

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING VAISAKHI AT LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is one of the most significant festivals in the Sikh calendar. Celebrated each year in April, it marks both the spring harvest in Punjab and, more importantly, the founding of the Khalsa in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. This moment established a community committed to equality, courage, and service—values that resonate strongly within our own school community.

At Liverpool Blue Coat School, Vaisakhi provides an opportunity not only to recognise the rich cultural and religious diversity of our students, but also to reflect on how shared human values connect us all.

Vaisakhi and Our Vision

Our school vision centres on developing individuals who are thoughtful, compassionate, and committed to making a positive difference in the world. Vaisakhi aligns closely with this vision through its emphasis on:

- **Community (Sangat):** Sikhs gather together to celebrate, pray, and share meals. This reflects our commitment to fostering a strong, inclusive school community where everyone belongs.
- **Service (Seva):** Acts of selfless service are central to Vaisakhi celebrations, particularly through the langar (community kitchen), where food is shared freely with all. This mirrors our encouragement of students to contribute meaningfully to others, both within and beyond school.
- **Equality and Justice:** The founding of the Khalsa promoted the idea that all people are equal, regardless of background. This reinforces our dedication to fairness, respect, and inclusion.

Vaisakhi and Our Values

The core values we uphold at Liverpool Blue Coat School are brought to life through the spirit of Vaisakhi:

- **Respect:** Vaisakhi teaches respect for all individuals and cultures. As a school, we celebrate diversity and encourage students to learn from one another.
- **Integrity:** The Khalsa was founded on principles of honesty and moral courage—qualities we seek to develop in all students.
- **Compassion:** Through acts of seva, Vaisakhi reminds us of the importance of kindness and empathy, values central to our daily interactions.
- **Excellence:** Just as Sikhs are encouraged to strive for personal and spiritual growth, we challenge our students to pursue excellence in all areas of life.

Celebrating Together

Recognising festivals like Vaisakhi helps us build a more inclusive and informed community. It encourages curiosity, respect, and dialogue—key components of a thriving school environment.

By learning about and celebrating Vaisakhi, we not only honour the traditions of our Sikh students and families, but also deepen our collective understanding of the values that unite us.

Vaisakhi reminds us that community, service, and equality are not just ideals, but actions we can live out every day at Liverpool Blue Coat School.



THE SAN SEBASTIÁN EXCHANGE: BRINGING LANGUAGE LEARNING TO LIFE

A group of pupils led by Mr O'Brien and Mrs Albinana went to San Sebastian in Northern Spain, the week before the Easter holidays. The San Sebastián exchange represents far more than a trip abroad; it is a central component of effective Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) education. While classroom learning provides students with essential grammar and vocabulary, it is through immersion that language becomes meaningful and functional. By experiencing daily life in Spain, students are required to engage with the language in authentic contexts, transforming theoretical knowledge into practical communication skills.

A key strength of the exchange lies in its ability to develop higher-order language skills, particularly understanding and interpretation. Students encounter real spoken language—often fast, informal, and shaped by regional accents—which requires them to infer meaning, identify key information, and respond appropriately. This moves them beyond simple comprehension towards the ability to interpret language in context, a critical skill for success at higher levels of study.

In addition to linguistic development, the exchange fosters cultural awareness and confidence. Students gain first-hand insight into Spanish and Basque culture, from everyday routines to social customs. This deepens their understanding of how language operates within cultural contexts, while also building the confidence to communicate despite uncertainty. As a result, students become more resilient, adaptable, and willing to take risks in their language use.

Ultimately, the San Sebastián exchange has a lasting impact on students' language development. Participants typically return with greater fluency, improved listening skills, and increased motivation. More importantly, they begin to see themselves not just as learners of a language, but as active users of it—capable of engaging with the world beyond the classroom with independence and confidence.



INSPIRING FUTURES: DR JASMINE WARREN DELIVERS SAMPLE LECTURE TO YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

On Wednesday 15th April at 11:30am, Year 12 psychology students attended a sample lecture delivered by Dr Jasmine Warren. This session provided a valuable introduction to the style and expectations of university-level study, allowing students to experience a more advanced and independent approach to learning. It offered insight not only into psychological content, but also into the academic skills required for success beyond A Level.

Dr Warren is an experienced academic and researcher with a strong background in psychological science. Her work focuses on understanding human behaviour through evidence-based research, particularly in social and cognitive contexts. With experience in both teaching and research, she brings an engaging and analytical approach to her lectures, encouraging students to think critically, question assumptions, and evaluate evidence—key skills for any aspiring psychologist.



The lecture built on several core areas studied in A Level Psychology, including social influence, memory, attachment, and psychopathology. Students were able to see how these topics are developed further at degree level, where there is a greater emphasis on research methods, data analysis, and critical evaluation. Rather than simply learning theories, students are expected to interpret findings, assess the validity of studies, and construct well-supported arguments.

Sessions like this are instrumental in preparing students for the transition to higher education. They deepen subject knowledge, develop analytical thinking, and provide a realistic insight into university study. Most importantly, they help students to see psychology as a dynamic and evolving discipline, equipping them with the confidence and curiosity to pursue the subject further.

TAKING ON THE APRIL PUSH-UP CHALLENGE FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

This April, the school community is coming together to support an important cause through the '100 Push-Ups Every Day in April Challenge'. Open to both staff and students, the initiative encourages everyone to get involved in a simple daily activity that promotes fitness, resilience, and collective effort, while raising money for Cancer Research UK. It is a chance to make a meaningful contribution while also challenging yourself physically.

Participants can join each day in the dance studio at 8:15am and again at 11:15am, starting from the first day back and continuing throughout April. The challenge is fully inclusive—there is no requirement to complete 100 push-ups, or to do them all at once. Instead, everyone is encouraged to do as many as they can. No kit is needed, and there is no judgement on ability or technique; simply turning up and taking part is what matters. Students and staff can sign in on arrival and keep track of their own progress over time.

There are several ways to support the fundraising effort. Donations can be made by contributing coins to the collection bucket, setting up an individual fundraising page, or donating directly via the organiser's page: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jonathans-giving-page-10600>. With the challenge already underway since 1st April, it is not too late to get involved—everyone is encouraged to take part, spread the word, and help make a difference.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN THE CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The Chemistry Olympiad is one of the most prestigious academic competitions for sixth form students, designed to challenge and extend those with a strong interest in chemistry. Run by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the competition pushes students beyond the A Level specification, requiring them to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar and complex problems. It is not simply a test of recall, but of analytical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to interpret and apply chemical principles in new contexts.

Participation in the Chemistry Olympiad significantly enriches students' experience of the subject. It exposes them to a higher level of conceptual demand, encouraging deeper understanding of topics such as organic synthesis, physical chemistry, and mathematical applications within chemistry. Students must think critically, make connections across different areas of the subject, and demonstrate resilience when tackling challenging questions. These are precisely the skills required for success in university-level science and beyond.

This year's results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of all those involved. The grade boundaries for Round One were set as follows: Bronze awards were achieved with 13–22 marks, Silver with 23–37 marks, and Gold with 38–84 marks. We are delighted to recognise the outstanding achievements of our students: Gold awards were achieved by Sharoojhan and William, while Silver awards were awarded to Lois, Mia, Molly, and Muhammad. Achieving any of these awards is a significant accomplishment, reflecting both subject mastery and the ability to think like a chemist under pressure.

The school is incredibly proud of all students who took part in the Chemistry Olympiad. Their commitment to engaging with such a demanding challenge demonstrates intellectual curiosity, ambition, and a genuine passion for the subject. These qualities are to be celebrated, and all participants should be recognised for their outstanding effort and achievement.



58th annual Chemistry Olympiad₂₀₂₆

UK Round One



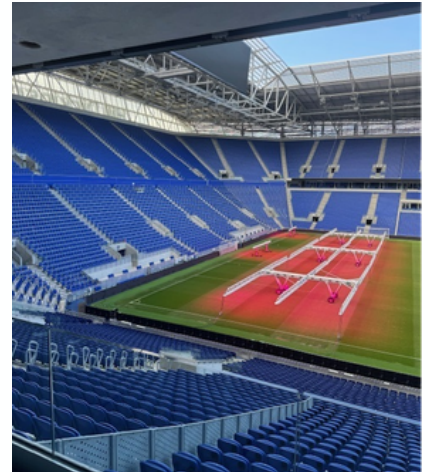
A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VISIT TO THE NEW HILL DICKINSON STADIUM

Recently, a group from Blue Coat Liverpool had the privilege of attending a fascinating and highly engaging tour of the new Hill Dickinson Stadium, generously led by Dr Wainwright. The visit offered a unique behind-the-scenes insight into one of the city's most exciting new developments.

Dr Wainwright (History Department), a passionate Everton supporter and one of the stadium's official tour guides, brought a remarkable level of enthusiasm and expertise to the experience. His deep knowledge of the club, combined with his personal connection as a fan, made the tour especially engaging for all involved. His commentary went beyond facts and figures, offering stories and context that brought the stadium to life.

Throughout the visit, attendees were given access to key areas of the stadium, including the stands, hospitality sections, and behind-the-scenes facilities that are not typically visible on match days. Highlights included learning about the architectural design of the stadium, its state-of-the-art facilities, and the vision behind its construction as a landmark venue for both national football and the wider city.

The group was accompanied by Mr Haslem, Mr Martin, and Mr Sexton, along with members of our school community. The shared experience made the day particularly enjoyable, fostering a strong sense of community and pride in being part of a city with such a rich sporting heritage.



EASYFUNDRAISING – SUPPORT BLUE COAT SCHOOL AT NO EXTRA COST

Did you know you can help raise money for Blue Coat School without making a donation? Thanks to the support of parents and friends, we have already raised nearly £6,500 through easyfundraising.

By signing up, you can shop with over 8,000 retailers, including well-known brands such as Sainsbury's, Amazon and Just Eat. When you make a purchase, the retailer will donate to the school on your behalf – at no additional cost to you.

It only takes a few minutes to register, and once set up, it is very simple to use. Just use this link: <https://bit.ly/BCSEasyfundraising>.

We would be very grateful if you could sign up and support us in raising even more for the school. Thank you for your continued support.



SCAN ME

easyfundraising

Raise free donations for
The Blue Coat School -
Liverpool every time you
shop online!

Dunelm | John Lewis | eBay | Amazon | Switch
Sainsbury's | Booking.com | M&S | Tesco | Sky
ASOS | Uber Eats | Apple | etc.

How to get involved

- 1 Download the easyfundraising app
- 2 Choose us as your cause
- 3 See retailers donate whenever you shop

BEAP YOUTH THEATRE'S FROZEN THE MUSICAL

Students from Blue Coat School joined other amazing talented young people from the BEAP Youth Theatre when they took to the stage last weekend in a breathtaking production of Frozen the Musical, hosted at City of Liverpool College.

From the very first notes of the opening number, the audience was completely drawn in by the professionalism, confidence, and stage presence of the cast. The acting, singing, and dancing were executed to an exceptionally high standard — rivalling what you would expect from a professional theatre production.

The cast brought the beloved story to life with both emotional depth and vibrant energy. Jessica (Year 11) as Elsa commanded the stage with powerful vocals and poise, capturing the character's inner conflict beautifully, whilst Ellen (Year 10) from King David High School brought Anna's warmth and charm, providing the perfect balance of humour and heart. Asher (Year 8) played the villain Hans brilliantly, Maggie (Year 12) LIPA, delighted the audience as Olaf, with impeccable comic timing, and Reuben (Year 11) played Kristoff adding sincerity and strength to the performance.

The production was packed with stunning costumes, polished choreography, and unforgettable musical numbers, including a show-stopping rendition of "Let It Go" that earned rapturous applause. The backstage and technical teams also deserve significant recognition for their flawless scene transitions and impressive special effects — the magical ice sequences were a particular highlight.

Other members of our school community who performed were Scarlett (Year 12), The King/Ensemble, Sophie (Year 10), Dance Ensemble, Siobhan (Year 8), Dance Ensemble and Harriet (Year 7), young Anna and Ensemble. Backstage team included Lucas (Year 11) and Max (Year 11).

It was an evening that showcased the remarkable talent within our school community and left families and staff immensely proud.

Congratulations to everyone involved in BEAP Youth Theatre's outstanding performance of Frozen the Musical — a true celebration of dedication, creativity, and teamwork



A MEANINGFUL EVENING OF COMMUNITY: IFTAR AT BLUE COAT

In March, The Blue Coat School Liverpool was proud to host a special Iftar event, bringing together students, staff and families to mark the holy month of Ramadan. The evening reflected the school's core values of community, respect and service, providing an opportunity for everyone to come together, share in a significant cultural tradition, and deepen their understanding of one another. Iftar, the meal used to break the daily fast at sunset, is rooted in reflection and gratitude, and this spirit was evident throughout the event.

The evening was not only a celebration but also an important act of charity. Through the generosity of those who attended, the school raised an impressive **£1,296** in support of Liverpool Muslim Outreach Service (LMOS). This organisation plays a vital role in supporting vulnerable individuals and families across Liverpool, and the funds raised will contribute directly to their ongoing outreach and support work within the local community.

Events such as this highlight what makes Blue Coat distinctive: a community that values both academic excellence and character development. The Iftar evening was a clear demonstration of compassion, inclusivity and social responsibility in action. A sincere thank you goes to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the event—your generosity will have a meaningful impact beyond the school.

UNITED KINGDOM MATHEMATICS TRUST HAMILTON MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

Blue Coat School is delighted to celebrate the exceptional achievement of Y10's William, who has been awarded a Gold Medal in the prestigious United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Hamilton Mathematical Olympiad.

This outstanding result places William among the top 20 students nationwide and makes him the highest-performing student in the North West region. It represents a remarkable accomplishment in one of the most demanding mathematical competitions for young people in the UK, requiring advanced problem-solving skills, creativity, and resilience.

As a result of his performance, William now has a strong chance of being invited to the highly selective Oxford training camp run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Each year, only 24 students are chosen from across the country to attend, based on their Olympiad results, making selection a significant honour and an important step towards further national and international mathematical opportunities.

Since joining Blue Coat in Year 9, William has embraced school life fully, forming strong friendships and contributing positively to the community. His success reflects not only his individual talent and commitment, but also the support and encouragement he has received from his teachers and the wider school community.

The school looks forward to following William's continued progress and hopes to share further good news in the coming months.



LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC RUSHWORTH YOUNG COMPOSERS SCHEME

Two Year 12 music students from Blue Coat School, Emily and Ian, are to be congratulated on their outstanding achievement in taking part in the Rushworth Young Composers scheme, led by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. As part of this prestigious programme, both students composed original string quartets which were premiered by professional musicians from the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room earlier this week.

This remarkable accomplishment highlights not only their musical talent, but also their dedication to developing their craft at a high level. Reflecting on the experience, Ian described it as "a superb, unique experience" and valued the opportunity to hear his composition performed live by professional musicians. Emily spoke about the lasting impact of the programme, noting how it helped her grow in confidence and expand her compositional skills:

"Being a Rushworth composer this year has given me many valuable experiences. Not only have I learnt how to write for string quartets, but we have also had sessions on how to write for many other instruments too, which has been extremely helpful. Before this experience, I didn't feel very confident in my compositional skills, but through working with Carmel, my mentor, I have gained confidence in trialling and experimenting with new ideas, and am proud of the piece that I have produced."

Their participation in such a highly regarded scheme, and the opportunity to have their work performed in a professional setting, is a significant achievement. Both students have represented Blue Coat School with great distinction, and their success is a testament to their creativity, commitment, and growing musical confidence.



NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Blue Coat students are to be warmly congratulated on their outstanding participation in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, an ensemble of the very highest calibre. Lana (first violin), Jaye (viola), Haris (trombone), and Leo (French horn) were part of a remarkable performance that showcased both the immense scale and vibrant spirit of the orchestra.

With 160 young musicians on stage, the concert combined exceptional musical discipline with a strong sense of occasion and youthful energy. From a lively, semi-choreographed opening to engaging spoken introductions and a distinctive sung encore, the performance highlighted not only technical excellence but also the personality and enthusiasm of its teenage performers.

Under the direction of Alpesh Chauhan, the orchestra delivered playing of striking intensity and focus. Highlights included a deeply expressive account of Wagner's Prelude and Liebestod, a spirited and sensitive rendition of Joe Hisaishi's Howl's Moving Castle music, and a powerful, dramatic suite from Sergei Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet. Throughout, the orchestra demonstrated precision, emotional depth, and a compelling sense of storytelling.

The involvement of these Blue Coat students in such a prestigious and demanding musical environment is a significant achievement, reflecting both their individual talents and their contribution to an inspiring collective performance.



YEAR 9 STUDENT FINN SECURES PLACE IN PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

Finn, a Year 9 student, has achieved an outstanding success after auditioning for and securing a place in the National Youth Theatre. This is an exceptional accomplishment, as the organisation is highly selective, with thousands of applicants each year competing for a limited number of places. The audition process is demanding and requires a high level of skill, confidence, and creativity, making Finn's success particularly impressive.

This achievement places Finn among a group of the most promising young performers in the country. Being accepted into the National Youth Theatre is widely recognised as a major milestone for aspiring actors, offering opportunities to develop professionally and work alongside other talented individuals. It is a clear reflection of Finn's dedication, talent, and commitment to his craft at such an early stage.

Finn is also one of many keen and talented actors within the school and has just finished performing in this year's production of Hadestown. His involvement in the school musical highlights both his passion for performance and the strength of drama across the school. This latest achievement is richly deserved, and there is no doubt that Finn has an exciting future ahead in the world of theatre.



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Last term has seen outstanding sporting success across multiple teams, reflecting both the commitment of students and the strength of provision within PE and extracurricular sport.

A particularly notable achievement comes from the KS4 Girls Badminton team, who competed in the National Finals in Milton Keynes, reaching the last eight teams in the country. The team finished an exceptional 4th overall, narrowly missing out on a place in the gold medal match by just a few points. This marks the third consecutive year the team has qualified for the national finals, and significantly, the first time a North West school has placed in the top four. This is a remarkable accomplishment and demonstrates sustained excellence at a national level. The team consisted of Risheka, Jessica, Kathy, and Becky, with Dina—also a key member of the squad—unfortunately unable to compete due to family commitments.

Further success is evident in handball, where the U15 Boys team has progressed to the North West Finals. This achievement highlights strong development within the sport and reflects the team's resilience and competitive performance throughout the season.

In addition, Year 9 Girls Netball have been crowned Liverpool City Champions, showcasing excellent teamwork, skill, and determination. Their success represents a significant achievement at local level and underlines the continued strength of girls' sport within the school.

Overall, this has been an extremely successful period for Blue Coat sport, with achievements at local, regional, and national level. These outcomes reflect a culture of high participation, commitment, and excellence across the school's sporting programme.



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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



ADHWIKA (8FR)



POPPY (8TO)



OLUWATOMISIN (7TO)



OLLY (8FR)



ADHWIKA (8FR)



JUSTIN (7TO)



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

OSSME Parent Support: Sensory Processing and Strategy Support

HOW: IN PERSON

When: Friday 1st May 2026, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Where: Autism Initiatives, Sefton House, Bridle Road, Bootle, L30 4XR.

HOW: ONLINE

For those who cannot attend in the daytime on Friday:

When: Thursday 30th April 2026, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Where: Online via TEAMS

To book your place please email:

emma.tully@autisminitiatives.org

THIS
COURSE IS
FREE

PLEASE NOTE

When emailing to reserve your place, it is important to provide:

- your full name
- the age of your child
- the educational setting your child attends
- whether you wish to attend in person or via Zoom
- the date of the session you wish to attend

IMPORTANT NOTICE The events are for parents/guardians of the schools we are working in. Numbers will be limited due to our training room capacity, so first come is first served. Please note no more than TWO places per family can be booked for each training session.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👉👉 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.



EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

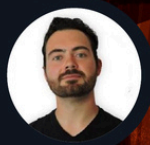
- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 😏 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 😐 (Moa!) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🌽 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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