



Newsletter – WC 7th September 2026

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13



A massive St John's well done to all our Silverdale Stars this week.

Esmee

For being such a whizz in class. You have been on fire this week!

Darcy

For being so brave and so enthusiastic about starting back to school

Charlie

For an amazing start to the new year. You are such a good friend to everyone

Meet the Teacher

Meet the teacher is on Monday 21st September. Miss Sanderson will be sharing the headlines of data, all the new initiatives we have put in place and sharing the school improvement plan for this year. There will be an opportunity for you to have input into the SDP. Class teachers will then be available to talk about routines for class for this academic year. The time slots are **17:00-17:20** with Miss Sanderson in the hall, and then each teacher will hold a **17:20-17:40** and a **17:40-18:00** slot. This is so those with more than one child can attend all classes.

Friday Thought

Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. —Titus 2:2

Westmorland Show

We had a fabulous time at the Westmorland County Show. The weather wasn't actually too bad. There is always so much to see and do. The goats and the pigs are always a big hit. Dancing sheep and wrestling too!

Fair Trade Fortnight

It's Fairtrade Fortnight, starting 21st September - 4th October 2026. The theme for Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 this year is "Do it Fair," which centres on Raise awareness about exploited farmers and workers who grow everyday items like coffee, tea, bananas, and chocolate. School Council will be talking about Fair Trade in worship on **Friday 18th September**

Secondary Open Evenings

Dallam for year 5 and 6 on 17th and 23rd September - click [here](#) to book

QES for Year 6 22nd September – click [here](#) to book. Or register via QR code below

Curriculum

We have worked hard on our curriculum over the last 3 years, to ensure it shows skills progression across the year groups, and children are given the opportunity to get that all important 'knowledge that sticks'. Our subject overviews for all subjects can be found [here](#).

Our current theme for Autumn term is **'Happy Healthy Me'**.

Each class also has a breakdown of what objectives are being taught each week, in a half termly overview. These will be shared at Meet The Teacher meeting.

Excitingly, this year we have embarked on a new relationship with the PSHE association.

This was something that what was highlighted in our safeguarding audit, as we explored keeping ourselves safe online and as we navigate modern Britain

Forms

Please don't forget to return your Code of Conduct agreements and your annual permissions forms to the office asap



This September will see the roll out of Accelerated Reader to Year 2s. Miss Jackson is working closely with learning support staff and Mrs Hodkinson to assess the children and work out their ZPDs (Zone of Proximal Development). Families will be informed of children's ZPD very soon. We wonder which Year 2s will be in the raffle for Remarkable Reader this year?

Year 5/6 Residential

Towerwood residential information evening will be on **Tuesday 15th September at 15:30**. All welcome. You will receive all the information you need for the 2 night stay, which is on 28th -30th September.

Home Time

As children get older, we understand parents are often happy for them to walk home unaccompanied from school at the end of the day. It's great for independence and for social time with friends. However, please do talk to your children about road safety. The roads around Silverdale can be busy, and in some areas - single lane, without pavements. Please consider this when talking to your children about walking home from school.

After School Club

Friday 6th November will be the first Friday that **After School club will finish at 16:30**. If any parents are desperate for childcare after this time, we can make provision. But pupil numbers mean staying open until 17:30, is just not viable. We thank you for your support with this.

Next Week...

14.09.26 – Red Rose spelling course Mrs Harrison and Mrs Tetchner
15.09.26 – Towerwood meeting 15:30
16.09.26 – Maths training Miss Jackson
17.09.26 – Maths meeting Miss S and Mrs Hodkinson
17.09.26 – Dallam Open evening
CHECK THE SCHOOL [WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

Harvest

There will be a harvest service led by Curlews and Bitterns on Friday 25th September in church at 09:30

McMillan Coffee morning

Lorraine Greenall is holding a coffee morning at Gibraltar farmhouse on Friday 25th September at 10am . All welcome!

Poetry Day

A popular Silverdale St John's school event. This will be held in school on Thursday 8th October. Get practising children!

Roles and Responsibilities

We are excited to announce that our year 6 pupils will be taking up their new roles and responsibilities as from next week. They are as follows...

- Head Boy – Oscar
- Deputy head boy – Reuben
- Sports Leader - Baine
- Scafell house captain – Seb B
- Helvellyn house captain – George
- Coniston house captain – Oscar
- Tech Leader– Henry
- Worship Team – Reuben
- Worship Team – Emrys
- Worship Team – Olly
- Worship Team - Baine

Lunches

Week 1 WC 14.09.26



Step Inside YEAR 5 AND 6 OPEN EVENINGS



Dallam School



Come and see what Dallam School has to offer.

Hear from our Headteacher, explore our classrooms, and talk with our students and staff to get a real sense of school life.

Discover the opportunities here at Dallam, and find out how we support every child to belong, learn and thrive.

17 and 23 September 5-7pm

015395 65165
enquiries@dallamschool.co.uk
www.dallamschool.co.uk

OPEN EVENING

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
OPEN EVENING FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ADMISSIONS

TUESDAY 22ND
SEPTEMBER

5PM-8PM

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

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

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

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

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

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

PRIVACY CONCERNS

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

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

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

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

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

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

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

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

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

NOTICE AND RESPOND

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

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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GAMESHOW

QUIZ EVENING

BLOCKBUSTERS

DEAL OR
NO DEAL

**GENERATION
GAME**



**PLAY YOUR
CARDS RIGHT**



**BLANKETY
BLANK**

RAFFLE

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!



SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

DOORS OPEN 7PM

AT CARNFORTH CRICKET CLUB

£5 PER PERSON

INCLUDING SNACKS

PAY ON THE DOOR

**CHILDHOOD
CANCER
AWARENESS**



TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE



DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR



**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT**

