

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



OLD BLUE JAMES WAINWRIGHT INSPIRES CINEMATOGRAPHY CLUB WITH FILM INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Old Blue James Wainwright (Class of 2021) recently returned to Blue Coat to meet with members of the Cinematography Club. During his visit, James shared his journey from being a student with a passion for film to becoming a successful figure in the local film industry. His story provided an inspiring example of how dedication and creativity can lead to exciting opportunities after school.

James spoke about his role in running the Liverpool Horizon Film Festival alongside fellow Old Blue Matthew Hannah. The annual festival, held each April at the Unity Theatre, celebrates independent filmmaking and provides a platform for emerging talent. Students were interested to learn about the work involved in organising the event and supporting filmmakers.

Members of the Cinematography Club also had the opportunity to tell James about their current film project. This led to an engaging question-and-answer session, during which students asked about pathways into the film industry, career opportunities, and the skills needed to succeed in creative media.

The visit was both informative and motivating for the group, giving students valuable insight into the world of filmmaking. Following James's encouragement, there is even the exciting possibility that Blue Coat could submit its own student-produced film to the Horizon Film Festival next year.





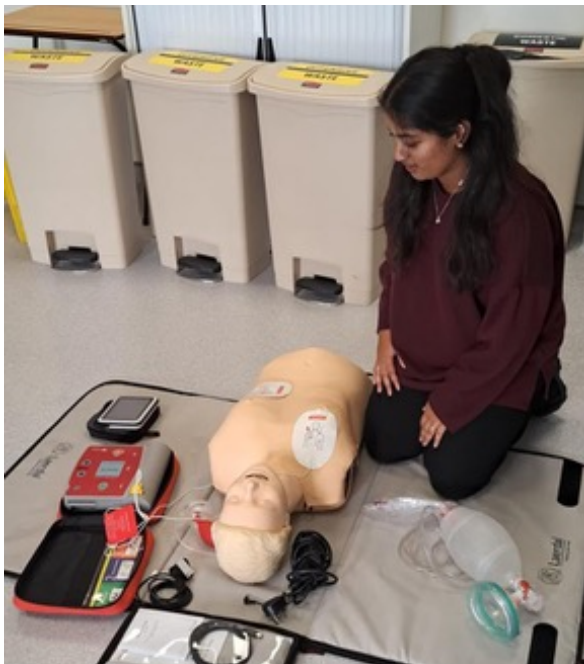
FROM BLUE COAT TO UNIVERSITY: A JOURNEY OF INDEPENDENCE, LEADERSHIP AND OPPORTUNITY

We are excited to share reflections from two former students, Matthew Shepard and Harsha Govinath, who have kindly provided updates on their experiences after leaving Blue Coat. Their stories offer valuable insights into the transition to university life, emphasizing both the challenges and opportunities that come with increased independence. Additionally, they highlight the lasting impact of a Blue Coat education on their academic journeys and personal development.

Harsha

It is honestly hard to believe it has already been a year since we sat our A-levels. In some ways it feels like they were only yesterday and sometimes it feels like it has already been a decade. Time at university has a strange way of being long enough that each day seems to contain a small novel, but the year itself disappears in a blink.

If I had to pick one memory from this year it would be the afternoon my phone got stolen. What should have been one of the worst nights at university ended up becoming my favourite memory. What should have been one of the worst nights at university ended up becoming my favourite memory. We had been relaxing in a café, when we realised that some people had grabbed my phone and without thinking twice, the friends I had made so recently ran after them all the way to the station, and just missed as the robbers climbed on board to King's Cross. To make matters worse, we had placement and anatomical dissections the next day and so we all met once again at the station and somehow got through the day. Although I never got it back, it taught me how kind the people around me were and also taught me a lot about perseverance.



My greatest memories lie in the smallest details such as running through town with friends to catch trains, setting up surprise birthdays, post-exam group meals, late night car karaoke, philosophical conversations about life and death, love and heartbreaks – it seems the degree is just an additional part. The journey has been hard, but incredibly fun. Some memories in Leeds are best left in the minds of those who were there.

To all my teachers who helped me get here, I am eternally grateful for all you have taught me and will never forget your mentorship. I am planning to complete another Shine Night Walk and get involved first hand with a PhD programme in cancer research. To my friends from school, I miss you all dearly and cannot wait for our summer catch ups.





Matthew

At first, I felt a bit apprehensive moving on to higher education as the change required a more independent approach to my studies. I think the one thing that many students are not prepared for when they go to university is going from a controlled and supervised learning environment to an environment which depends on your own passion for your studies and personal development. I think the great thing about our school, which makes us stand out, is that it has prepared us for this independent aspect of life and study by encouraging us to push ourselves beyond the curriculum.

Skills that I have learnt from completing an EPQ, working on the History Projects Team and leading the Student Council as the Student Body President have allowed me to be on-track for a First in my studies, organise my time successfully, and apply for high-standing roles revolving around Student Representation. Student Representation has been a particular highlight for me because I have been able to continue my work on improving student life for my peers by being one of the Liverpool Guild of Students' Faculty Representatives representing the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty's students at all stages of their studies.

One of the highlights of my course so far comes from this summer. My summer has been busy thanks to opportunities such as the Bright Network's Internship Experience UK programme, which I heard through one of my lecturers. I completed their Finance, Professional Services and Consulting stream. During this virtual internship, I've been attending talks about graduate skills from employers, completing a project based on a real-life work scenario, and networking with other undergraduate students who are enthusiastic about employment in Professional Services and Investment Banking. My favourite session was about AI in Applications, which outlined and explained what effective use of Generative AI such as creating prompts looks like. Plus, my engagement was well-appreciated and as a result, I got to have an exclusive networking session with the investment banking firm, Bank of America, as part of Bright Network's VIP Top 50 programme; this was a small session that allowed us to understand the kind of core skills that the Bank of America are looking for, and it gave us a chance to ask questions about working in the business. I have been reflecting on my experiences completing this virtual internship using LinkedIn every day, so it was great to be one of the 50 students chosen out of thousands of students who completed this programme.

I am looking forward to Second Year where I will be applying for a Work Placement as part of my Accounting and Finance degree, and I will be navigating further opportunities available to me to enrich both my academic and personal development. Furthermore, I thoroughly enjoyed representing students at the University of Liverpool throughout my First Year, and I hope to continue this going into my next year!



ALL EARS POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

We were delighted to celebrate the creativity and talent of our students following the recent All Ears Poetry Competition. After carefully reviewing a wide range of thoughtful and imaginative submissions, Miss Hatton-Belliard and Mrs Conway selected this year's winners. These students produced some truly outstanding work and, as a result, earned a place on a special trip to the Poetry Expo, which took place on Friday 3rd July.

In Year 7, congratulations went to Vivan M, Rosalia V, Ilya N, Yuelin C and Theodore J, whose poems stood out for their originality and expression. In Year 8, the winning poets were Reanna C, Shripriya B, Martha C, Alexandra V-M and Campbell W. Each of these students demonstrated a flair for language and creativity that made their work particularly memorable.

We also recognised those who were Highly Commended — Sophia M and Anuradha A in Year 7, and Diana-Maria S and Hana T in Year 8 — whose entries came very close to the top selections. Congratulations to everyone involved, and we looked forward to celebrating their success at the Poetry Expo!

Windows by Shripriya B (Year 8)

WINDOWS

Somewhere out the window
There lies a better land
where the colour of my skin doesn't determine my worth
And being darker can't get you loathed.

Somewhere out the window
There lies a safer land
And I'll pray that one day
It won't feel like we're drowning in quicksand.

Somewhere out the window
There lies a better place.
The people would love who they desire
Without a mask upon their face.

Somewhere out the window
There lies a healthier place
But is it a fantasy in my head?
Am I falling too hard into wishful space?

Somewhere out the window
There lies a world that is not double-edged and not rehearsed
where gender can't tell me what to do
And women and girls live without being coerced.

Somewhere out the window
There should be a better land
But I'm tearing myself to shreds
Stepping around words like stretched elastic bands
Am I lying to myself? Will people find themselves?
I can't say for certain now - I don't think I'll
live to see it, really.
But I'll hold one dream close:

That somewhere out that window
Yes, the one that ages and decays
There's a better heaven for the people

I'll believe it till my very last day.

~ a poem by Shripriya, a girl with a pen
and big dreams :)

The Mosaic We Make by Vivan M (Year 7)

The Mosaic We Make

On every corner, in every street,
Different lives and voices meet,
Some walk easy, some walk slow,
Some weather storms that their faces show.

The world can feel unfair sometimes,
Built on silence, rules, and lines,
Where some are heard, and some are not,
And some are given, more than they've got.

But no one chooses where they start,
The colour of their skin, or of their heart.
No one picks the place they're born,
Or why some rise, or why some scorn.

Some see injustice in every way,
Some are ignored from day to day,
While others speak out and others stand,
Some are left, without a hand.

But still, there is another way,
A chance to change what's wrong today,
To treat each person as the same,
Without judgement, without shame.

Racism must come to an end,
The message is simple, do not offend.
You will see in every person, a blazing light,
There is no reason to quarrel and fight.

So let us value every part,
Every mind and every heart,
For in our differences, we crucially find,
The beautiful mosaic of humankind.



PADDLING TO SUCCESS: HAYDEN REPRESENTS GREAT BRITAIN AND SECURES EUROPEAN BRONZE

Last week, Hayden brought immense pride to our school by representing Great Britain in canoe polo at the European Canoe Association Cup.

Competing against some of the strongest teams in Europe, Hayden and his teammates performed exceptionally well, securing an impressive third-place finish, just behind France and Germany. This achievement is a testament to the team's determination and skill, and it was fantastic to see Hayden playing such an important role on the international stage.

Looking ahead, Hayden is currently waiting to find out if he has been selected for the World Championships in Duisburg, Germany, with the decision expected later this week. We congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment and wish him the best of luck in the selection process.



PROMOTING BELONGING THROUGH THE WORK OF OUR EDI TEAM

Our EDI Team works collaboratively to plan, organise and deliver a range of events, initiatives and educational opportunities that promote the school's core values of equality, diversity and inclusion. Through these activities, we aim to celebrate the rich diversity of our school community, foster understanding between different cultures and backgrounds, and ensure that every student feels valued, respected and represented.

We will continue to build on the success of established and much-loved events such as the Iftar Celebration, Diwali Ball and Lunar New Year celebrations, while also introducing new events and initiatives that further promote inclusion and recognise the diversity that makes our school unique.

Beyond these flagship events, the EDI Team is committed to embedding equality, diversity and inclusion into everyday school life. We will be working closely with other student leadership teams and staff to deliver educational campaigns, assemblies and awareness activities that challenge discrimination, celebrate difference and promote respect for all members of our community. Through this work, we hope to create a school environment where everyone feels safe, supported and empowered to be themselves.

This work is closely linked to our whole-school vision of Belong, Thrive and Flourish. By creating opportunities for students to share their identities, learn from one another and develop mutual understanding, we help every member of our community feel that they truly belong. Through education, advocacy and celebration of diversity, we support students to thrive in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Ultimately, by fostering a culture of respect, confidence and acceptance, we enable all students to flourish both personally and academically.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS ATTEND CARMEL COLLEGE HIGH ACHIEVERS DAY

A group of our Year 10 students recently attended the Carmel College High Achievers Day, an exciting and inspiring event designed to challenge, motivate and support academically ambitious students as they begin to think seriously about their future educational pathways.

The day brought together high-achieving students from schools across the region and provided a valuable opportunity to experience life in a sixth form college environment. Throughout the event, students participated in a range of engaging sessions aimed at developing their academic confidence, broadening their aspirations and encouraging them to think about the opportunities available to them after GCSEs.

Students attended workshops led by experienced Carmel College staff, where they explored the skills required to succeed at A Level and beyond. The sessions focused on independent learning, critical thinking, problem-solving and effective study habits, helping students to understand the increased expectations and exciting challenges that come with post-16 education.

The event also gave students the opportunity to hear from current Carmel College students, who shared their experiences of sixth form life, academic study and enrichment opportunities. These first-hand accounts provided valuable insight into the transition from secondary school and helped students gain a clearer understanding of what they can expect in the next stage of their education.

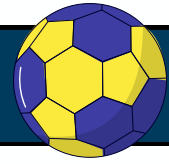
A key focus of the day was raising aspirations and encouraging students to consider the wide range of pathways available to them in the future. Discussions around university, apprenticeships, careers and personal development helped students recognise the importance of making informed choices and setting ambitious goals for themselves.

Students were also able to explore the college campus and learn more about the extensive range of subjects, facilities and extracurricular opportunities available. The visit highlighted how sixth form education can provide both academic challenge and opportunities for personal growth, leadership and enrichment.

The High Achievers Day proved to be a highly valuable experience, giving students the chance to challenge themselves, meet like-minded peers and gain a greater understanding of the opportunities that lie ahead. Most importantly, it encouraged them to think positively about their future ambitions and the steps they can take now to achieve them.



BLUE COAT HANDBALL TEAMS REACH NATIONAL FINALS



This week marks a historic achievement for Liverpool Blue Coat School as our handball teams travel to Nottingham to compete in the National Finals, representing not only the school but also the region on the national stage.

Reaching a national final is an exceptional accomplishment in any sport. It is the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, training and teamwork. Throughout the season, our players have demonstrated outstanding commitment, regularly attending training sessions, developing their technical skills and showing resilience in challenging matches against some of the strongest opposition in the country.

The journey to Nottingham has seen the teams progress through a series of highly competitive rounds, overcoming talented opponents and demonstrating the qualities that have become synonymous with Blue Coat sport: determination, discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship. Their success reflects not only the ability of individual players but also the strength of the collective team spirit that has driven them throughout the season.

Handball is one of the fastest-growing sports in schools and requires a unique combination of athleticism, tactical awareness and teamwork. Players must make quick decisions under pressure, communicate effectively and work together seamlessly in both attack and defence. Our students have embraced these challenges and have represented the school with distinction at every stage of the competition.

The National Finals provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to test themselves against the very best school teams in England. Beyond the competition itself, the experience of travelling, competing and representing Liverpool Blue Coat School at a national event will create memories that will last a lifetime.

Everyone at Blue Coat is incredibly proud of what the teams have already achieved. Simply reaching the National Finals places them among the elite school handball teams in the country and is a testament to their hard work, commitment and passion for the sport.

We wish all of our players and staff the very best of luck in Nottingham and look forward to celebrating their achievements when they return. Whatever the outcome, they have already done themselves, their families and the entire Blue Coat community proud.

Go Blue Coat! 🏆

YEAR 12 VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Year 12 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of Liverpool and gain first-hand insight into university life.

The visit began with a warm welcome from the Student Recruitment Officer, who introduced students to the university and provided information about higher education opportunities. This was followed by a guided campus tour, allowing students to explore the university's impressive facilities, and teaching spaces, while gaining a feel for life on campus.



Students also attended a Student Life presentation, which highlighted the wide range of academic, social, and extracurricular opportunities available to undergraduates which concluded with an interactive workshop.

The visit gave students valuable insight into higher education and helped them consider their future aspirations with confidence.



BLUE COAT STUDENTS TO PERFORM ON THE EVERYMAN MAIN STAGE

On 7 July, a group of Liverpool Blue Coat School students will take to the stage at the Everyman Theatre for a very special performance that marks the culmination of a year-long creative partnership with the Everyman Playhouse and Earl Court Film Festival.



Throughout the academic year, students have attended weekly workshops and rehearsals every Thursday, developing their skills in oracy, public speaking, performance and storytelling. Working alongside theatre professionals, they have explored how stories can be used to express ideas, share experiences and connect with audiences.



The performance will showcase a collection of original theatrical pieces created and performed by our students. These unique productions reflect the diverse voices, experiences and perspectives that make up our school community, celebrating creativity, confidence and self-expression.

This event represents a remarkable achievement for the students involved. We are especially proud that Liverpool Blue Coat School students will be the only young people performing on the Everyman Theatre's main stage this year—an exceptional opportunity and a testament to their dedication, talent and commitment.

The project has been an inspiring example of how the arts can help young people find and develop their voice. Through performance, students have built confidence, strengthened communication skills and learned the power of sharing their stories with others.

We wish all of our performers the very best for what promises to be a memorable evening and look forward to celebrating their achievements on one of Liverpool's most prestigious stages.



HOUSE CHESS TOURNAMENT

As part of our ongoing House Competition, students are invited to take part in the SPT Chess Tournament, running throughout the week at lunchtimes in C14 and C15. Players will compete to earn valuable House points, with every match contributing to the overall House standings.

Chess is often described as the ultimate game of strategy. It challenges players to think critically, plan ahead and solve problems under pressure. Success in chess requires concentration, patience, creativity and resilience, making it an excellent way to develop skills that support learning across all subjects. Research has also shown that regular chess players often improve their memory, logical thinking and decision-making abilities.



The tournament promises to be a fantastic opportunity for students to represent their House, test their skills against other competitors and enjoy some friendly rivalry. Whether you are an experienced player or simply enjoy a challenge, there is still time to get involved. With House points at stake and the leaderboard becoming increasingly competitive, every game could make a difference.

Good luck to all competitors, and may the best strategist win! 🏆 🏠

SPORTS REPORT

It has been another busy and successful week for sport at Blue Coat.

Cricket 🏏

Congratulations to the U13 cricket team, who were crowned Liverpool Cup champions after defeating St Hilda's in last year's final. Chasing a target of 120, the team showed great composure to reach the total with 10 balls to spare.

The U14 cricket team narrowly missed out on a place in the next round of the Lancashire State Cup after an exciting contest against St Peter's. Needing five runs to win from the final over, they came agonisingly close before eventually falling just short. The team should be proud of their efforts throughout the competition.

Basketball 🏀

Our U12 boys represented the school superbly in the North West Semi-Final of the Junior NBA competition. Despite a determined performance, they were defeated 45–29 by Wright Robinson. Reaching the regional semi-final is an excellent achievement and reflects the progress made by the team this season.

Sports Day 🎉

A huge thank you to all staff who supported Sports Day. The event was a tremendous success, with fantastic participation, enthusiasm and House spirit on display throughout the day. Results will be shared shortly via Heads of Department.

House Competition 🏆

The House competition continues to gather momentum. The live leaderboard will be shared shortly, and a reminder that the deadline for the House Door Dressing competition is this Friday. We look forward to seeing the creativity and House pride on display across the school.



DANIEL (7TU)



ENRICO 7CU



OLUWATOMISIN (7TO)



YADIAIL (7FR)



SAAHAS (7TO)



JASON (9TU)



KEY DATES

Date	Event
Monday 29th June 2026	Y12 Military School Day
Tuesday 30th June 2026	Y8 Military School Day
Wednesday 1st July 2026	Y7 Military School Day
Wednesday 1st July 2026	New Y7 Induction Day & Evening
Thursday 2nd July 2026 – Saturday 4th July 2026	Phase 1 Entrance Test
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Y9 Military School Day
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Y11 Prom
Friday 3rd July 2026	Y10 Military School Day
Friday 3rd July 2026	Charity Golf Day
Saturday 4th July 2026 - Tuesday 7th July 2026	Y12 DofE Gold assessed expedition
Tuesday 7th July 2026	KS3 Awards Evening
Tuesday 7th July 2026	Y7 & Y12 school performance at The Everyman Theatre
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Summer Concert
Thursday 9th July 2026	KS4 Awards Evening
Friday 10th July 2026	Y7 trip to West Kirby
Sunday 12th July 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026	Spanish trip to Salou/Barcelona
Monday 13th July 2026 – Thursday 16th July 2026	Y12 Geography trip to Freiburg
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Free To Be Me Day
Friday 17th July 2026	Term Ends

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

**EVER FANCIED HAVING YOUR NAME
LITERALLY WRITTEN INTO
BLUE COAT'S HISTORY?**

Chris ('89), John ('92)
and the Smith Family

The Ahmad Family
May 2026

Steve, Nick and James
U18 Cupwinners 2026

In memory of a great
Chemistry teacher, Mrs Burns

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

We're inviting alumni, families, and friends to leave a lasting (and rather stylish) mark by sponsoring a personalised plaque on one of our chapel pews. For just £100, you can dedicate a plaque in your own name, your family's name, or in memory of someone special—creating a small but meaningful legacy that will be seen by generations to come.

Feeling sociable? You can even team up with friends—up to seven names can share a bench—making it a wonderful way to celebrate friendships as well as memories.

It's a lovely way to honour your connection to the school, support our beautiful chapel, and secure your place as part of its story!



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





THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL



NEXT WEEK

GOLF DAY 2026

AT WOOLTON GOLF CLUB

FRIDAY JULY 3RD 2026

12.30PM REGISTRATION

2.00PM TEE OFF

7.00PM DINNER & SOCIAL

£80/player or £320/team

enter as individual, pair or team

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



REGISTER NOW!

seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Friends, family and colleagues welcome
(This is an adult only event)



£25 for dinner only

£50 to sponsor hole

All proceeds will go towards Blue Coat School Development Fund



Top Tips for Adopting SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here ...

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?



Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times: it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES



- ✓ Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- ✓ Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- ✓ On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- ✓ Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND



- ✓ Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- ✓ Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- ✓ Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- ✓ If you have a problem online, don't be afraid reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- ✓ Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- ✓ You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

PUT SAFETY FIRST



- ✓ If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- ✓ You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- ✓ Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD



- ✓ Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- ✓ Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- ✓ What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- ✓ If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, working in private practice to offer counselling to children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of InGage Support, a mobile app focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to schools worldwide.



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