FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026
ISSUE 7

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL HALF TERM – LIVING OUR VISION AND VALUES

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term at The Blue Coat School, I would like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support and, most importantly, recognise the positive progress our students have made.

Our school vision, “Belong, Flourish, Thrive – Inspired by Our Future,” is at the heart of everything we do. We want every student to feel valued, supported and empowered to achieve their very best, both academically and personally. Our shared values, “Be kind. Work hard. Dream big.” reflect our belief that academic excellence, strength of character, personal responsibility and compassion should go hand in hand.

These principles are brought to life every day through our three school expectations: Ready, Responsible and Respectful. They are more than simply rules; they are the foundations of a positive, inclusive and purposeful school community in which every student can flourish.

Positive Progress – Our 'Gate to Gate' Mobile Phone Policy
One particularly encouraging development this half term has been the positive response to our 'Gate to Gate' mobile phone policy.



The vast majority of students have embraced the expectation that mobile phones should be switched off and put away from the moment they enter the school gates until they leave at the end of the day.

This has contributed to a calmer, more focused learning environment, with fewer distractions and greater opportunities for students to engage meaningfully with their learning, friendships and wider school life.

This is an important example of our students demonstrating responsibility, self-discipline and respect for others. It also reflects our vision of developing confident, resilient and compassionate young people who understand that their individual choices can positively influence the whole school community.

We recognise that establishing new routines takes time, and I am grateful to students, staff and families for their commitment to making this policy successful. We will continue to reinforce these expectations consistently after half term.

Recognising and Rewarding Positive Choices
As part of our commitment to celebrating achievement in all its forms, we are delighted to introduce additional opportunities for students to earn merits through excellent attendance, punctuality and positive behaviour.

From next half term, students will automatically receive merits each week for meeting the following criteria:

- 100% Attendance and Zero Lates: One merit for attending school every day and arriving punctually throughout the week.
- Positive Behaviour: One merit for receiving no behaviour points during the week.
- Perfect Week: An additional merit for achieving both of the above, recognising consistent attendance, punctuality and positive behaviour.
- Perfect Term: Additional merits for students who consistently achieve all three criteria throughout the half term.



All merits will be awarded automatically, so students will not need to take any additional action.

This initiative recognises that success is not simply about examination results. It is also about the positive habits, attitudes and personal qualities that enable young people to achieve their potential.

Being ready to learn, taking responsibility for our actions and showing respect for others are qualities that will serve students throughout their education and long after they leave Blue Coat.

Belong, Flourish, Thrive – Together
Our historic school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – 'Not for Oneself, But for All', reminds us that individual success is strengthened by our commitment to one another.

When students attend regularly, arrive punctually, make positive choices and treat others with kindness and respect, they contribute to a school environment in which everyone can belong, flourish and thrive.

Our new rewards initiative is therefore about much more than earning merits. It is about recognising the everyday decisions that develop character, encourage personal responsibility and strengthen our shared sense of community.

As we look ahead to the next half term, we will continue to promote high expectations alongside care, compassion and encouragement, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you once again to our students for their hard work and positive attitudes, to our staff for their dedication, and to our parents and carers for their invaluable partnership.

I wish everyone a happy, restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Be kind. Work hard. Dream big. Together we flourish.

BLUE COAT CELEBRATES DIWALI – AN EVENING OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

On Wednesday 21st October, The Blue Coat School came together for a wonderful evening of culture, celebration and entertainment as we hosted our annual Diwali event. Organised by our Sixth Form Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group and Senior Prefects, the evening was a fantastic celebration of the rich cultural diversity within our school community.

Diwali, often known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most significant festivals celebrated by millions of people around the world, particularly within Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities. Although its religious significance varies across traditions, Diwali is widely associated with the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Celebrations traditionally include lighting oil lamps known as diyas, decorating homes with colourful rangoli patterns, sharing food and sweets, wearing traditional clothing and spending time with family and friends.

Our Diwali event provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils, staff and families to come together, enjoy an evening of cultural entertainment and celebrate the many traditions that enrich our school community. It was a fantastic reflection of the diversity, creativity and talent of our pupils.

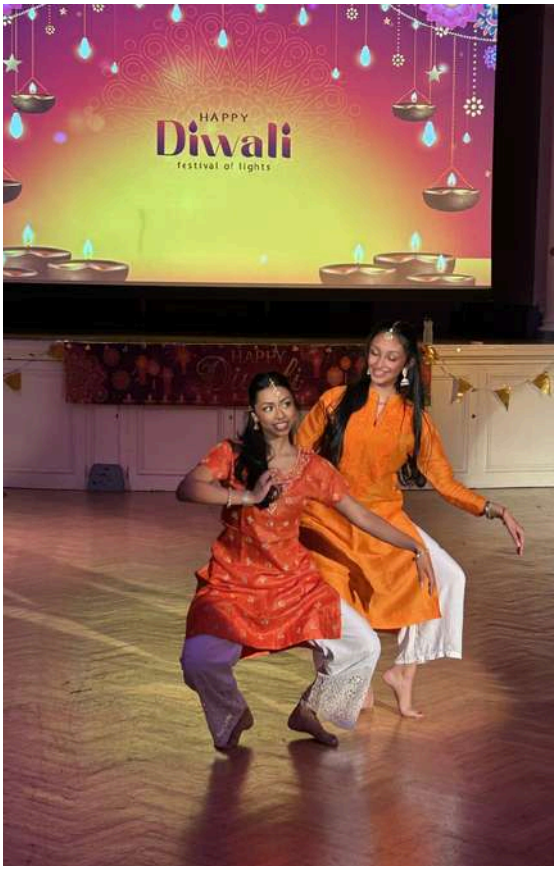
We are particularly proud of the tremendous effort, enthusiasm and leadership demonstrated by our Sixth Form EDI Group and Senior Prefects, who worked incredibly hard to organise such a memorable occasion. Their commitment to celebrating different cultures and bringing people together reflects the values of inclusion, respect and community that are central to life at Blue Coat.

Diwali has become a particularly special and much-valued occasion in our school calendar, and we are immensely proud of the time, energy and creativity our pupils invest in making it such a success. Events like this provide an important opportunity for our young people to celebrate their heritage, share their traditions and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes our school community so special.

A huge thank you and congratulations to everyone involved in organising, supporting and contributing to such a successful and enjoyable evening.







CELEBRATING CREATIVE WRITING SUCCESS – HANA WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION!



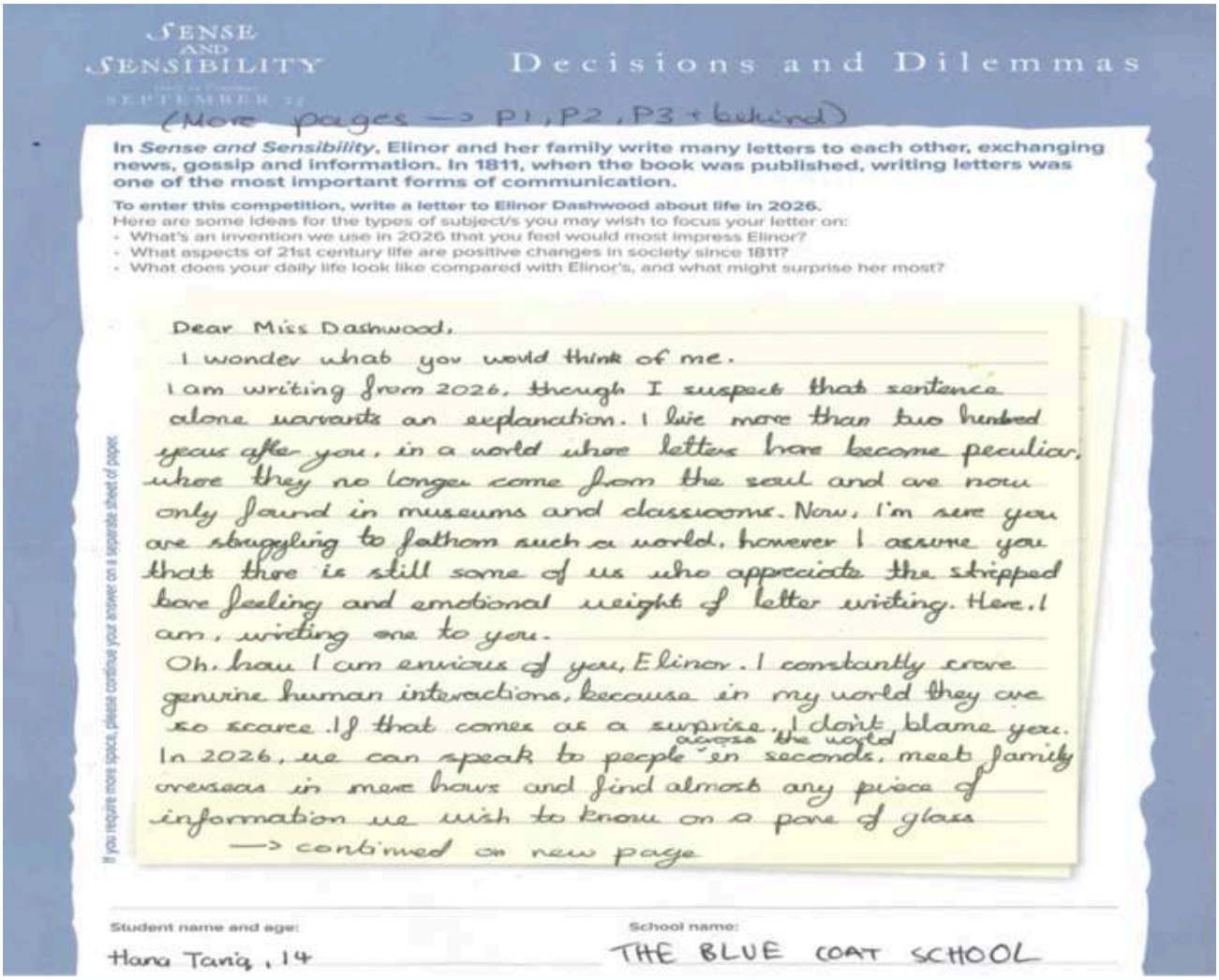
We are absolutely delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Hana, whose entry has been selected as the winner of the Sense and Sensibility 'Letter to Elinor' writing competition!

Inspired by Jane Austen's classic novel, the competition encouraged young writers to demonstrate their creativity, imagination and literary skills through the art of letter writing.

As the winning entrant, Hana has received an Apple iPad and a subscription to Scrivener, a professional writing toolkit designed to support aspiring authors in developing their creative work.
The competition is associated with Into Film, the UK's leading charity for film, television and games in education. Through its programmes, Into Film inspires young people to explore storytelling, develop their creativity and discover exciting opportunities within the screen industries.

Hana's achievement is a wonderful example of the creativity, ambition and talent of our students, reflecting our commitment to encouraging young people to pursue their interests and achieve excellence beyond the classroom.

A huge congratulations to Hana on this outstanding achievement! We are incredibly proud of her success and look forward to seeing where her writing talents take her next! Thank you to Mrs Conway for supporting her entry and promoting the competition.



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY — Decisions and Dilemmas

(More pages —> P1, P2, P3 + behind)

In *Sense and Sensibility*, Elinor and her family write many letters to each other, exchanging news, gossip and information. In 1811, when the book was published, writing letters was one of the most important forms of communication.

To enter this competition, write a letter to Elinor Dashwood about life in 2026.
Here are some ideas for the types of subject/s you may wish to focus your letter on:
- What's an invention we use in 2026 that you feel would most impress Elinor?
- What aspects of 21st century life are positive changes in society since 1811?
- What does your daily life look like compared with Elinor's, and what might surprise her most?

Dear Miss Dashwood,
I wonder what you would think of me.
I am writing from 2026, though I suspect that sentence alone warrants an explanation. I live more than two hundred years after you, in a world where letters have become peculiar, where they no longer come from the soul and are now only found in museums and classrooms. Now, I'm sure you are struggling to fathom such a world, however I assure you that there is still some of us who appreciate the stripped bare feeling and emotional weight of letter writing. Here, I am, writing one to you.
Oh, how I am envious of you, Elinor. I constantly crave genuine human interactions, because in my world they are so scarce. If that comes as a surprise, I don't blame you. In 2026, we can speak to people across the world in seconds, meet family overseas in mere hours and find almost any piece of information we wish to know on a pane of glass
—> continued on new page

If you require more space, please continue your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Student name and age: Hana Taniq, 14

School name: THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

BLUE COAT PUPILS ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP TO PARIS

Blue Coat pupils enjoyed a fantastic cultural adventure in Paris, exploring some of the French capital's most iconic landmarks, world-famous museums and historic attractions. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in French culture, history and art, whilst experiencing the atmosphere of one of Europe's most beautiful and vibrant cities.



The packed itinerary included visits to the Musée d'Orsay and the Louvre, where pupils had the opportunity to admire some of the world's most celebrated works of art, alongside a visit to the magnificent Palace of Versailles, offering a fascinating insight into France's royal history. Pupils also explored the historic Notre-Dame Cathedral and Père Lachaise Cemetery, the final resting place of many famous figures, including Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison.

No visit to Paris would be complete without experiencing its most famous landmarks, and our pupils certainly made the most of their time in the city!

Highlights included the spectacular Eiffel Tower, the Trocadéro, the Arc de Triomphe and a stroll along the famous Champs-Élysées. A cruise along the River Seine provided another memorable opportunity to appreciate the city's stunning architecture and historic sights. There was also plenty of walking as pupils explored the streets of Paris, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying everything the French capital has to offer!

The pupils had an absolutely fantastic time and, as always, were a real credit to The Blue Coat School, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the visit. Experiences such as these are an invaluable part of education beyond the classroom, broadening horizons, developing cultural understanding and creating lasting memories. A huge thank you to Mr Adamson, Miss Bosworth and Mrs Bermejo-Albinana for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment in organising and accompanying the trip, ensuring that our pupils enjoyed such a memorable and rewarding experience.





PRESTIGIOUS BAFTA INVITATION FOR BLUE COAT BENEFACTOR CAROLINE TOD-RICHARDSON



We are absolutely delighted to share the wonderful news that Caroline Tod-Richardson, a longstanding friend and generous benefactor of The Blue Coat School, has been invited to become a member of BAFTA (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts).

BAFTA is one of the world's most prestigious organisations celebrating excellence in film, television and the creative industries. Membership brings together an international community of accomplished professionals who champion creativity, support emerging talent and help shape the future of the screen industries. An invitation to join this distinguished community is a significant professional honour and a wonderful recognition of Caroline's contribution to filmmaking. Caroline is the co-founder and producer of the Earl's Court International Film Festival and has dedicated many years to promoting independent filmmaking, supporting emerging filmmakers and creating opportunities for talented individuals to share their stories.

Caroline and her family have a very special and longstanding connection with The Blue Coat School, stretching back through generations. This includes the remarkable legacy of Sir Alan Tod, who served as Treasurer of the School from 1955 to 1968, and whose commitment to supporting young people's education continues to benefit our students today.

Through her generosity and commitment to the School, Caroline has supported numerous initiatives, including our Everyman Theatre Project, the new stage in Shirley Hall and the annual Tod Travel Scholarships, which provide invaluable opportunities for Sixth Form students to broaden their horizons through educational travel and cultural experiences.

On behalf of everyone at The Blue Coat School, we offer Caroline our warmest congratulations on this prestigious invitation. It is richly deserved, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate this wonderful achievement with someone who has contributed so much to our school.

BLUE COAT PUPILS ENJOY WORLD-CLASS MUSIC AT LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC



Pupils from The Blue Coat School enjoyed two exceptional musical experiences at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Saturday 17th and Thursday 22nd October. The visits, organised by our Music Department and supported by Miss Zidi, Mrs Maskell, Mr Sexton and Mr Emery, provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience live orchestral music of the highest quality in one of Liverpool's most prestigious cultural venues.

Saturday's concert featured Stravinsky's dramatic The Rite of Spring, alongside works by Benjamin Britten and the world premiere of Gavin Higgins' Clarinet Concerto, performed by Liverpool-born clarinettist Mark Simpson. Thursday's performance offered an equally exciting programme, including Ravel's famous Boléro, Debussy's La Mer and Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Mariam Batsashvili.

Both visits gave pupils the opportunity to experience the extraordinary talent, precision and collaboration of professional musicians performing at the highest level. Liverpool has a remarkable musical heritage, and we are incredibly fortunate to have the world-renowned Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra on our doorstep. Being part of major cultural events in our city is an important element of our commitment to enriching pupils' education beyond the classroom.

A huge thank you to our Music Department, Miss Zidi, Mrs Maskell, Mr Sexton and Mr Emery for making these opportunities possible. Experiences such as these not only deepen pupils' musical understanding but also inspire a lifelong appreciation of the arts and the outstanding cultural opportunities Liverpool has to offer.

OLD BLUE MARK LEE INSPIRES SIXTH FORM STUDENTS WITH CAREERS ADVICE

This morning, our Sixth Form students were delighted to welcome back Old Blue Mark Lee, CEO of Fractal Talent, an HR and recruitment company, who delivered an insightful and engaging talk about navigating today's increasingly competitive job market.



Drawing on his extensive professional experience, Mark offered students valuable advice on how to stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs, internships and future career opportunities. He explored the importance of creating an effective CV, preparing thoroughly for interviews and confidently communicating the skills and qualities that make each candidate unique.

Mark shared some excellent practical tips, including the importance of positive body language, understanding non-verbal communication, asking thoughtful and insightful questions, and researching prospective employers thoroughly. He encouraged students to recognise their individual strengths, develop their personal brand and approach every opportunity with confidence, curiosity and authenticity.

One of the key messages was that academic qualifications alone are not always enough in a competitive employment market. The ability to demonstrate initiative, communicate effectively and show a genuine understanding of an organisation can make all the difference.

It was particularly inspiring for our students to hear these insights from a former Blue Coat pupil who has gone on to achieve success in the business world.

Our sincere thanks to Mark for giving his time to return to Blue Coat, sharing his expertise and helping our Sixth Form students prepare for the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. It is always a pleasure to welcome Old Blues back to school and see them inspiring the next generation.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD



Blue Coat students came together during Show Racism the Red Card Week, which began on Monday 12 October, to raise awareness of racism and discrimination and promote equality, respect and inclusion across our school community.

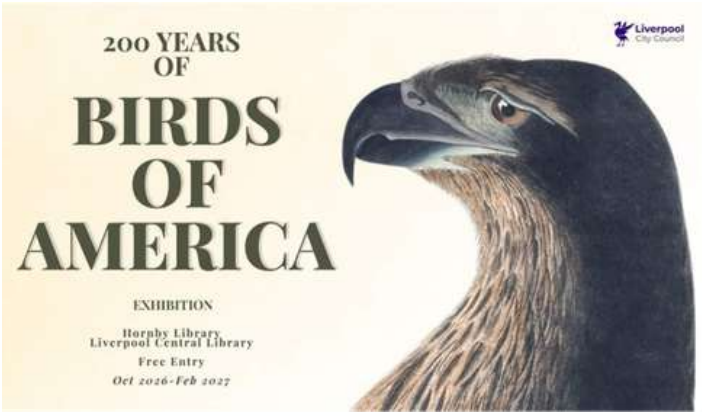
As part of the week, Seacole House led a cultural awareness quiz, giving students an opportunity to learn more about different cultures and backgrounds. Students could also support the campaign by wearing red wristband throughout the week, reflecting the charity's Wear Red for Racism campaign.

Sixth Form student Shahin explained the importance of the campaign: "Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism charity that aims to tackle racism and discrimination through education. The red card represents a clear rejection of racism and sends the message that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated."

A big thank you to everyone who took part and donated. By getting involved, our students helped reinforce an important message that everyone deserves to feel respected, included and safe.

BLUE COAT ORIGAMI CLUB TAKES FLIGHT AT LIVERPOOL CENTRAL LIBRARY!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about our talented Blue Coat Origami Club, which has been invited to contribute to a special exhibition at Liverpool Central Library celebrating 200 Years of Birds of America.



The exhibition, hosted in the beautiful Hornby Library, celebrates the remarkable world of birds and provides an exciting opportunity for visitors to explore art, nature and creativity. As part of this celebration, our Origami Club was asked to create a collection of beautiful paper birds to contribute to the exhibition.

It is a very special honour for our school to have been invited to participate in such a prestigious cultural event, and we are incredibly proud of the creativity, patience and craftsmanship demonstrated by our students. Liverpool Central Library has expressed its thanks to the Origami Club for its contribution, recognising the wonderful work of our young artists.

This is a fantastic example of our students' talents extending beyond the classroom and making a meaningful contribution to the wider Liverpool community. It also reflects our school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Ourselves, but for All – as students use their skills and creativity for the enjoyment of others.

We warmly encourage all students, parents and carers to visit the exhibition over the October half-term holiday. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements while enjoying one of Liverpool's most impressive cultural spaces. Best of all, admission is completely free!

Exhibition Details

- Exhibition: 200 Years of Birds of America
- Venue: Hornby Library, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW
- Dates: 10 October 2026 – February 2027
- Admission: FREE

A huge thank you and congratulations to all members of our Origami Club, coordinated by Mrs Bermejo-Albinana, for representing Blue Coat so brilliantly. We hope many members of our school community will take the opportunity to visit the exhibition and admire their wonderful creations!





BLUE COAT COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR CANCER AWARENESS FUNDRAISING



The Blue Coat School community has once again demonstrated its generosity and commitment to supporting important causes through a series of fundraising activities. Our recent Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising events raised an incredible total of nearly £1,000, a fantastic achievement made possible by the kindness and enthusiasm of pupils, staff and families. Breast Cancer Awareness Month, recognised each October, highlights the importance of early detection, education and supporting those affected by the disease.

On Thursday 22nd October, our fundraising efforts continued with a cake sale in support of bowel (colon) cancer awareness. The event provided another wonderful opportunity for pupils and staff to come together, enjoy some delicious treats and contribute to a cause that affects so many families. Raising awareness of different forms of cancer and supporting the charities working to improve treatment and care are important ways in which our school community can make a positive difference.

We are incredibly proud of the generosity, enthusiasm and community spirit shown throughout these events. A huge thank you to everyone who organised, contributed, baked, donated or supported the fundraising activities. We will also be sharing the final fundraising total for Show Racism the Red Card, along with the results of our recent quiz, shortly. These initiatives perfectly embody our school motto, 'Non Sibi Sed Omnibus' – 'Not for Ourselves, but for All', demonstrating how our pupils and staff put the values of kindness, service and responsibility into practice by making a positive difference to the lives of others.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9 PUPILS – BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We are delighted to offer all Year 9 pupils the opportunity to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), one of the UK's most recognised and respected youth achievement programmes. Blue Coat has an outstanding record of successful participation and completion across Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, and we are proud to continue providing this valuable opportunity for our pupils.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award encourages young people to develop confidence, independence, resilience and teamwork through a range of exciting challenges. Pupils complete activities in three areas – Volunteering, Physical and Skills – alongside an adventurous expedition involving navigation, camping and teamwork. The Award provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop new interests, contribute to their communities and gain valuable experiences and skills that will benefit them well beyond school.

This year's programme will be supported by our Approved Activity Provider, Mountaineerin Ltd, with a training day on Monday 1st March 2027, a practice expedition on 16th–17th April and an assessed expedition on 7th–8th May. Pupils must be available for all three dates. The anticipated cost is approximately £340, including registration, training, expedition support, transport and camping arrangements. A £50 deposit is required to secure a place, with a payment plan for the remaining balance to follow.

Parents and carers wishing to enrol their child should make the deposit payment through ParentMail and return the completed enrolment form to Mrs Heath via the School Office by Friday 6th November 2026. Further information will be shared with pupils during an assembly. We strongly encourage Year 9 pupils to consider taking part in this rewarding opportunity, which reflects our commitment to developing confident, well-rounded young people who embrace challenges and contribute positively to the wider community.

Further information is available at www.dofe.org.

BLUE COAT STUDENTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT UK SPACE DESIGN COMPETITION

Eight talented Blue Coat students represented the school at the UK Space Design Competition on Saturday 17th October, taking part in an exciting and challenging event that brought together young scientists, engineers and innovators from across the region. We are particularly delighted that four of our students – Heetansh R, Zitong Y, Stephen L and Zakarya O – were members of the winning team, securing an outstanding achievement for the school.

The UK Space Design Competition is a prestigious national STEM challenge that gives students the opportunity to experience the demands of working in the aerospace industry. Participants join forces with students from other schools to form fictional engineering companies, tasked with designing a future settlement in space. Working against the clock, teams must develop detailed proposals considering everything from engineering, energy supplies and life-support systems to accommodation, sustainability and financial planning. Their final designs are presented to a panel of judges, requiring exceptional creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills.

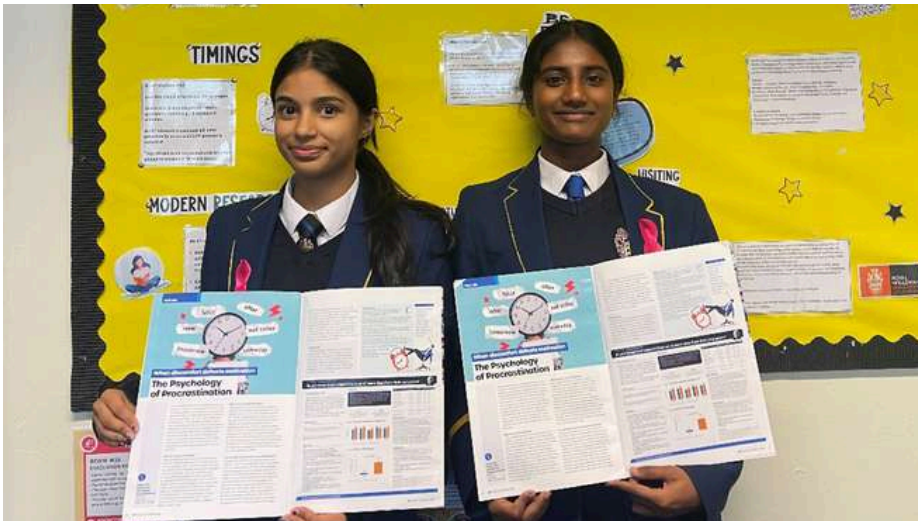
Alongside our four winning students, Pranav G, Jayadev P, Ben C and Jun Xi W also represented Blue Coat brilliantly, demonstrating enthusiasm, determination and impressive scientific thinking throughout the competition. As members of the winning company, Heetansh, Zitong, Stephen and Zakarya have earned the opportunity to progress to the UK National Finals at Imperial College London in March 2027, where successful regional teams will compete for the chance to reach the international competition at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

We are immensely proud of all eight students for embracing this fantastic opportunity and representing Blue Coat with such distinction. Their achievements reflect the ambition, intellectual curiosity and collaborative spirit that we seek to encourage in all our pupils. Congratulations to everyone involved, and particularly to our four winning team members. We wish them every success in the next stage of the competition!



BLUE COAT SIXTH FORMERS HAVE PSYCHOLOGY ARTICLE PUBLISHED NATIONALLY

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of three Blue Coat Sixth Form students, Rachel Dix, Sneha Sobilk and Daksha Sivagnamoorthy, who have had their article, 'The Psychology of Procrastination', published by the Association for the Teaching of Psychology (ATP). This is an outstanding accomplishment and a wonderful recognition of their academic curiosity, research skills and enthusiasm for psychology.



The Association for the Teaching of Psychology is a respected national organisation which supports psychology education and promotes the sharing of ideas, research and best practice among teachers and students. Having their work published provides our students with an exciting opportunity to contribute to a wider academic community beyond the classroom.

Their article explores the fascinating subject of procrastination, a behaviour familiar to many of us, particularly when faced with examinations, revision or important deadlines! Understanding why we put things off, despite knowing the potential consequences, offers valuable insights into human motivation, behaviour and decision-making. The topic highlights how psychology can help us better understand everyday experiences and develop strategies for overcoming common challenges.

We are immensely proud of Rachel, Sneha and Daksha for demonstrating such impressive initiative, intellectual curiosity and commitment to their studies. Their achievement is a fantastic example of academic enrichment beyond the curriculum and reflects the ambition and talent of our Sixth Form students. Congratulations to all three on this well-deserved recognition!

NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS

Y11 Parents Evening

Tuesday 10th November 2026 | **4:15pm - 6:45pm**

THE VALUE OF ENRICHMENT

Enrichment activities are a vital part of school life, giving students opportunities to develop new skills, discover their interests and build confidence beyond the classroom. Through sport, music, drama, clubs, competitions and trips, students gain valuable experiences, make new friendships and develop skills that prepare them for life beyond school.

We kindly ask parents to consider making a voluntary annual donation of £30 per student to help us continue to provide the wide range of enrichment opportunities available at Blue Coat. These donations help cover the cost of kit, equipment, membership fees, competition entry and travel, ensuring that our students can continue to benefit from these valuable experiences. Donating is easy via the Accounts/Products tab in ParentMail.

As a thank you, everyone who makes a donation will be entered into a monthly prize draw for the chance to win £50.

A huge thank you to all the parents who have already donated and are helping us make these opportunities possible for our students. Your support is greatly appreciated!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Get involved. Try something new. Belong at Blue Coat.

MONDAY

Basketball – Y8 & Y9
Sports Hall – J Cook
Year 12 Biology Clinic
N14 – S Bruce
Chemistry Clinic Yr 11
N11 – S Lewis
KS4 History Clinic
C13 – L Heery
Junior History Club
C11 – B Murray
GCSE French Support
W13 – J Adamson
Origami Club
W14 – S Albinana
Bible Study
W01 – S Forster
Junior Concert Band – Gr 1–3
N17 – C Horton
Y9–13 Chamber Choir
N18 – S Emery
Netball – Y7 & Y8
Sports Hall – E Ellis
Dance – Y7 & Y8
Dance Studio – J Wall
Weights Room – 6th Form
Weights Room – P Phelan/M Cain
Maths A Level Drop-in
C04 – S Fee
Football – Y9
School Field – P Phelan
Football – Y11
School Field – J Adamson
Dance – Y9 & Y10
Dance Studio – J Wall
Badminton – All Years
Sports Hall – E Carney
GCSE Spanish Support
W14 – J Adamson
Senior Strings
N17 – S Emery/C Horton

TUESDAY

Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13
N11 – M Burke/E Roberts
Sustainability Club
E01 – S Kerr
Philosophy Club
W01 – S Forster
Magic: The Gathering Club
W03 – A Withers
GCSE Spanish Support
W13 – J Adamson
Yes oui can – KS3 French Club
W15 – A Zidi
Netball – Y9 & Y10
Sports Hall – P Hughes/S Salter
Table Tennis – KS4 & KS5
Dance Studio – E Carney
Weights Room – 6th Form
Weights Room – P Phelan
Handball – U13 & U15 Teams
Sports Hall – J Cook

WEDNESDAY

Art Enrichment & Catch-up
Art – E. Weights
Chemistry Olympiad
C15 – M Maskell
Year 13 Biology Clinic
N16 – N. Elliott
Girls Maths GCSE Drop-in
C04 – G. Burnham
Board Games Club
W21 – D McGain
Spanish A Level Club
W14 – J Adamson
French A Level Club
W14 – J Adamson
Year 7 Choir
N18 – S Emery
Y8 & 9 Training Choir
N17 – S Emery
Basketball – U17/U19
Sports Hall – E Carney
S&C '100' Club – All Years
Dance Studio – J Bygroves
Weights Room – 6th Form
Weights Room – M Cain
Football – Y8
School Field – M Farrell
Football – Y10
School Field – J Bygroves
Football – U18s
School Field – E Carney
Netball – Y7–Y10
Outside Courts – H Conway, P Hughes, E Ellis
Netball – Y11–Y13
Indoors – S Salter
Y8–13 Senior Choir
N17 & N18 – S Emery

THURSDAY

Girls Basketball – All Years
Sports Hall – J. Campfield
Year 11 Biology Intervention
N11 – S. Lewis
Chemistry Club – KS3 (Week 1)
N10 – N Sedgewick/T Abrams
Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13
N11 – M Burke/E Roberts
Year 7 Cookery Club (Week 1)
E02 – L Graham
Junior Debate Club
C13 – L Heery
Senior Debate Club
C11 – L Heery
Magic: The Gathering Club
W03 – A Withers
Basketball – Y9
Sports Hall – J Cook
Basketball – Y11
Sports Hall – P Phelan
Girls' Football – All Years
Astro – J Bygroves
Table Tennis – Y7, Y8 & 6th Form
Dance Studio – E Carney
Weights Room – 6th Form
Weights Room – M Cain
Pokeblade Club – Y7–9
W22 – H Conway
Basketball – Y10 & Y11
Sports Hall – P Phelan
Football – Y7
School Field – E Carney
Girls' Football – All Years
School Field – E Ellis, P Hughes
Art Intervention
Art – M Cain
Senior Concert & Jazz Band
N18 – S Emery/C Horton

FRIDAY

The Economics Society
S06 – M Farrell
Chemistry Olympiad Yr 12
C15 – M Maskell
Y7 & 8 Coding Club
S01 – L Jones
Y11 Computing Clinic
S03 – C O'Hara
Y9–11 Raspberry Pi
S02 – M Stokes
Junior Strings – Gr 1–3
N18 – S Emery/C Horton
Basketball – Y8 & Y10
Sports Hall – P Phelan, J Cook
Yoga/Pilates – All Years
Dance Studio – P Hughes, E Ellis
Weights Room – 6th Form
Weights Room – E Carney
Basketball – Y8 & Y9
Sports Hall – J Cook

LIFE AT UNI THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR OLD BLUES



Charlotte: High Tradition and Intense Workloads at Cambridge

"My first few weeks at Cambridge have been so surreal and something that I will never forget!" shares Charlotte. For her, the standout highlight so far has been the historic Matriculation ceremony. "We got to dress up, put on our gowns, and share a three-course meal with the College's Fellows and professors."

The experience was a world away from a typical school lunch. "It was very different from any meal I had ever had before because we had to wait for grace to be sung in Latin before we could sit down. On the day of matriculation, we even went punting in our gowns, which was tricky but loads of fun!"

However, Cambridge life isn't just about ancient traditions and riverboats. Charlotte quickly discovered the academic rigor the university is famous for. "The workload is very intense, but I knew what I was signing up for—I was assigned a 2,000-word essay before lectures even started!"

To balance the mental strain, Charlotte has thrown herself into fitness, exploring local gyms, running, and even taking up rowing. Looking back at her journey, she adds: "I wouldn't be here in Cambridge if it wasn't for the help that Blue Coat gave me, so I will be forever grateful for everyone who supported me!"

Sophia: Mastering Independence and Time Management

For Sophia, the first month of university has been a fast-paced, highly sociable adventure. "The university always has so many things going on that you can never really get bored," she says. "Joining sports teams has been one of my highlights so far, as it has been a great way to meet new people, build friendships quickly, and get involved in lots of social activities."

The biggest hurdle for Sophia has been the delicate act of juggling academics with her new social life. "Keeping up with all the required reading for my course while maintaining a good social life has been a challenge."

Fortunately, her time in the Blue Coat Sixth Form gave her a head start. "Blue Coat helped prepare me for this through things like having 'frees' in Sixth Form, which taught me to manage my time effectively and balance academic work with social activities."

Reflecting on the shift to higher education, Sophia notes that the transition is a major change, largely due to the sudden influx of independence and personal responsibility. She offers this golden nugget of advice for current Sixth Formers:

"Make sure you genuinely enjoy the course you choose. University involves a lot of independent study, so if you are not interested in your subject, the workload can quickly become tedious. It will be difficult to stay motivated, and you might fall behind early on."



Finding a 'New Family' in Belfast

For another of our Old Blues, the university journey involved a flight across the Irish Sea to Belfast.

"I was the first of my friends to leave for university, and when I arrived in Belfast, it still hadn't fully sunk in that I was there," they recall. "For the first 12 hours it felt like a fever dream, and for the first two weeks it felt like a holiday. But after over a month here, it's starting to feel like home."

Moving into student accommodation is a rite of passage, often requiring a bit of compromise. "Our flat is far from perfect—cheapest of the cheap!—but I've been so lucky to find myself with the loveliest flatmates who have quickly become my genuine best friends. It feels like I've found myself a little family to fill the hole left by the one at home.

Academically, they have found the change refreshing. "Classes are so different from school, but so engaging. It's nothing like anything I've experienced before."

For any current students anxious about the prospect of moving away from home, this Old Blue offers some deeply reassuring words: "If you're stressed about the premise of moving away, go ahead and worry; overthink and overpack, but do it anyway. There's nothing better than carving out a place for yourself somewhere brand new, and I promise that wherever you go, you'll find your family. The world is a big place."

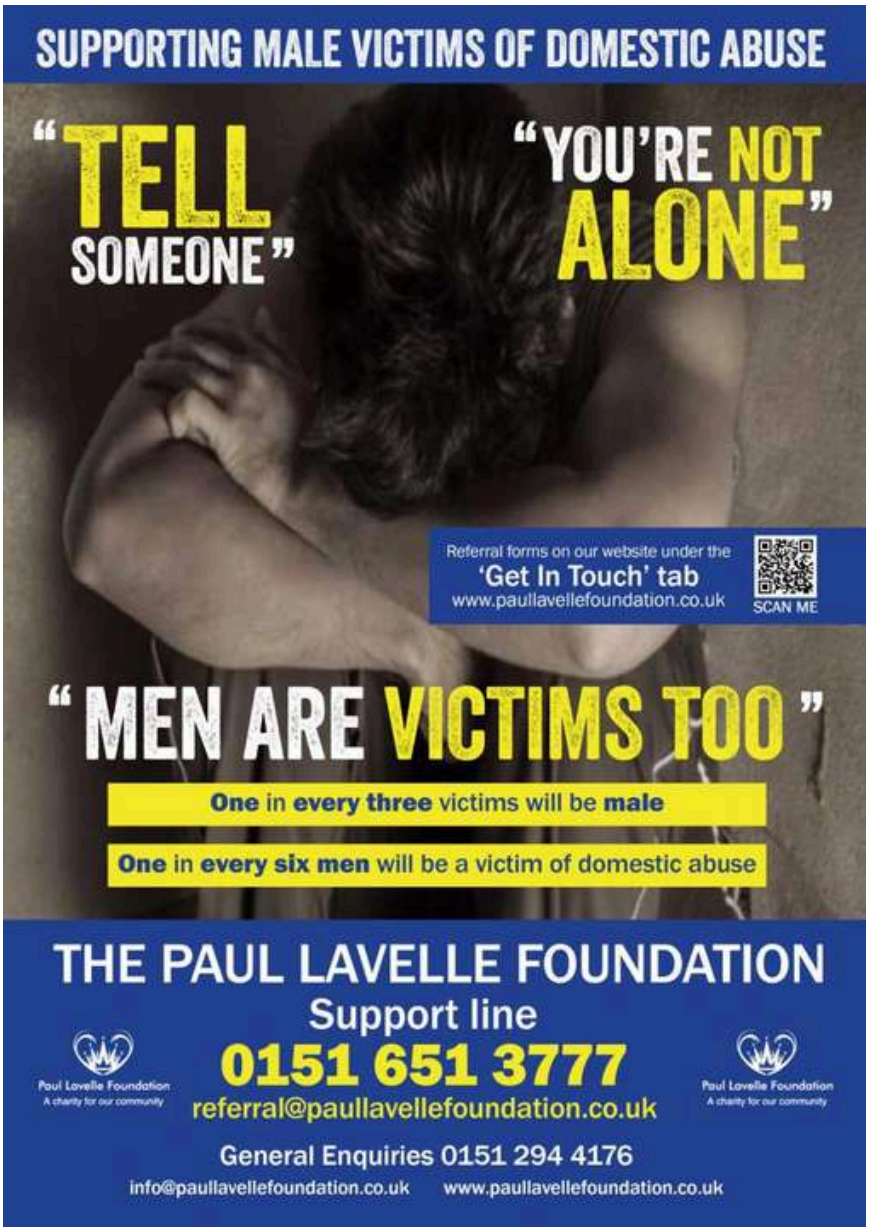
We are incredibly proud of all our Old Blues as they take their first steps into the wider world. It is wonderful to see that the independence, time-management skills, and academic foundations built at **Blue Coat** are already helping them navigate their new lives. We wish them the very best of luck with the rest of their first term!

RAISING AWARENESS OF MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE – #MENYOUARENOTALONE

At The Blue Coat School, we believe that everyone deserves to feel safe, respected and supported. We are therefore pleased to raise awareness of an important campaign highlighting the experiences of male victims of domestic abuse and the support available to them.

From 4 November 2026, Liverpool City Council's Safer & Stronger Communities Team will once again be supporting the Paul Lavelle Foundation and the ManKind Initiative in their annual awareness campaign, #MenYouAreNotAlone.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender, age or background. However, male victims can face particular barriers to seeking help, including stigma, embarrassment and a fear of not being believed. This campaign aims to challenge misconceptions, encourage conversations and ensure that men experiencing abuse know they are not alone.



As a school community, we recognise the importance of promoting healthy relationships, mutual respect and the confidence to speak out when something is wrong. By sharing this campaign, we hope to raise awareness among students, staff, parents and carers, while reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing.
Support and further information are available through:

- Paul Lavelle Foundation – Supporting male victims of domestic abuse and raising awareness of the issue.
- ManKind Initiative – Providing advice, information and support for male victims of domestic abuse.

We encourage our school community to share the message

#MenYouAreNotAlone. Raising awareness, showing compassion and helping people access support can make a meaningful difference.

No one should suffer in silence, and everyone deserves to feel safe.

BLUE COAT PUPIL TO REPRESENT ENGLAND AT EUROPEAN KARATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic news that Rihanna C (11RO) has been selected to represent England at the 2026 European Karate Championships in Sheffield. This is an outstanding achievement and a wonderful recognition of Rihanna's dedication, determination and sporting talent.

The 16th World Union of Karate-Do Federations (WUKF) European Championships will take place from 21st to 25th October at the Canon Medical Arena in Sheffield. This prestigious international competition brings together talented karate athletes from across Europe to compete for European titles. Competitors demonstrate exceptional skill, discipline and technique in events including kata, which focuses on precise sequences of movements, and kumite, which involves competitive sparring.

Representing your country at an international sporting event is a remarkable accomplishment, particularly whilst balancing the demands of GCSE studies. Rihanna's achievement reflects the commitment, resilience and hard work required to compete at such a high level. We are immensely proud of Rihanna and wish her every success as she represents England on the European stage. She is a fantastic ambassador for Blue Coat, and we look forward to celebrating her achievements.

BADMINTON SUCCESS FOR YEAR 8 STUDENT YI PAN!



We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Yi P (08TO), who has been selected by Badminton England to attend the Development Day of the England Junior Performance Programme (EJPP) on 1st November.

The EJPP is a prestigious national pathway designed to identify, nurture and develop talented young badminton players, with the ambition of representing England in international competitions. Yi's selection is a fantastic recognition of his talent, commitment and dedication to the sport.

Adding to this impressive achievement, Yi is currently ranked 23rd nationally in his age group and has qualified for the U13 English National Championships, taking place in Milton Keynes on 21st and 22nd November.



These remarkable accomplishments reflect Yi's hard work and determination over the past year, and we are incredibly proud of his success.

Congratulations, Yi! Everyone at The Blue Coat School wishes you the very best at the upcoming National Championships and as you continue your exciting badminton journey. We look forward to following your progress!

BLUE COAT SPORTS ROUND-UP

Football ⚽

It has been another competitive week of football for our Blue Coat teams, with pupils representing the school in both the Merseyside and Liverpool Cup competitions.

Our U14 Girls faced Birkenhead in the Merseyside Cup, narrowly missing out on progression following a 2–0 defeat. Despite the result, the girls demonstrated determination and commitment throughout the match.

Meanwhile, our U15 Boys reached the semi-finals of the Liverpool Cup, an excellent achievement. They faced a strong King David side in a closely contested encounter, eventually losing 1–0. Reaching the final four is something the team should be very proud of, and we congratulate all the players on their impressive cup run.

Upcoming Fixtures

We wish our teams the very best of luck in their upcoming Merseyside Cup fixtures:

U12 Boys Football – v Mosslands, Monday, 3.45pm (Home)
U13 Girls Football – v Maghull, Monday, 3.30pm (Away)

Well done to all our pupils for their continued enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment to representing Blue Coat. Thank you also to our PE staff for their ongoing dedication to school sport.



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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 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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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See full reference list on our website

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