle University and the University of Liverpool** to The Blue Coat School for our Sixth Form Student Development Days.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a **Pathways into Medicine workshop delivered by Newcastle University**, gaining valuable insights into studying medicine, university admissions and the skills and qualities required for a career in healthcare.

Representatives from the **University of Liverpool** will also be visiting to support students in exploring their future educational and career pathways, helping them make informed decisions about their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

These development days form an important part of our wider Sixth Form provision, raising aspirations, broadening horizons and ensuring that students have access to expert advice and guidance from leading universities.

We are grateful to both universities for their support and look forward to providing our students with these valuable opportunities. Further details will be shared with students in due course.



## LIVERPOOL SCHOOLS' PARLIAMENT – GIVING OUR STUDENTS A VOICE




At The Blue Coat School, we are proud to support the Liverpool Schools' Parliament, an important initiative that promotes democracy, student voice and children's rights.

The Parliament provides young people with an opportunity to have their voices heard, contribute to discussions about issues that matter to them and help shape decisions affecting their schools and wider communities.

Through their involvement, students develop valuable skills in leadership, communication, debate and democratic participation, while gaining a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities as active citizens.

We believe that student voice is a vital part of school life and that young people should be empowered to express their views, challenge ideas constructively and contribute positively to society.

We look forward to supporting our students in engaging with the Liverpool Schools' Parliament and ensuring that the views and experiences of young people at The Blue Coat School help inform discussions and decisions across the city.

**Democracy is strongest when everyone has a voice, and we are proud to help our students make theirs heard.**

## YEAR 7 WELCOME EVENING – A FANTASTIC TURNOUT!



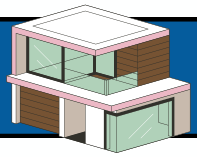
We were delighted to welcome Year 7 parents and carers to The Blue Coat School for our recent Welcome Evening. The event provided a valuable opportunity for families to meet their child's Form Tutor, reflect on their experiences of the transition to secondary school and discuss how students are settling into life at Blue Coat.

Mr Haslem, Head of Year 7, addressed parents and carers, sharing an overview of the year group's progress so far and celebrating the positive start students have made to their secondary education. He also highlighted the importance of establishing good routines, maintaining high expectations and developing strong relationships between home and school to support students' continued success.

Throughout the evening, parents and carers were able to learn more about the academic and pastoral support available, including how we promote positive wellbeing and help every child achieve their potential. Families with questions about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) also had the opportunity to meet with Mrs Jones, our SENCo, to discuss individual needs, review and update Support Plans where appropriate, and learn more about the school's Graduated Response to providing additional support.

We were particularly pleased to achieve an outstanding 98% attendance from parents and carers, demonstrating the strength of our home-school partnership and the commitment of our families to supporting their children's education. We are extremely grateful to everyone who attended and to the staff who helped make the evening such a success.

Building strong relationships with families is central to everything we do at Blue Coat, and we look forward to many more opportunities to meet, share experiences and work together to ensure that our Year 7 students continue to thrive throughout their time at the school.



# EXPLORING THE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN



Blue Coat students recently enjoyed an exciting opportunity to explore the world of architecture and design through an interactive Architecture Showcase. The visit provided a fascinating insight into the creative processes, practical skills and innovative technologies used within the industry. Students participated in a range of engaging activities, including architectural model-making, digital design and CGI, while learning about the diverse projects undertaken by professional architects, from designing new buildings to transforming and adapting existing spaces.

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated exemplary behaviour, representing the school with pride. They were impeccably dressed, listened attentively and engaged enthusiastically with the professionals they met. Particularly encouraging was the impact the experience had on their career aspirations. Several students who had previously been uncertain about their future pathways expressed a genuine interest in pursuing architecture, having discovered the variety, creativity and problem-solving involved in the profession. The opportunity to experience a professional architectural practice also helped students appreciate what working within a creative industry might look like.

The practical activities proved especially popular, with students thoroughly enjoying the model-making and CGI sessions. Inspired by what they had seen, several have already begun discussing how they might develop their interests further back at school. Ideas include working with the Design and Technology department to use the school's 3D printer and laser cutter to produce their own architectural models. Some students are also considering creating portfolios of their work to strengthen future university applications, demonstrating how the experience has encouraged them to take proactive steps towards their ambitions.

The Architecture Showcase was an incredibly valuable experience, broadening students' horizons and introducing them to career opportunities they may not previously have considered. It was particularly rewarding to see students asking thoughtful questions, developing new interests and recognising how their creativity and problem-solving skills could translate into exciting professional careers. Opportunities such as this are an important part of Blue Coat's commitment to raising aspirations, enriching students' educational experiences and preparing them for life beyond the classroom. Thank you to Ms Campfield for organising this and creating a wonderful opportunity.

## SEND COFFEE EVENING – PARENT MEET & GREET

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to our next SEND Coffee Evening, taking place on Wednesday 18th November, from 4.00pm to 5.00pm, at The Blue Coat School. This informal event provides a valuable opportunity for families to meet members of our SEND team, learn more about the support available in school and discuss how we can work together to ensure that every student receives the guidance and assistance they need to thrive.

During the evening, parents and carers will be able to find out more about how we identify and support students with additional needs, including our Graduated Response of Assess, Plan, Do and Review. The team will also explain how individual Support Plans are used to meet students' needs and how we work collaboratively with families, external agencies and specialist services to provide effective, personalised support.

We are particularly pleased to welcome the ASD Training Team from Liverpool City Council, who will be joining us to offer advice, share their expertise and answer questions about supporting young people with autism. There will also be plenty of opportunities to speak informally with members of our SEND team, ask questions and share experiences over a coffee in a welcoming and supportive environment.




We hope that as many parents and carers as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen our home-school partnership and learn more about the support available to our young people. If you would like to attend, please email senco@bluecoatschool.org.uk. Mrs Jones, our SENCo, and the SEND team look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 18th November.

## A RECORD YEAR FOR EARLY-ENTRY APPLICATIONS

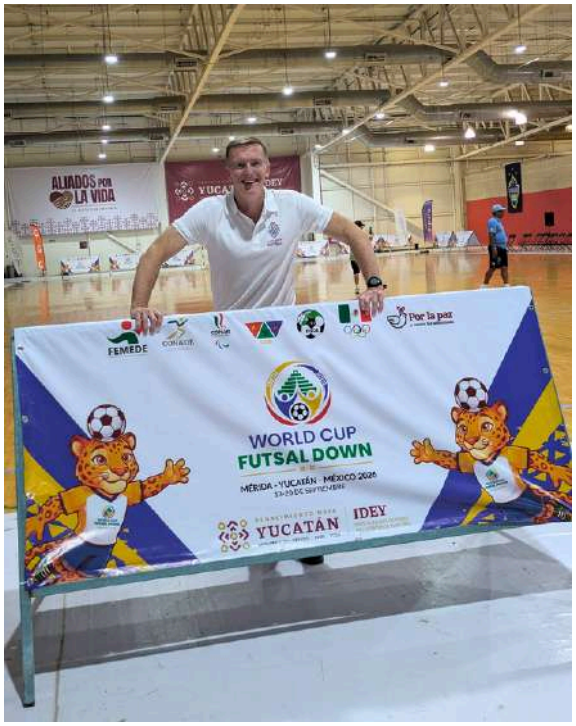
We are incredibly proud to announce that we have submitted 107 UCAS applications and one Conservatoire application – our largest-ever number of early-entry applications!

Our early-entry students have applied to pursue a range of highly competitive pathways, including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and courses at Oxford and Cambridge.

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the ambition, dedication and hard work of our students, alongside the commitment they have shown in pursuing their chosen futures. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and wish them the very best of luck as they await their offers.

We have every confidence that our students have bright futures ahead and will go on to achieve great things in their chosen fields. They are a credit to our school, and we look forward to celebrating their successes in the months ahead!

# BLUE COAT TEACHER LEADS BID TO ESTABLISH GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST DOWN SYNDROME FUTSAL TEAM




At The Blue Coat School, we encourage all members of our community to make a positive difference beyond the classroom. Dr Wainwright from our History Department is doing just that, leading an exciting national project to establish Great Britain's first Down Syndrome futsal team, with the ambition of competing at the European Championships in Poland in July 2027.

Working alongside local charity Down Syndrome Liverpool and volunteers nationwide, Dr Wainwright is creating opportunities for talented players with Down Syndrome to represent their country internationally. Inspired by his own son, who plays for Everton in the Community, he recently travelled to Mexico at his own expense to attend the Down Syndrome Football World Cup, gaining valuable experience and establishing international connections.

Dr Wainwright explained: "Britain already has a network of around 40 clubs nationwide that run football programmes for players with Down Syndrome. Over the years a lot of expertise has developed among coaching staff, and there are a lot of talented players out there. But at international level, there has been no representative team, so these athletes haven't had the opportunity to show what they can really do."

On **Sunday 11th October**, Blue Coat proudly hosted the first regional development day, welcoming 21 players from across the North West and North Wales. The event was a tremendous success, with players showcasing their skills and enjoying a fantastic day of football. Special thanks go to Mr Martin, members of our Sixth Form football team and Year 11 volunteers for their support. Further development days will take place nationally, with 12 players due to be selected for the Great Britain squad by January 2027.



We are incredibly proud of Dr Wainwright's commitment to inclusion and creating opportunities through sport. Fundraising is now underway to support the team's participation in the European Championships. **Anyone wishing to contribute can visit the GB Down Syndrome Futsal JustGiving page** or follow the team's progress on Instagram at **@greatbritain_ds_futsal**.

# CELEBRATING NAVARATRI: NINE NIGHTS OF STRENGTH, COURAGE AND RENEWAL

From 11 to 19 October 2026, Hindus around the world celebrate Navaratri, a nine-night festival honouring Goddess Durga and celebrating the triumph of good over evil. The festival is a time for reflection, devotion and renewal, bringing families and communities together through prayer, music, dance and celebration.

Each of the nine nights celebrates a different form of the Goddess, representing qualities such as courage, wisdom, compassion and strength. The festival culminates in celebrations that reflect the victory of good over evil and the importance of overcoming challenges with determination and faith.

Navaratri also provides an opportunity to reflect on the values that unite us: resilience in the face of adversity, kindness towards others and the courage to stand up for what is right. These themes resonate strongly with our school community and our commitment to supporting one another, celebrating our differences and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

Across many communities, Navaratri is marked by colourful traditional clothing, devotional songs and energetic dances, including Garba and Dandiya Raas. These celebrations showcase the richness of Hindu culture and the importance of passing traditions from one generation to the next.

As we recognise Navaratri, we celebrate the diversity of our school community and the many traditions that enrich our shared experience. By learning about one another's beliefs and celebrations, we develop greater understanding, respect and appreciation for the different cultures that shape our world.

We wish all members of our school community celebrating Navaratri a joyful and peaceful festival.







# BLUE COAT FOOTBALL ROUND-UP: EXCITING MATCHES AND CUP SUCCESS

It has been another busy and exciting week of football at The Blue Coat School, with our boys' and girls' teams representing the school across a range of competitions, demonstrating determination, teamwork and fantastic sporting spirit.

Our U14 Boys celebrated an excellent 4–3 victory over Great Sankey in the ESFA competition, while our U18 Boys secured an impressive 2–0 away win against Lymm, progressing to the third round of the ESFA, where they will face Altrincham Grammar next week.

Elsewhere, our U12 Boys battled hard in a 7–3 defeat away to Woodchurch, while our U14 Girls narrowly lost 2–1 at home to Elton, both in ESFA fixtures.

Our U15 Boys experienced the heartbreak of a penalty shootout defeat in the quarter-finals of the LSSP tournament, having fought hard to reach the latter stages. Meanwhile, our U15 Girls remained unbeaten throughout their Liverpool Cup tournament, narrowly missing out on progression beyond the group stages.

Coming up next, our U14 Girls will host Birkenhead in the Merseyside Cup on Thursday, with kick-off at 3.00 pm. We wish them the very best of luck!

Congratulations to all our players for their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of everyone representing The Blue Coat School and look forward to more exciting football in the weeks ahead.





# KEY DATES

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Thursday 22nd October 2026 | Ski Trip Parent Meeting at 6pm |
| Friday 23rd October 2026 | Term Ends at 3.30pm |
| Monday 26th October 2026 | Half Term Break |
| Monday 2nd November 2026 | Students Return |
| Monday 09th November 2026 - Friday 13th November 2026 | Y10 & Y12 Internal Assessment Week |
| Tuesday 10th November 2026 | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| Tuesday 24th November 2026 | Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| Monday 30th November 2026 - Friday 4th December 2026 | Y11 Mock Exams Week |
| Tuesday 8th December 2026 | Christmas Carol Concert |
| Friday 11th December 2026 | Christmas Markets |
| Wednesday 16th December 2026 | Term Ends for Students at 3.30pm |
| Thursday 17th December 2026 | A-Level Prizegiving Event |
| Wednesday 6th January 2027 | Students Return |
| Monday 11th January - Friday 15th January 2027 | Year 13 Mock Exams |
| Thursday 14th January 2027 | Year 10 Parents' Evening |

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.




## SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

## STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

## GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

## ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

# 18 Advice for Parents & Carers

## TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

## CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

## BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

## GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

## STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

## Meet Our Expert



Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/bullystoppers/minappropriate.pdf | https://www.esafety.gov.au/education/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teachers/inappropriate-content-factsheet | https://www.wellingreality.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/childrens-media-lives-year-1.pdf



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