

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND APPRECIATION



Last Thursday evening, Mr Sexton and Mrs Forster were delighted to attend the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) UK Teacher Appreciation Day event held at Belvedere School.

The event brought together teachers, families and young people from across Liverpool in a celebration of education, community service and the important role that teachers play in shaping young people's lives. It was a wonderful evening and an excellent opportunity to learn more about the valuable work carried out by HSS UK in supporting communities, promoting volunteering and encouraging young people to develop leadership skills and a spirit of service.

A particular highlight of the evening was seeing so many Blue Coat students and their families in attendance. The warm welcome extended to all guests reflected the strong sense of community and hospitality that was evident throughout the event. It was a pleasure to meet parents and pupils outside of the school environment and to celebrate the positive contributions they make both within Blue Coat and the wider community.

The programme included expressions of gratitude for teachers and staff, recognising the dedication and commitment that educators show every day. The event served as a reminder of the powerful partnerships between schools, families and community organisations in supporting the success and wellbeing of young people.

We would like to thank Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK for their kind invitation and for hosting such an inspiring and enjoyable evening. Blue Coat School is proud to support initiatives that bring communities together, celebrate diversity and recognise the contribution of those who work to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen these important community connections in the future.





YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY: BUILDING CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP



Our new **Year 12 students** enjoyed a **fantastic Induction Day**, designed to help them build new relationships, develop confidence and resilience, and begin their Sixth Form journey as a strong and supportive team.

Organised by the **Blue Coat Sixth Form team in partnership with UK Military School**, the day provided students with a series of fun, challenging and engaging activities that encouraged them to step outside their comfort zones and work together.

Students spent time working with their **new form tutors and fellow Year 12 students**, taking part in a range of team-building and leadership challenges. Activities were designed to develop key skills including **communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, resilience and confidence** – all essential qualities for success in Sixth Form and beyond.

There was plenty of laughter and friendly competition throughout the day, but also many opportunities for students to support and encourage one another. Students quickly discovered that success often depended on listening to others, sharing ideas and working together as a team.

The enthusiasm and engagement of our new Year 12 cohort was fantastic to see. **Students fully embraced the challenges**, throwing themselves into every activity and showing a real willingness to work with people they had only just met.

The day was not only about preparing students academically for Sixth Form; it was about helping them to develop the **confidence, character and relationships** that will underpin their experience at Blue Coat over the next two years.

A huge thank you to the **Sixth Form team and UK Military School** for organising such an enjoyable and purposeful day.

It was a brilliant start to the Year 12 journey, and we are delighted to welcome such an enthusiastic and engaged group of students to Blue Coat Sixth Form. We are looking forward to seeing them develop, grow and achieve together over the coming year





BLUE COAT SUMMER SCHOOL: MAKING FRIENDS, HAVING FUN AND GETTING READY FOR SEPTEMBER

More than 140 pupils joined us for Blue Coat's Summer School this August, taking part in an exciting three-day programme designed to help them make new friends, build confidence and prepare for their Blue Coat journey.

Pupils enjoyed a fantastic range of activities, including History Hunters, Psychology Unlocked, Sports and Games, Science in Action, Interactive English, Arts and Crafts, Drama and Roleplay, YPAS, Speak Up!, and an Assault Course and Inflatables.

The varied programme gave pupils the chance to try new things, discover new interests and develop teamwork, communication and confidence. It also provided a valuable opportunity to spend time in school, meet staff and get to know other pupils in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

One of the highlights was seeing pupils quickly form new friendships and support one another as they took part in activities and challenges. Staff were delighted by their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to get involved throughout the three days.

Summer School is an important part of Blue Coat's transition programme, helping pupils feel more comfortable and confident as they prepare to join the school.

A huge thank you to all the staff who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to make the Summer School such a success and provide our pupils with three memorable days of learning, laughter and new experiences.



SAFEGUARDING AT BLUE COAT: KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE



Safeguarding remains at the heart of life at The Blue Coat School. This term, pupils have taken part in a safeguarding assembly designed to remind them what safeguarding means, how to keep themselves and others safe, and where they can turn if they need help or support. Pupils were reminded that safeguarding is about protecting children from harm and ensuring that they are safe, healthy and happy, both inside and outside school.

The assembly also reinforced our expectations around respect, behaviour and belonging. We are clear that bullying, discrimination, prejudice, harassment, racism, LGBTQ+phobia and other derogatory behaviour have no place in our community. Pupils were encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if something does not feel right, whether the concern affects them personally or someone else.

A further focus was on healthy relationships, online safety and the importance of making responsible choices. Pupils explored the importance of consent, trust, mutual respect, communication and boundaries, while also being reminded to **STOP if something feels wrong, THINK before they act, share or click, and TELL a trusted adult if they need help.**

Finally, pupils were encouraged to be active bystanders and to look out for one another. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we want every young person at Blue Coat to feel confident that they will be listened to, supported and taken seriously. This reflects our wider commitment to ensuring that every pupil feels safe, valued and able to thrive, and embodies our school motto, **Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself, But for All.**

REANNA WINS NATIONAL ETHNOMATHEMATICS COMPETITION

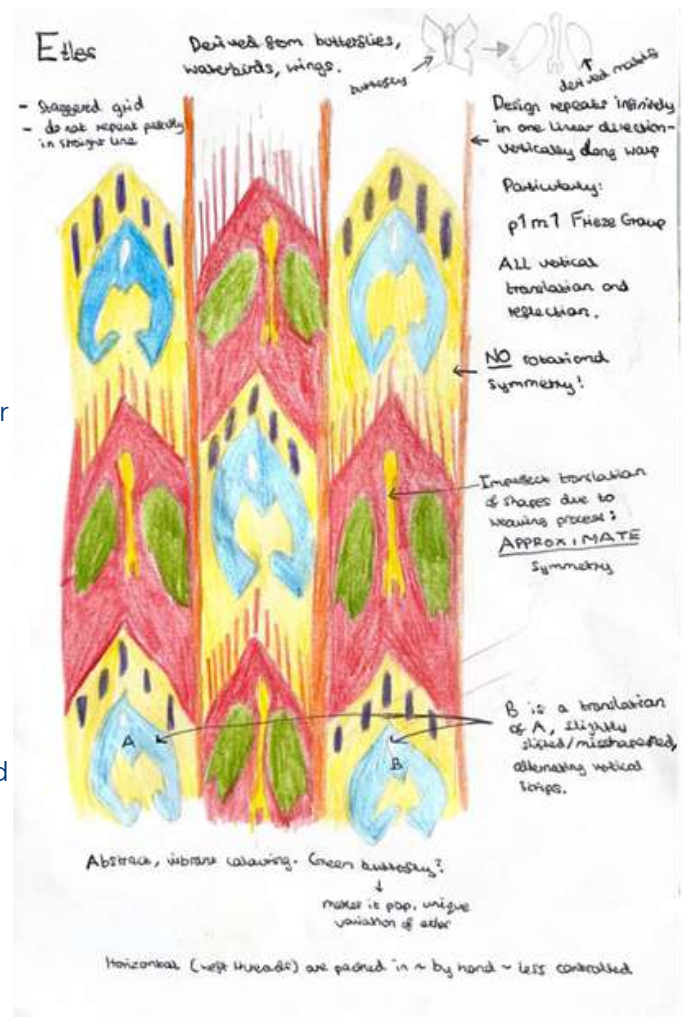
Congratulations to Reanna, who has been awarded First Prize in the Ethnomathematics Competition organised by the British Society for the History of Mathematics.

Reanna received the award for her essay, 'Mathematics Woven into Identity', which explored the fascinating connections between mathematics, culture and personal identity. Her thoughtful and engaging work demonstrated both impressive mathematical understanding and a keen interest in the wider social and historical context of the subject.

Reanna dedicated a great deal of time and effort to her entry, producing a submission of exceptional quality. Her achievement is a testament to her curiosity, creativity and commitment to exploring mathematics beyond the classroom.

We would like to thank Mr Fee, who introduced Reanna to the competition and encouraged her to take part. As a result of her success, she has been invited to attend the prize-giving ceremony in London.

We are immensely proud of Reanna and look forward to celebrating this well-deserved achievement with her.





OLD BLUE TAKES ON 1,100KM CHALLENGE FOR TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

Former Blue Coat pupil **Ben, who attended the school from 2013 to 2020**, is taking on an extraordinary fundraising challenge with his mum, Elaine, in support of **Teenage Cancer Trust**. Together, they are cycling approximately **1,100km from Kyoto to Tokyo over 11 days**, tackling significant climbs while carrying all of their own baggage.

The challenge has very personal significance. In spring 2025, Ben underwent surgery for testicular cancer and later required three rounds of chemotherapy at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, followed by further major surgery. Throughout his treatment, he was supported by Teenage Cancer Trust, whose specialist nurses, youth workers and hospital services provide vital support for teenagers and young adults with cancer.

Ben will be remembered by many in the Blue Coat community as an exceptionally involved pupil. He was an Assistant Head Boy, performed in the jazz, show and concert bands as well as the orchestra, captained the debating team, and represented the school in a range of national academic challenges. He also competed with the **GB Telemark team**, winning podium finishes in France and the GB team championships twice. Since leaving Blue Coat, he has continued to embrace new opportunities and is now studying Mandarin in Taiwan.

We are enormously proud to see an Old Blue demonstrating such resilience, determination and generosity of spirit. Ben and Elaine's challenge is a wonderful example of our motto, **Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself, But for All**. We wish them every success on their journey and hope members of the Blue Coat community will consider supporting their fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust.



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYpVIN3sIHM/> or <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYibvnDMbuV/>

MS BAKER AND HER FAMILY TAKE ON THE GREAT NORTH RUN



Ms Baker, Assistant Headteacher, and members of her family took part in the 2026 Great North Run to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK, on Sunday 13th September.

The Great North Run is one of the highlights of the British sporting calendar and the world's largest half marathon. Each year, tens of thousands of runners complete the challenging 13.1-mile route from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields. The course takes runners across the iconic Tyne Bridge before they receive the North East's famous warm welcome and tremendous support all the way to the seafront finish. Elite athletes compete alongside club runners, first-time participants and charity fundraisers, making it an event in which people of all ages and abilities can share the same course. For Ms Baker and her family, however, this challenge is about much more than crossing the finish line. They are running in support of Prostate Cancer UK because prostate cancer affects one in eight men in the UK. That could be someone's dad, brother, partner, grandfather, colleague or friend.

Prostate Cancer UK is working towards a world in which men's lives are not limited by prostate cancer. Money raised will help fund lifesaving research, improve testing and treatment, and provide vital information and support to men and their families.

If you would like to support Ms Baker and her family, please visit their fundraising page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jasmine-baker-6>



CLASSICS ASSOCIATION LECTURE COMES TO BLUE COAT

Students, parents and members of the local community are invited to an exciting evening of classical learning at The Blue Coat School this October.

On **Tuesday 6 October 2026**, Blue Coat will host **Dr Maria Haley**, a respected classicist known online as @MillennialClassicist, who will deliver a fascinating lecture entitled **Meeting the Dead: Depictions of Necromancy in the Ancient World**.

The event forms part of the **Classics for All North 2026-27 Programme** and offers a unique opportunity to explore how the ancient Greeks and Romans imagined communication with the dead. Drawing on myths, literature and archaeological evidence, Dr Haley will examine the ways in which necromancy featured in ancient cultures and what these stories can reveal about beliefs surrounding life, death and the afterlife.

The lecture will take place from **7.00pm to 8.00pm** at **The Liverpool Blue Coat School**. Admission is free, although tickets must be reserved in advance.

This promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking evening for anyone with an interest in history, classics, mythology or the ancient world. We are delighted to welcome Dr Haley to Blue Coat and look forward to hosting another inspiring event that brings academic scholarship to our school community.

For further information and ticket reservations, please visit the Classics for All North website.



Dr Maria Haley

@MillennialClassicist



**Meeting the Dead:
Depictions of
necromancy in
the Ancient
World**

Tuesday 6th October 2026

Venue:

**The Liverpool Blue Coat School,
Church Road, Wavertree, L15 9EE
7-8pm**

2026-27 Programme



**Entry is
Free but
tickets
must be
reserved**

[www.classicsforallnorth/
ca-north](http://www.classicsforallnorth/ca-north)



Y12 Parent Information Evening



**Thursday 24th
September 2026**



5pm – 6pm

YEAR 7 COOKERY CLUB GETS OFF TO A DELICIOUS START



Our new Year 7 Cookery Club got off to a fantastic start this week, with a brilliant turnout from pupils keen to put their culinary skills to the test.

For their first challenge, the group tackled a classic favourite – French toast. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning how to prepare and cook their dish, developing their confidence in the kitchen along the way. Of course, the best part was being able to sit down afterwards and enjoy their delicious creations!

The Cookery Club provides pupils with a wonderful opportunity to learn practical skills, try new recipes and develop greater independence in the kitchen. The focus will be on creating tasty, straightforward dishes that pupils can also recreate at home for family and friends.

It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm at the very first session. Well done to all our Year 7 cooks – we look forward to seeing what you create next!



BLUE COAT BOYS' ATHLETICS TEAM CELEBRATE 33 PODIUM FINISHES AT LSSP COMPETITION



The Blue Coat School is celebrating an excellent set of performances from our boys' athletics team following this week's LSSP City Athletics Competition at Wavertree. Pupils from across the year groups represented the school superbly and competed with real determination, confidence and team spirit throughout the day.

The results were outstanding, with Blue Coat athletes achieving an impressive 33 podium finishes from 44 events, including 10 gold medals and a further 23 silver and bronze medals. These performances reflect both the talent of the pupils involved and the hard work and commitment they have shown in training and preparation.

Just as importantly, the pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school. They supported one another, celebrated each other's successes and demonstrated the resilience, respect and positive attitude we expect from Blue Coat students. Their conduct throughout the competition was every bit as impressive as their results.

We are extremely proud of everyone who took part and represented the school, and our thanks also go to the PE staff who supported and prepared the team. It was a fantastic day of athletics and another example of the strength of sport at Blue Coat. Well done to all involved on a brilliant achievement.



GIRLS' ATHLETICS TEAM WIN 20 MEDALS AT LSSP EVENT



Blue Coat's Girls' Athletics Team enjoyed a fantastic day of competition at the Liverpool School Sports Partnership (LSSP) event in Wavertree, producing a superb series of performances and bringing home an impressive total of 20 medals.

The success reflects not only the talent within the team, but also the commitment, determination and enthusiasm of our students. Across track and field events, the girls competed with confidence and represented Blue Coat brilliantly, supporting one another throughout the day and demonstrating the excellent sporting culture that continues to grow across the school.

There were outstanding performances across every year group. In Year 8, Hannah won silver in the 300m, Mary claimed gold in the long jump and Sarah secured bronze in the javelin. Year 9 added further success, with Lyra winning gold in the 300m, Michelle taking silver in the long jump, Success winning silver in the high jump, Martha claiming gold in the discus and Karla taking silver in the javelin.

Our Year 10 athletes also performed superbly. Alex won silver in the 300m, the relay team secured bronze, Princess claimed bronze in the high jump and silver in the discus, Amna won silver in the shot put and Akshadha earned bronze in the javelin. Year 11 completed an excellent medal haul, with Tallulah taking silver in the 100m, Sophie winning gold in the 200m, the relay team racing to gold, Lauren claiming gold in the triple jump, Doriella winning silver in the discus and Zoe taking gold in the javelin.

This was another excellent example of the strength and breadth of girls' sport at Blue Coat. We want all of our students to have opportunities to compete, challenge themselves, develop confidence and enjoy being part of a team, and it was wonderful to see so many students doing exactly that.

A huge well done to every member of the team. Whether winning medals, achieving personal bests or supporting teammates from the side of the track, every athlete played their part in a memorable day. We are incredibly proud of the way the girls represented Blue Coat and look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the year.



FRANKLIN HOUSE GETS CREATIVE WITH LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN & PLAYHOUSE PARTNERSHIP

This week, Franklin House students took part in our exciting partnership with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, enjoying a fantastic opportunity to develop their creativity, confidence and performance skills.

Working alongside professional theatre practitioners, students explored Greek tragedy, storytelling, chorus work and ensemble performance, with a particular emphasis on collaboration and working together as a company. The session encouraged students to contribute, support one another and build confidence through performance.

The workshop was a brilliant example of our enrichment programme extending learning beyond the classroom, while supporting our whole-school focus on belonging. It was wonderful to see students embracing the opportunity, getting involved and demonstrating creativity and enthusiasm throughout the session.

We look forward to welcoming more students from across the Houses to take part in the programme throughout the year.



KEY DATES

Date	Event
Saturday 19th September 2026	Phase 2 Entrance Test
Thursday 24th September 2026	Year 12 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 08th October 2026	Year 12 & Year 13 'Death of a Salesman' (Liverpool Everyman Theatre)
Friday 09th October 2026 - Saturday 10th October 2026	Year 7 Residential Trip to Conway Centre
Thursday 15th October 2026	Year 7 Form Tutor Evening
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

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Uber Eats

The Blue Coat School Enrichment Clubs

NOT FOR ONESELF, BUT FOR ALL

Weekly enrichment timetable

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WE DNES DAY	THURSDAY	FR IDAY
Basketball –Y8 & Y9 08:00–08:35 • Sports Hall	Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13 Lunchtime • N11	Girls Basketball –All Years 08:00–08:35 • Sports Hall	Basketball –Y7 08:00–08:35 • Sports Hall	The Economics Society Lunchtime • S06
Year 12 Biology Clinic Lunchtime • N14	Sustainability Club Lunchtime • E01	Art Enrichment & Catch-up 12:30–13:20 • Art	Year 11 Biology Intervention Lunchtime • N11	Chemistry Olympiad Yr 12 Lunchtime • C15
Chemistry Clinic Yr 11 Lunchtime • N11	Philosophy Club Lunchtime • W01	Chemistry Olympiad 12:30 • C15	Chemistry Club –KS3 (Week 1) Lunchtime • N10	Y7 & 8 Coding Club Lunchtime • S01
KS4 History Clinic Lunchtime • C13	GCSE Spanish Support Lunchtime • W13	Year 13 Biology Clinic Lunchtime • N16	Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13 Lunchtime • N11	Y9–11 Raspberry Pi Lunchtime • S03
Junior History Club Lunchtime • C11	Yes oui can –KS3 French Club Lunchtime • W15	Spanish A Level Club Lunchtime • W14	Year 7 Cookery Club (Week 1) Lunchtime • E02	Junior Strings –Grades 1–3 Lunchtime • N18
GCSE French Support Lunchtime • W13	Netball –Y9 & Y10 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	French A Level Club Lunchtime • W14	Junior Debate Club Lunchtime • C13	Y8–9 Training Choir Lunchtime • N17
Junior Concert Band –Grades 1–3 Lunchtime • N17	Table Tennis –KS4 & KS5 Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Year 7 Choir Lunchtime • N18	Senior Debate Club Lunchtime • C11	Basketball –Y9 Lunchtime • Sports Hall
Y9–13 Chamber Choir Lunchtime • N18	Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Y8 & 9 Training Choir Lunchtime • N17	Basketball –Y11 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Basketball –Y8 & Y10 Lunchtime • Sports Hall
Netball –Y7 & Y8 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	Basketball –U17/U19 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Girls' Football –All Years Lunchtime • Astro	Yoga/Pilates –All Years Lunchtime • Dance Studio
Dance –Y7 & Y8 Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Handball –U13 & U15 Teams 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall	S&C '100' Club –All Years Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Table Tennis –Y7, Y8 & 6th Form Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Basketball –Y8 & Y9 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall
Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room		Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	
Football –Y9 15:30–16:30 • School Field		Football –Y8 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Weights Room –6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	
Football –Y11 15:30–16:30 • School Field		Football –Y10 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Basketball –Y10 & Y11 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall	
Dance –Y9 & Y10 15:30–16:30 • Dance Studio		Football –U18s 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Football –Y7 15:30–16:30 • School Field	
Badminton –All Years 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall		Netball –Y7–Y10 15:30–16:30 • Outside Courts	Girls' Football –All Years 15:30–16:30 • School Field	
GCSE Spanish Support After School • W14		Netball –Y11–Y13 15:30–16:30 • Indoors	Art Intervention 15:35–17:00 • Art	
Senior Strings After School • N17		Y8–13 Senior Choir After School • N17 & N18	Senior Concert & Jazz Band After School • N18	

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI CHATBOTS

AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Copilot, Google Gemini, and Snapchat's 'My AI' are now part of daily life for millions of children and young people. Vodafone's research in 2026 found that 81% of 11- to 16-year-olds have used an AI chatbot, and this figure is likely to rise. These tools can answer questions, explain ideas, and generate content, but they're not human and don't always get things right. As their use grows faster than regulation and school policy, it's important for both parents and educators to understand the risks and respond effectively.

WHAT ARE CHATBOTS?

Chatbots are powered by large language models (LLMs) trained on vast amounts of online data. In simple terms, they work by predicting the next word in a sentence, producing responses that feel natural and conversational. This human-like interaction, especially with the addition of realistic voice features, makes them highly engaging. While this creates useful opportunities for learning and creativity, it also introduces risks surrounding over-reliance, manipulation, and reduced skill development.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INACCURATE INFORMATION

Chatbots generate responses by predicting likely word sequences rather than by checking facts, which means they can present incorrect information with confidence. Often referred to as 'hallucinations', these errors can mislead children using chatbots for homework or research. Because responses sound authoritative and arrive as a single polished answer, they can be difficult to question without prior knowledge.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Chatbots can quickly generate essays, answers, and ideas, which may encourage children to submit work that isn't their own. While this is an immediate concern, the long-term issue is reduced engagement with learning. When children rely on AI to complete tasks for them, they may miss opportunities to develop essential thinking and writing skills.

DATA PRIVACY RISKS

Most chatbot platforms collect and store user data, including conversations. Children may share personal information such as their name, school, or worries without understanding how it's used. This data may be analysed, stored long term, or used to train future systems, raising concerns about privacy and informed consent for young users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Despite safety measures, chatbots can still produce responses that include violent, sexual, or otherwise unsuitable content. Some users share techniques for bypassing safeguards, and even typical conversations can drift into sensitive topics. Because chatbots are designed to be agreeable, they may not always respond in ways that prioritise a child's wellbeing.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Chatbots are designed to be engaging and agreeable, with some acting as companion tools that mirror the user's tone and remember previous conversations. For children who feel anxious or isolated, this can lead to reliance on AI as a substitute for real relationships. Over time, this may affect their ability to manage disagreement, build resilience, and cope with real-world challenges.

OVER-RELIANCE ON AI

Regular use of chatbots can lead to cognitive offloading, where children turn to AI instead of thinking independently. Over time, this habit can limit the development of problem solving, creativity, and perseverance. Research suggests that once this reliance is established, it can be difficult to reverse.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START CONVERSATIONS EARLY

Don't wait for problems to arise. Ask children which chatbots they use and what they use them for, approaching the topic with curiosity rather than judgement. Creating open, supportive conversations helps children feel comfortable sharing their experiences and concerns, whether at home or in the classroom.



TEACH CRITICAL EVALUATION

Children need to understand that chatbots generate plausible-sounding responses, not verified facts. Encourage them to check the information against reliable sources and question what they're told. Developing this habit supports their digital literacy and helps them use AI tools safely and effectively.



CHECK AGE SETTINGS

Most chatbot platforms have minimum age requirements and may offer parental controls, though many still rely on self-declaration. Take the time to review platform policies, understand what data is collected, and ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place. Schools should also review which tools are accessible to pupils and how they are used.



WATCH FOR OVER-RELIANCE

Be alert to signs that chatbot use is replacing social interaction or independent thinking. This may include children treating chatbots like people, withdrawing from others, or becoming distressed when access to the chatbot is limited. If concerns arise, respond with calm, open discussion rather than blame, focusing on a healthy social balance and their wellbeing.



Meet Our Expert

Darran Coxon is an education leader with over 25 years' experience, and a recognised expert on AI in schools. He has led international school groups and now delivers training and keynote sessions on AI for leading education organisations such as HMC, COBIS, NAHT, and The National College.



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