

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

HELP KEEP BLUE COAT ENRICHMENT THRIVING

At Blue Coat, education extends far beyond the classroom. Our enrichment programme is a central part of the student experience, helping young people to discover new interests, develop their talents and grow in confidence, character and ambition. From clubs and academic support to competitions, visits, leadership opportunities and community service, enrichment helps our students to belong, flourish and thrive.

The breadth of opportunities available across the school is considerable. Students can take part in activities including sport, dance, cookery, chess, cinematography, music ensembles, Eco Club, textiles, physics and maths enrichment, alongside a wide range of academic clinics and support sessions. Beyond school, our programme includes experiences such as visits and exchanges to Rome, Paris, Madrid, Bordeaux, San Sebastián, Shanghai and CERN, as well as fieldwork, university visits and cultural experiences that bring learning to life.

Our students also have opportunities to represent Blue Coat regionally and nationally. The enrichment programme includes the Bebras Challenge, Maths Challenges, Physics Olympiad, National Careers Challenge, National Reading Champions Quiz, UK Space Design Competition, as well as national competitions in handball, badminton and table tennis. Alongside this are important leadership, cultural and personal-development opportunities, including our residential programmes, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Liverpool School Parliament, Iftar and Diwali celebrations, and activities designed to develop resilience, independence and service to others.

Maintaining such a wide-ranging programme requires significant resources. To help us sustain and develop our enrichment provision during the coming academic year, we are therefore asking families, where possible, to consider making a voluntary contribution of £10 per term — £30 per year, per student. Every contribution will go directly towards maintaining and enhancing extracurricular and enrichment opportunities, helping us to keep them accessible to all students.

As a thank you for supporting the fund, contributors will be entered into a monthly raffle, with the opportunity to win either a £50 cash prize or a prize of equivalent value. For every £10 contributed, families will receive one entry into each month's draw. All parents and carers have received a letter explaining the fund and how to sign up. If you are able to support us, please make your contribution through ParentMail. We really do need the support of our whole school community if we are to continue offering the exceptional range of opportunities that makes the Blue Coat experience so distinctive.



BBC BITESIZE CAREERS WORKSHOP – BUILDING AMBITION FOR THE FUTURE

On Tuesday 22 September, students in Years 7–10 will take part in a special BBC Bitesize Careers Workshop at The Blue Coat School. The event will give students an opportunity to explore the world of work, hear about different career pathways and begin thinking about how the subjects, skills and experiences they develop at school can connect with their future ambitions.



The workshop forms an important part of our wider commitment to providing outstanding careers education for every Blue Coat student. Our careers programme is structured around the Gatsby Benchmarks, the national evidence-based framework for high-quality careers guidance. The eight benchmarks cover a stable careers programme; access to careers and labour-market information; meeting the individual needs of students; linking curriculum learning to careers; encounters with employers and employees; experiences of workplaces; encounters with further and higher education; and access to personal careers guidance.

At Blue Coat, careers education is not something that begins only when students are choosing GCSEs, university courses or apprenticeships. We want students to develop their understanding of opportunities from Year 7 onwards, gradually building their knowledge of different sectors, qualifications and pathways. Events such as the BBC Bitesize Careers Workshop help students see the relevance of their learning, discover careers they may not previously have considered and understand the skills employers value.

The event particularly supports our work around linking curriculum learning to careers, providing encounters with employers and the world of work, and ensuring students have access to high-quality careers and labour-market information. The refreshed Gatsby framework also places increased emphasis on ensuring that careers provision meets the needs of every young person and on involving parents and carers in conversations about future pathways.

This work will continue throughout the year through employer encounters, university and apprenticeship opportunities, workplace experiences, curriculum-based careers activities and individual guidance. Our aim is to ensure that every Blue Coat student leaves school with the knowledge, confidence, experience and ambition to make informed choices about their next steps.





MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD FOR GIRLS

On Tuesday 22 September, Blue Coat students will have the opportunity to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust Mathematical Olympiad for Girls (MOG), a prestigious national competition designed to encourage and challenge talented young female mathematicians. The competition gives students the chance to engage with demanding mathematical problems beyond the normal school curriculum.



UK Maths Trust

The Olympiad focuses on problem solving, logical reasoning and mathematical creativity. Rather than simply finding an answer, students are encouraged to explain their thinking clearly, develop mathematical arguments and persevere with unfamiliar problems. These are important skills that support success not only in mathematics, but also across science, technology and engineering.

The competition also plays an important role in encouraging more girls to see themselves as confident and capable mathematicians. By providing opportunities to experience high-level mathematical challenge, it helps students to develop ambition, resilience and a greater appreciation of where advanced mathematics can lead in further study and future careers.

At Blue Coat, we want students to experience mathematics as a creative and intellectually exciting subject, not simply as preparation for examinations. Taking part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls is an excellent opportunity for students to challenge themselves, test their abilities and enjoy mathematics at a very high level. We wish all of our participants the very best of luck.

TRUSTEE VISIT – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS AT BLUE COAT

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, we were pleased to welcome Trustee and Old Blue, Sam Myers, back to The Blue Coat School as part of the Trust Board's ongoing programme of governance visits. The visit provided an opportunity to review recent curriculum developments and to see first-hand how the school's strategic priorities are being implemented in practice.

During the visit, Sam met with senior leaders, teaching staff and students to explore the impact of curriculum changes across the school. These discussions enabled him to consider how effectively the curriculum is meeting the needs of students, how developments are understood by staff, and how the school is maintaining high expectations for academic achievement alongside a broad and ambitious educational experience.

Trustee visits form an important part of effective governance at Blue Coat. They allow Trustees to triangulate information presented through reports and meetings with direct evidence from classrooms, staff and students. This strengthens the Board's ability to provide appropriate challenge and support, monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan and assure itself that agreed strategic priorities are having the intended impact.

As an Old Blue now working in investment banking, Sam also brings a valuable external perspective to his role as Trustee. We are grateful for the time he gave to the visit and for his continued contribution to the governance of the school. Strong engagement between Trustees, leaders, staff and students plays an important part in ensuring that Blue Coat continues to develop strategically, while remaining focused on the quality of education and outcomes for every student.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING AT BLUE COAT

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, staff at The Blue Coat School came together for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, organised by Ms Rowe. The event provided a welcome opportunity for colleagues to spend time together while raising awareness and support for the vital work of Macmillan Cancer Support.



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

A huge thank you goes to all of the staff who contributed by baking and bringing cakes, helping to organise the event and, of course, taking part on the day. The generosity and enthusiasm of colleagues helped to make the morning a real success and reflected the strong sense of community that exists across the school.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning has become an important part of the Blue Coat staff calendar. For many within our school community, cancer is something that has touched our families, friends and wider support networks, making this annual event especially meaningful.

Events such as this remind us of the importance of coming together to support one another and to contribute to causes that make a genuine difference. We are very grateful to Ms Rowe for organising the morning and to everyone who helped make it such a positive and supportive occasion.

BLUE COAT TRUSTEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT DAY

Trustees at The Blue Coat School will be taking part in a dedicated Trustee Training and Development Day on 26th September 2026, providing an important opportunity to review the school's performance, strengthen governance practice and ensure that the Board remains well informed about its statutory and strategic responsibilities.

Part of the day focused on the review of examination outcomes, enabling Trustees to examine performance across key stages, consider strengths and areas for further development, and ensure that leaders are appropriately challenged on academic standards and student outcomes. They then reviewed the Schools self-evaluation and agreed the School Improvement priorities for the year. trustees also completed safeguarding training, reinforcing their responsibilities for oversight, assurance and ensuring that safeguarding remains central to the work of the school.

The programme also included wider governance development work, including consideration of the effectiveness of Board structures, committee responsibilities and the quality of strategic challenge and support provided to school leaders. Trustees reviewed areas of policy development, ensuring that key policies remain current, compliant and aligned with the school's strategic priorities.

The day concluded with an update on the Ofsted inspection toolkit and inspection expectations, helping Trustees understand the evidence inspectors may consider and the important role governance plays in demonstrating effective strategic oversight, accountability and continuous improvement. Regular training of this kind supports Trustees in carrying out their role confidently and effectively, ensuring that governance continues to make a strong contribution to the future development of Blue Coat.



YOM KIPPUR – REFLECTION, BELONGING AND COMMUNITY

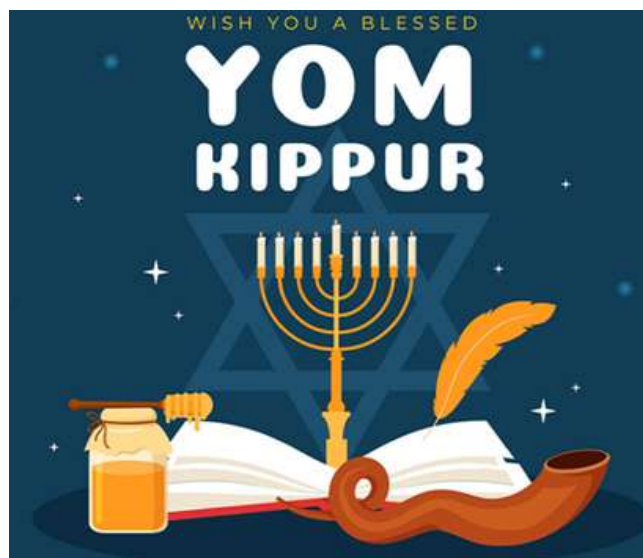
This week, members of the Jewish community at Blue Coat, across Liverpool and around the world are observing Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Yom Kippur is a deeply significant time of reflection, repentance and renewal, when many Jewish people fast, pray and attend synagogue, reflecting on the year that has passed and considering how to live with greater kindness, responsibility and purpose in the year ahead.

At The Blue Coat School, we want every member of our community to feel that they belong, are valued and are empowered to thrive. Recognising important religious festivals and observances is an important part of that commitment. Our school community is strengthened when we take time to understand the faiths, traditions and experiences of others, and when students feel that their own identity, beliefs and heritage are recognised and respected.

The themes at the heart of Yom Kippur connect strongly with the values we seek to develop in all Blue Coat students: reflection, compassion, personal responsibility and consideration for others. Our school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself, But for All, reminds us that being part of a community brings responsibilities as well as opportunities, and that our words and actions should contribute positively to the lives of those around us.

Later this week, the Jewish community will also begin the festival of Sukkot, starting at sunset on Friday 25 September. Sukkot, sometimes known as the Feast of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles, recalls the Israelites' journey through the desert and is also associated with the autumn harvest. A distinctive feature of the festival is the sukkah, a temporary outdoor structure in which families may eat, gather and celebrate. The festival places particular emphasis on gratitude, hospitality and community, themes which also resonate strongly with our Blue Coat values.

Our commitment to inclusion is about more than recognising difference; it is about ensuring that every student and member of staff knows that they are an important part of the Blue Coat community. By learning about occasions such as Yom Kippur and Sukkot, we deepen our understanding of one another and reinforce the culture of mutual respect, curiosity and belonging that we want to see throughout our school. We wish all Jewish members of our Blue Coat community, their families and the wider Jewish community in Liverpool a peaceful and meaningful Yom Kippur and a joyful Sukkot.



NEW KS3 DANCE CLUB GETS OFF TO A GREAT START

Our new KS3 lunchtime Dance Club has launched with a fantastic first session, bringing together students with a shared enthusiasm for performance, movement and creativity.

It was particularly encouraging to see some of our older performers coming along to support the younger students. Their involvement helped create a welcoming and confident atmosphere and was a great example of students encouraging and inspiring one another across year groups.

The club will give KS3 students the opportunity to develop their dance skills, build confidence and enjoy performing as part of a supportive group. We are looking forward to seeing the club grow over the coming weeks and to watching students develop their creativity and performance skills.

A special congratulations goes to Salima B in Year 7, who was named our first Dancer of the Day. A brilliant start to what promises to be an exciting new addition to our lunchtime enrichment programme.





BLUE COAT'S MRS ELLIOT CROWNED NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPION

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Mrs Elliot, Head of Biology at The Blue Coat School, and Allerton Brass, who were crowned Third Section National Champions of Great Britain at the National Brass Band Championships held at York Barbican on Sunday 20 September. Mrs Elliot plays Second Horn with the Woolton-based band, and this national success is a wonderful achievement for her personally, for Allerton Brass and for the wider Liverpool musical community.

Allerton Brass earned their place at the National Finals after winning the North West Third Section Championship earlier this year at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Under Musical Director Jamie Duncan, they then travelled to York to compete against 19 other leading regional finalists from across Great Britain. Performing Thierry Deleruyelle's challenging test piece Snow Island, the band delivered an outstanding performance and were rewarded with first place and the title of National Champions.

What makes this achievement particularly special for the Blue Coat community is the commitment Mrs Elliot shows both inside and outside school. As our hardworking and dedicated Head of Biology, she gives so much to our students and to the life of the school, while also maintaining an impressive commitment to brass band music. Her involvement with Allerton Brass reflects not only considerable personal talent and dedication, but also a real passion for promoting and sustaining the brass band tradition at a national level.

We are enormously proud to see a member of our staff achieving such distinction and representing Liverpool and the North West with such success on the national stage. Mrs Elliot's achievement is a wonderful example of the dedication, teamwork and commitment to excellence that we seek to encourage across the Blue Coat community. Huge congratulations to Mrs Elliott, Jamie Duncan and everyone at Allerton Brass on becoming 2026 Third Section National Champions of Great Britain.



ECO CLUB TAKES ROOT AT BLUE COAT



This week saw the launch of our new Eco Club, bringing together students who are passionate about making a positive difference to our school environment.

Meeting at lunchtime, the group has already started discussing practical ways in which they can improve the school site, reduce waste and encourage everyone in our community to think more carefully about sustainability. The club will give students a genuine voice in shaping environmental initiatives across Blue Coat.



One of the most impressive examples of their work can already be seen in the final photograph. In the students' own words, this is "our tree" – a tree they have nurtured and grown from something that had originally been thrown over the school wall. What could easily have been regarded as waste has instead been given a new life.

It is a fitting symbol for the Eco Club: taking responsibility for our environment, making the most of what we have and recognising that small actions can make a lasting difference. We look forward to seeing the group's ideas – and their tree – continue to grow.



BLUE COAT WELCOMES MOSSPITS LANE PRIMARY FOR DANCE WORKSHOPS

We were delighted to welcome pupils from Mossfits Lane Primary School to The Blue Coat School for a series of energetic and enjoyable dance workshops, part of our continuing work to strengthen links with local primary schools and support our wider community.

During the session, pupils explored some of the basic building blocks of dance, including jumps, travelling movements, turns and the safe performance of lifts. There was also plenty of fun as pupils learned how to moonwalk before taking part in a spirited boys versus girls dance-off to music from High School Musical.

The workshops are about much more than simply learning dance routines. They provide opportunities for younger pupils to develop confidence, teamwork, creativity and performance skills while experiencing the facilities and expertise available at Blue Coat. Our staff are now working with colleagues from Mossfits Lane to develop a class musical, which the pupils will be able to rehearse and ultimately perform in their own school assembly.

Partnership work such as this is an important part of Blue Coat's commitment to supporting and contributing to our local community. By sharing staff expertise, facilities and opportunities with neighbouring schools, we hope to broaden experiences for young people across Liverpool while building lasting relationships between Blue Coat and the primary schools within our community.



HAYDEN REPRESENTS GREAT BRITAIN AT THE CANOE POLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are incredibly proud to share that Hayden in Year 13 has represented Great Britain at the Canoe Polo World Championships in Duisburg, Germany.

Competing on the international stage is an outstanding achievement and reflects the enormous commitment, discipline and skill that Hayden has developed in the sport. Reaching this level requires countless hours of training and dedication alongside the demands of Sixth Form study.

Canoe polo is a fast-paced and highly competitive team sport, combining paddling, ball skills, tactical awareness and physical endurance. To be selected to represent Great Britain at a World Championship is therefore a remarkable accomplishment and one of which Hayden should be extremely proud.

Everyone at The Blue Coat School congratulates Hayden on this fantastic achievement. Representing your country on the world stage is a very special honour, and we look forward to following Hayden's continued progress in the sport.





SUPER SIX FOR OUR U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM!

Congratulations to our U14 Girls Football Team, who produced an excellent performance in their latest ESFA league fixture, securing an impressive 6-0 victory over Hartford CofE School, Northwich.

♥ From the opening whistle, the team showed great energy, determination and togetherness. The girls worked hard across the pitch, created plenty of attacking opportunities and defended strongly to keep a clean sheet. It was a real team performance, with every player making an important contribution and supporting one another throughout the match.



The result reflects the progress the team are making and the commitment they continue to show in training and fixtures. As well as the six goals, it was particularly pleasing to see the confidence, communication and teamwork on display, with the players continuing to push themselves right until the final whistle.

Competing in the ESFA programme gives our pupils valuable opportunities to represent Blue Coat against schools from across the region, and performances such as this demonstrate the strength and enthusiasm of girls' football within the school.

👏 Well done to the whole squad on a fantastic performance and a brilliant 6-0 result. We look forward to following their progress in the competition over the coming weeks!

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING FUTURE PATHWAYS

Our Sixth Form Student Development session on 22 September focused on helping Year 12 and Year 13 students think carefully and ambitiously about their future pathways. We were delighted to welcome colleagues from the University of Liverpool, who shared information about the opportunities and support available to students as they begin planning their next steps beyond Blue Coat.

Students received valuable guidance on university applications, UCAS, scholarships and the transition to higher education. They also learned more about the University of Liverpool's Liverpool Scholars programme, which supports Year 12 students through academic skills workshops, lectures and application guidance, with successful participation offering additional consideration when applying to the University.

The session also introduced students to Pathways to Professions, delivered by the University of Liverpool in partnership with the Sutton Trust. These programmes provide opportunities to explore competitive careers through university experiences, academic support, work experience and sector-specific insight. Pathways to Medicine, for example, includes healthcare taster sessions, NHS work experience and dedicated academic and UCAS support.

Our Student Development programme is an important part of ensuring that Blue Coat students are equipped to make informed and confident decisions about their futures. We want every student to understand the full range of opportunities available to them — from university and scholarships to apprenticeships and professional pathways — and to leave Blue Coat with the ambition, knowledge and confidence to take their next steps successfully.



FROM SENEGAL TO BLUE COAT: A YEAR OF SERVICE, FAITH AND DISCOVERY



After spending almost a year undertaking voluntary work in Senegal, one of our members of staff has returned to Blue Coat with a wealth of experiences to share with pupils. From October 2025 to August 2026, she worked with a Christian organisation, an opportunity which enabled her to put her faith into action while immersing herself in a very different culture, climate and way of life. Senegal is known as the land of Teranga, a Wolof word which can be loosely translated as hospitality, reflecting a culture built around generosity, community and welcoming others.

Much of her time was spent teaching English to adults aged from 18 to 75 at a community centre, alongside volunteering with the House of Hope, a project supporting and educating vulnerable children, some of whom might otherwise have been living on the streets of Dakar. One of the most difficult aspects of the experience was seeing the large number of children begging on the streets, but this was balanced by the extraordinary warmth and hospitality shown by local people, including invitations to share meals with families and daily greetings in Arabic, French and Wolof.

Her time in Senegal also provided opportunities to explore the country and learn more about its history and geography. She visited Ngor and Gorée Island, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an important place for understanding the history of the transatlantic slave trade, as well as travelling by overnight boat to Casamance in southern Senegal. These experiences offered a fascinating insight into the diversity of Senegal, from the busy streets of Dakar to the greener landscapes of the south.

Since returning to Blue Coat, she has been sharing her experiences with French classes through photographs and presentations covering food, transport, weather, language and daily life. This has been particularly valuable for Year 9 pupils studying French-speaking countries, giving them a first-hand perspective on life in a Francophone nation. The experience has clearly made a lasting impression and has provided a wonderful opportunity to bring language learning, culture and global understanding to life for our pupils.





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)



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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



THE
BLUE COAT
SCHOOL

Non Sibi Sed Omnibus



SEND Coffee Event

PARENT MEET & GREET

Join us for an informal coffee event to meet our SEND team
and find out more about the support we have on offer
for our SEND students.



Tuesday
6th October



2:00pm –
3:15pm



The Blue Coat
School

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:



SEND support
available
in school



The Graduated
Response process
(Assess, Plan,
Do, Review)



External agencies
and specialist
services



Meet the SEND
team and have
the opportunity
to ask questions



TO ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL:

senco@bluecoatschool.org.uk



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ASOS



Uber Eats

The Blue Coat School Enrichment Clubs

Find your place. Try something new.

NOT FOR ONESELF, BUT FOR ALL

Weekly enrichment timetable

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Basketball – Y8 & Y9 08:00–08:35 • Sports Hall	Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13 Lunchtime • N11	Art Enrichment & Catch-up 12:30–13:20 • Art	Girls Basketball – All Years 08:00–08:35 • Sports Hall	The Economics Society Lunchtime • S05
Year 12 Biology Clinic Lunchtime • N14	Sustainability Club Lunchtime • E01	Chemistry Olympiad 12:30 • C15	Year 11 Biology Intervention Lunchtime • N11	Chemistry Olympiad Yr 12 Lunchtime • C15
Chemistry Clinic Yr 11 Lunchtime • N11	Philosophy Club Lunchtime • W01	Year 13 Biology Clinic Lunchtime • N16	Chemistry Club – KS3 (Week 1) Lunchtime • N10	Y7 & 8 Coding Club Lunchtime • S01
KS4 History Clinic Lunchtime • C13	Magic: The Gathering Club Lunchtime • W03	Girls Maths GCSE Drop-in Lunchtime • C04	Chemistry Clinic Yr 12 & 13 Lunchtime • N11	Y9–11 Raspberry Pi Lunchtime • S03
Junior History Club Lunchtime • C11	GCSE Spanish Support Lunchtime • W13	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	Yes oui can – KS3 French Club Lunchtime • W15	French A Level Club Lunchtime • W14	Junior Debate Club Lunchtime • C13	Basketball – Y8 & Y10 Lunchtime • Sports Hall
Origami Club Lunchtime • W14	Netball – Y9 & Y10 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Year 7 Choir Lunchtime • N18	Senior Debate Club Lunchtime • C11	Yoga/Pilates – All Years Lunchtime • Dance Studio
Bible Study Lunchtime • W01	Table Tennis – KS4 & KS5 Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Y8 & 9 Training Choir Lunchtime • N17	Magic: The Gathering Club Lunchtime • W03	Weights Room – 6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room
Junior Concert Band – Grades 1–3 Lunchtime • N17	Handball – U13 & U15 Teams 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall	Basketball – U17/U19 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Basketball – Y9 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	Basketball – Y8 & Y9 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall
Y9–13 Chamber Choir Lunchtime • N18		S&C '100' Club – All Years Lunchtime • Dance Studio	Basketball – Y11 Lunchtime • Sports Hall	
Netball – Y7 & Y8 Lunchtime • Sports Hall		Weights Room – 6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	Girls' Football – All Years Lunchtime • Astro	
Dance – Y7 & Y8 Lunchtime • Dance Studio		Football – Y8 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Table Tennis – Y7, Y8 & 6th Form Lunchtime • Dance Studio	
Weights Room – 6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room		Football – Y10 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Weights Room – 6th Form Lunchtime • Weights Room	
Maths A Level Drop-in Intervention 13:00–13:30 • C04		Football – U18s 15:30–16:30 • School Field	Pokeblade Club – Y7–9 12:55–13:25 • W22	
Football – Y9 15:30–16:30 • School Field		Netball – Y7–Y10 15:30–16:30 • Outside Courts	Basketball – Y10 & Y11 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall	
Football – Y11 15:30–16:30 • School Field		Netball – Y11–Y13 15:30–16:30 • Indoors	Football – Y7 15:30–16:30 • School Field	
Dance – Y9 & Y10 15:30–16:30 • Dance Studio		Y8–13 Senior Choir After School • N17 & N18	Girls' Football – All Years 15:30–16:30 • School Field	
Badminton – All Years 15:30–16:30 • Sports Hall			Art Intervention 15:35–17:00 • Art	
GCSE Spanish Support After School • W14			Senior Concert & Jazz Band After School • N18	
Senior Strings After School • N17				

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

Darren 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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