

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WISHING THE BLUE COAT COMMUNITY A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL EASTER

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to wish all members of the Blue Coat community a happy and peaceful Easter. This is an important moment in the Christian calendar, reflecting themes of renewal, hope and new beginnings—values that closely align with our school motto and the spirit in which our community continues to grow and flourish.

Since Christmas, it has been an exceptionally full and rewarding period for the school. We have come together to celebrate a wide range of events, including Iftar, which brought students and staff together in a shared moment of reflection and community. The recent school production of Hadestown was a particular highlight, showcasing the remarkable talent, dedication and teamwork of our students both on stage and behind the scenes.

Last Friday, we were also delighted to mark Eid within our school community. This was an important moment of celebration and reflection, recognising the end of Ramadan and the values of generosity, gratitude and community that it represents. It was wonderful to see students and staff coming together to acknowledge this significant occasion, further reflecting the inclusive and respectful culture that defines our school.

Our sports teams have also achieved notable success, with strong performances across multiple competitions, alongside a wide range of enrichment activities and trips that have broadened students' experiences beyond the classroom. From academic visits to cultural opportunities, these experiences continue to play a vital role in developing confident, well-rounded individuals.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, staff and families for their continued support and commitment. The success of so many events this term is a direct result of the enthusiasm, hard work and collective effort of our entire community. It has been especially encouraging to see students embracing opportunities and representing the school with such pride.

As we approach the examination season, we would also like to wish all Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best as they prepare for their GCSE and A Level examinations. This is a crucial stage in their academic journey, and we encourage them to use the Easter break wisely—balancing revision with rest. We are also pleased to be offering a comprehensive programme of Easter school revision sessions, providing targeted support, expert guidance and structured time to consolidate learning ahead of the exams. With the hard work and commitment they have already shown, and by making full use of these opportunities, students are well placed to succeed, and we are confident they will approach the coming weeks with focus and determination.

As we look ahead to the summer term, we do so with a strong sense of momentum and optimism. For now, we hope that the Easter break provides a well-earned opportunity to rest, reflect and spend time with family and friends. We wish everyone a joyful and restful Easter.

HAPPY
EASTER



OPEN DAY SUCCESS

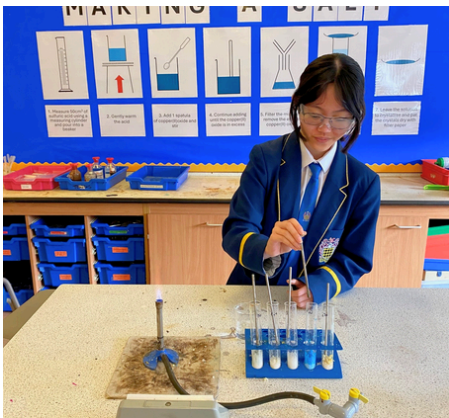
The school was delighted to welcome prospective students, families and members of the local community to our Open Day on Thursday 26th March. The event provided a valuable opportunity to showcase all aspects of school life, from academic excellence to the rich co-curricular experiences available to pupils.

Visitors were able to tour the school, explore subject areas and engage directly with both staff and students. Classrooms were alive with activity, with departments presenting interactive displays, demonstrations and examples of student work. This gave families a clear insight into the quality of teaching and the breadth of the curriculum on offer.

A particular highlight of the day was the role played by our students. Acting as ambassadors, they led tours, answered questions and spoke with confidence about their experiences. Their enthusiasm, maturity and pride in the school made a lasting impression on visitors and reflected the strong sense of community that defines the school.

The event also provided an opportunity to highlight the school's wider provision, including enrichment activities, pastoral care and student leadership opportunities. Families were able to gain a full understanding of how the school supports students both academically and personally, ensuring that every individual is able to thrive.

Overall, the Open Day was a tremendous success. The positive feedback received is a testament to the hard work of staff and students alike, and we look forward to welcoming many of our visitors back as future members of the school community.





EASTER MUSIC CONCERT AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH

Students recently took part in a special Easter Music Concert held at St Nicholas' Church in Liverpool city centre. The historic setting provided a fitting backdrop for an evening of high-quality musical performance, reflecting both the significance of the Easter season and the strength of musical talent within the school.

The concert featured a range of performances from students across different year groups, including choral pieces and instrumental works. The programme was carefully chosen to reflect themes of Easter, with music that conveyed reflection, hope and renewal. Students performed with confidence and professionalism, demonstrating both technical skill and a clear sense of musical expression.

We were delighted to be welcomed by the Rector of St Nicholas' Church, Dr Philip Anderson, a former Blue Coat pupil, whose connection to the school made the occasion particularly meaningful. His support and hospitality contributed greatly to the success of the evening and highlighted the strong links between the school and the wider community.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in a prestigious venue and to share their work with a wider audience. It also reflected the importance of music within the life of the school, providing students with opportunities to develop their talents and perform at a high level.

Overall, the concert was a memorable and uplifting occasion, celebrating both the Easter season and the achievements of our students. We are grateful to all those involved in organising the event and to everyone who attended to support our performers.



STATUE DONATED TO BLUE COAT SCHOOL CHAPEL



We are delighted to welcome a truly special addition to our Chapel.

“Old Blue” Barry Nixon, one of our most senior alumni at the remarkable age of 92, is an exceptionally talented craftsman. He has lovingly carved a beautiful statue of Jesus in memory of his beloved wife, Florence, who sadly passed away three years ago this week.

Barry attended the school during the 1940s and was among the students evacuated to Beaumaris, Anglesey, following the outbreak of World War II. During his visit, Barry shared many fond memories from his time at Blue Coat.

Barry has most generously donated this meaningful piece to the school, and we are honoured to display it at the entrance of the Chapel for all visitors to admire. It is, without doubt, a deeply moving and treasured work.



YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE: A WEEK OF GROWTH, CHALLENGE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Year 12 students recently completed a highly successful work experience programme, spending time in a wide range of professional environments across the local area. Placements included primary schools such as Longton Lane Primary School, Arnot St Mary, St Francis De Sales, Kensington Community Primary School and Greenbank Primary School, as well as organisations including Sefton Council's Regeneration Team, Liverpool City Libraries, and Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Students also gained insight into private sector roles through businesses such as Carter and Lewis Accountancy Services, a local coffee shop, and legal chambers in the city centre.

This programme forms a vital part of the school's curriculum. It is designed to bridge the gap between academic study and the professional world, allowing students to develop key employability skills such as communication, organisation, teamwork and initiative. By immersing themselves in real working environments, students gain a clearer understanding of career pathways and the expectations of employers, helping to inform their future decisions about university, apprenticeships and employment.

Throughout the week, students demonstrated maturity, resilience and professionalism. Whether supporting teaching and learning in primary classrooms, assisting in healthcare settings, observing legal practice, or contributing to business operations, they approached each placement with enthusiasm and commitment. Feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting students' reliability, confidence and willingness to engage fully with the experience.

This year's cohort has represented the school exceptionally well, and their conduct has been a source of genuine pride. The work experience programme continues to be a cornerstone of our provision, ensuring that students leave not only with strong academic outcomes, but also with the skills, awareness and confidence needed to succeed beyond school.

EVIE HIGGINSON SHINES AT THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S GREAT DEBATE IN LONDON

Evie Higginson delivered a strong and composed performance at the Historical Association's Great Debate in London on Saturday 21st March. The event brought together students from across the region to present five-minute speeches responding to a challenging historical question about the role of personal and public records in explaining local history.

The Great Debate is a national public-speaking competition that focuses on constructing clear, evidence-based historical arguments rather than direct rebuttal. Participants are assessed on the strength of their reasoning, use of evidence, and delivery, with judges often asking follow-up questions to probe their understanding. The London heat formed part of a wider national programme leading to a final round.

Evie's contribution stood out for its clarity and analytical depth. She argued that while public records provide structure and authority, personal accounts add essential detail and perspective. Her response demonstrated a strong grasp of how historians interpret evidence and construct narratives about the past.

The event reflects the wider work of the Historical Association, which promotes high-quality history education through resources, publications, and competitions. Initiatives like the Great Debate help students develop critical thinking, oracy, and a deeper understanding of how history is studied and communicated.



BLUE COAT RECOGNISED IN LIVERPOOL GOOD FOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



Blue Coat has been recognised in the Liverpool Good Food Schools Guide, celebrating the school's commitment to providing high-quality culinary experiences for its pupils. This recognition reflects the sustained effort to ensure that food provision goes beyond basic catering, instead becoming a meaningful part of the wider school experience.

A key strength highlighted is the school's celebration of cultural diversity through food. Events such as Diwali and Iftar have provided pupils with the opportunity to experience authentic cuisines while also deepening their understanding of different cultures and traditions. These occasions have not only enriched the school community but have also reinforced the importance of inclusivity and shared experiences.

Recent developments in the school menu have further strengthened this provision. Thoughtful changes have been made to improve both the quality and variety of food on offer, ensuring that meals are nutritious, appealing and reflective of the diverse student body. These improvements demonstrate a clear commitment to listening to student voice and continuously refining the dining experience.

This success is a testament to the dedication of **Ms Graham** and the student Good Food Team, whose work has been central to driving these initiatives forward. Their collaboration has ensured that pupil feedback is actively shaping provision, and their efforts have played a significant role in achieving this well-deserved recognition.



ASPIRE OXFORD RESIDENTIAL: A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR BLUE COAT STUDENTS

A group of Blue Coat students recently took part in the Aspire Oxford Residential, spending a week immersed in life at the University of Oxford under the guidance of Mr Ashton. This prestigious programme provided a unique opportunity for students to experience first-hand what studying at one of the world's leading universities is really like.

Throughout the week, students engaged in a range of academic and enrichment activities designed to replicate the Oxford experience. This included attending subject-specific seminars, participating in tutorial-style discussions, and working collaboratively on challenging academic tasks. Students also explored the historic colleges, experienced university accommodation, and gained insight into the expectations and independence required of undergraduate study.

Beyond the academic programme, the residential offered invaluable preparation for the university application process. Students received guidance on personal statements, admissions tests and interview techniques, helping them to understand what is required to make a competitive application. The experience also enabled them to reflect more clearly on their subject choices and future aspirations.

This opportunity will be particularly significant as students begin preparing their university applications for October 2026. By developing confidence, academic curiosity and a deeper understanding of university life, the Aspire Oxford Residential has equipped them with the knowledge and skills needed to approach the application process with clarity and ambition. The week was both inspiring and demanding, and students represented the school with maturity and enthusiasm throughout.



SUCCESS IN THE MATHS OLYMPIAD



Students recently took part in the Maths Olympiad, demonstrating exceptional problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. The competition, held last week, challenged participants to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, requiring not only technical ability but also creativity, resilience and logical reasoning.

The Olympiad is designed to stretch the most able mathematicians, moving beyond routine methods and encouraging students to think deeply about complex problems. Questions often require multi-step reasoning and the ability to communicate solutions clearly, making it a valuable experience for those considering further study in mathematics or related fields.

Our students approached the challenge with determination and focus, representing the school with great maturity. Their willingness to engage with demanding questions and persevere through difficulty was particularly impressive, reflecting the strength of mathematical learning across the school.

Participation in events such as the Maths Olympiad plays an important role in developing higher-level thinking skills. It encourages students to take intellectual risks, build confidence and deepen their understanding of mathematics beyond the classroom. We are proud of all those who took part and look forward to their continued success in future competitions.

YEAR 12 UCAS PERSONAL STATEMENTS: GETTING STARTED

As Year 12 students begin preparing for university applications, attention now turns to one of the most important elements of the process: the UCAS personal statement. The first draft deadline is **13th April**, and this is a key opportunity to begin shaping a strong and competitive application.

A successful personal statement should clearly explain why you are interested in your chosen subject and demonstrate your suitability for it. Focus on your academic interests first—what have you studied, read or explored beyond the classroom? Super-curricular activities such as wider reading, lectures, or relevant work experience are particularly valuable. Be specific and reflective: it is not just what you have done, but what you have learned from it that matters.

There are also some important pitfalls to avoid. Try not to be too generic or rely on clichés—admissions tutors read thousands of statements, so clarity and authenticity are essential. Avoid simply listing activities without explanation, and ensure that your statement remains focused on your subject rather than unrelated achievements. Accuracy is also crucial, so take time to check spelling, grammar and structure carefully.

This is a process, and no one expects a perfect first draft. Students are strongly encouraged to seek support from their form tutors and subject teachers, who can provide valuable feedback and guidance. Taking the time to refine your statement through multiple drafts will make a significant difference.

Approach the task positively and with confidence. The personal statement is your opportunity to present yourself as an engaged, thoughtful and motivated applicant. With careful preparation and the right support, you will be well placed to produce a strong final version ahead of your application in October.



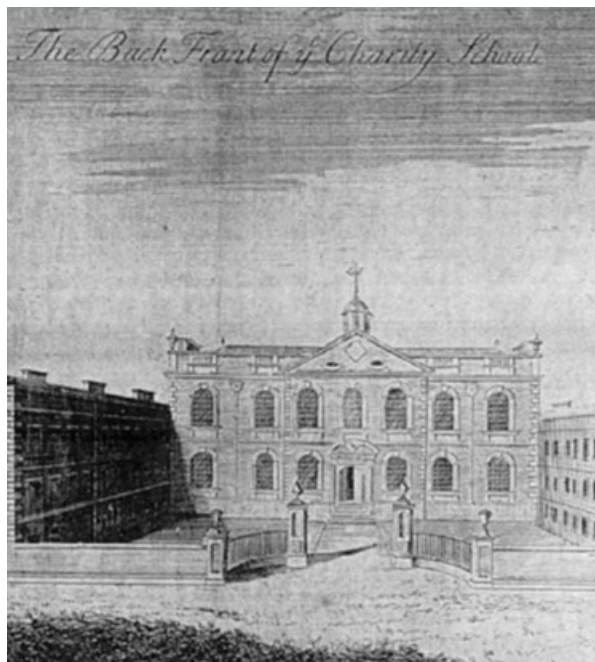
BLUE COAT SCHOOL SMASHES HISTORIC FUNDRAISING TARGET

Blue Coat School, the oldest school in Liverpool, has marked a remarkable milestone year with a hugely successful fundraising campaign—raising over £3,200 for local charities supporting those most in need. Founded in 1708 as a charity school in Liverpool city centre, Blue Coat originally provided free education, clothing, food and housing for orphaned and disadvantaged children. By 1725, the school had moved into a purpose-built site—now the Bluecoat Arts Centre—complete with almshouses to support adults facing housing hardship. Three centuries later, the school continues to honour these founding principles.

A Year of Purpose: 300 Years of Community Support

To celebrate the **300th anniversary of the 1725 school building**, the Blue Coat community committed to a year-long fundraising effort beginning in March 2025. The initiative supported two charities closely aligned with the school's origins:

- **KIND (Kids In Need)** – supporting disadvantaged children and families
- **The Whitechapel Centre** – supporting those experiencing homelessness and housing poverty



Both charities, fittingly, were also celebrating their own **50-year anniversaries**.

This ambitious project was embraced across the entire school community. From the **Headteacher and Trustees**, who strongly supported this important milestone, to staff, parents and students—everyone played a role. Also to Mr Wainwright for all the work supporting us learn about our past and how this is still alive now and in our futures.

Particular recognition must go to the **Sixth Form team**, whose leadership and energy were central to the project's success. Under the guidance of **Ms Salter** and **Ms Marshall**, Sixth Form students led and organised a wide range of events across all six school houses, demonstrating exceptional commitment, organisation and community spirit.

A huge thank you goes to all staff and pupils who contributed their time, creativity and effort throughout the year.

The campaign combined education, awareness and fundraising through a wide range of activities:

- Assemblies exploring the school's history and charitable roots
- Guest speakers from both charities
- Prizegiving keynote from KIND's Stephen Yip
- A Year 9 bake sale
- Staff-sponsored half marathon
- Non-uniform day
- Sixth Form tuck shop at Sports Day
- Christmas Fayre stalls
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Sixth Form-led house events included:

- Sponsored runs
- Talent shows
- Football and badminton tournaments
- Table tennis competition
- "Big Brain Off" quiz

In addition, the school organised a **"12 Days of Christmas" foodbank appeal**, collecting over **5,600 items** for the Whitechapel Centre.



Beyond Fundraising: Real Impact

The initiative extended beyond fundraising:

- Year 12 students volunteered with KIND's Out of School programme, supporting children from challenging backgrounds during the summer holidays
- Students gained first-hand experience of community service and social impact

Voices from the Community

Paul Wainwright (History Teacher):

The project, inspired by his work with the school archives, aimed to connect students with the school's founding ethos: "Not for oneself but for all."

He shared his delight at surpassing his symbolic fundraising target of £2,288—the original cost of building the school in 1725.

Stephen Yip (KIND):

Highlighted how the school's donation will directly fund their 2026 Out of School Programme, helping children build confidence, create positive memories, and access opportunities they might otherwise miss.

Lill Cain (Whitechapel Centre):

Described the achievement as "genuinely huge," emphasising how such support enables vital services, including new initiatives like Steps to Sanctuary for those fleeing domestic abuse.

Tilly Ball (Year 12 Student Volunteer):

Reflected on her experience as "truly unforgettable," noting the profound mutual impact of working with children supported by KIND.

A Legacy Continued

This fundraising campaign has not only exceeded expectations financially but has reinforced Blue Coat School's enduring commitment to its founding mission—supporting those in need within the local community.

Three hundred years on, the school's values remain as relevant and impactful as ever.



HEAD OF SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2026–27

We are delighted to announce that Bruno Abruzzese-Simo and Neena Okoli, both from Year 12, have been selected as Head of School for the 2026–27 academic year. This is a significant achievement and reflects their commitment, leadership potential and the strength of their applications. Both students demonstrated clarity of vision, confidence and a genuine desire to contribute positively to the school community.

The role of Head of School is a vital one within the life of the school. These students will act as ambassadors, representing the student body, working closely with staff, and helping to shape key initiatives across the year. They will play an important role in promoting student voice, supporting whole-school events and ensuring that the student perspective remains central to decision-making. Strong student leadership is essential in building a positive, inclusive and forward-thinking school culture.

We are also pleased to announce that Louis Walsh has been appointed Head of Student Representation. This role will focus specifically on strengthening communication between students and staff, ensuring that ideas, concerns and suggestions are effectively shared and acted upon. Head of House Representatives will be appointed after the Easter break, completing the wider student leadership structure.

Thank you to all students who applied and took part in the selection process. The standard this year was exceptionally high, and the speeches delivered were outstanding—thoughtful, articulate and full of constructive ideas for improving the school even further. Every applicant should be proud of their contribution, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of student leadership in the year ahead.



HANA T (8FR)



ENRICO L (7CU)



OLUWATOMISIN O (7TO)



HONGYANG N (7TO)



ENRICO L (7CU)



AADHAVAN C (8TU)



SPORTS ROUND-UP

It has been another strong week of sporting success, with pupils representing the school with determination and pride across a range of competitions.

Football

In football, the 1st XI secured an impressive 1-0 victory over SFX to progress to the semi-finals of the Everton Senior Shield. It was a disciplined and hard-fought performance, demonstrating both resilience and tactical awareness as the team continues its cup run.

Netball

In netball, Year 7 A and B teams competed against ABS, showing excellent teamwork and commitment throughout. The Year 7 A team also reached the quarter-finals, where they faced a tough match against St Julie's, narrowly losing 1-0. Despite the result, their progress in the competition is a significant achievement.

Athletics

Indoor athletics also brought notable success at the Merseyside Finals. The Year 7 team delivered an outstanding performance to finish in 2nd place overall, while the Year 8 team competed strongly to secure 4th place. These results reflect the depth of talent and the continued strength of athletics within the school.



KEY DATES

Date	Event
Thursday 26th March 2026	Open Day
Thursday 26th March 2026	Term ends at 3:30pm
Friday 27th March 2026 - Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Break
Monday 13th April 2026	Students Return
Tuesday 14th April 2026	Y9 Parents Evening - 4:15pm
Thursday 16th April 2026	DofE Insight visit
Tuesday 21st April 2026	A level recital and exam recording - 6.30pm
Thursday 23rd April 2026	Classical Association Lecture 6.30pm - 8.15pm
Friday 24th April 2026 - Saturday 25th April 2026	Y9 DofE Bronze Assessed Expedition (Chorley)
Tuesday 28th April 2026	Y7 Parents' Evening - 4:15pm
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Y9,10,12 theatre trip 'Miss Saigon' (Liverpool Empire)
Monday 4th May 2026 - Monday 11th May 2026	French Exchange
Monday 4th May 2026	May Bank Holiday (May Day)
Wednesday 6th May 2026	Y12 Parents' Evening (Online)
Thursday 7th May 2026	Y11 Leavers' Day Celebration
Friday 8th May 2026 - Sunday 10th May 2026	Y10 DofE Silver Practice Expedition (Dark Peak)
Thursday 14th May 2026	Y13 Leavers' Day Celebration
Wednesday 20th May 2026 - Sunday 24th May 2026	Spanish Trip to Madrid
Thursday 21st May 2026	Y12 Geography Trip to Baltic Triangle
Friday 22nd May 2026	Term ends at 3:30pm

SUPPORT THE EXPERIENCES THAT HELP SHAPE STUDENTS

From clubs and competitions to creative projects and performances, our students gain so much from extracurricular opportunities, and your support keeps them going.

A contribution of just £10 per term (£30 per year) per student makes a real difference. Plus, every £10 donation earns a chance to win £50 in our monthly raffle!

See Parentmail for payment details and give today, together we can keep our enrichment programme rich, varied, and open to all.



The Liverpool Blue Coat School Foundation

DEDICATE A PLAQUE ON OUR CHAPEL PEWS



We invite alumni, families and friends of the school to leave a lasting mark on our community by sponsoring a personalised plaque on a chapel pew.

For £100, you can dedicate a plaque in your name or in memory of a former student, becoming a meaningful part of the school's history for generations to come. This is a unique opportunity to honour a loved one, celebrate your connection to the school, and support the ongoing care of our cherished chapel.



Email: foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk for more information





THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL
GOLF DAY 2026
WOOLTON GOLF CLUB



FRIDAY JULY 3RD 2026

12.30PM REGISTRATION
2.00PM TEE OFF
7.00PM DINNER & SOCIAL



£320/team or £80/player

INCLUDES:
LIGHT LUNCH,
ROUND OF GOLF
2 COURSE MEAL (PUB STYLE)
ENTRY TO ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONGEST DRIVE



£25 for dinner only

REGISTER NOW!
seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk
 Friends, family and colleagues welcome
 (This is an adult only event)



All proceeds will go towards Blue Coat School Development Fund

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®