

ESSENTIAL

School Resources 25/26

SMART SUPPORT FOR SAVVY EDUCATORS



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Arthur Mellows Village College, UK

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SMART SUPPORT FOR SAVVY EDUCATORS



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Artichoke Media Ltd.



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Unlock the power of plants for your students

WITH THE RHS SCHOOL GARDENING AWARDS

- Earn **free** seeds, books and vouchers
- Develop new skills for life
- Improve student mental health and wellbeing
- Increase environmental awareness and nature connectedness
- Celebrate growing success

START
GROWING
TODAY



rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/awards



5 REASONS TO TRY... The RHS School Gardening Awards

Free support to help your students get growing



30 SECOND BRIEFING

This free, five-level awards scheme offers achievable goals to help students experience the many benefits of gardening – from boosting wellbeing and developing new skills, to supporting the environment and forging community links. Fully flexible, the Awards are for all ages, abilities and settings.

1 FREE GROWING RESOURCES

As you complete each of the five School Gardening Award levels, you will receive free resources – including seeds, books and National Garden Gift Vouchers to help you continue your school's gardening journey. You'll also receive a certificate and digital award logo to help share your achievements.

2 BOOST WELLBEING

Connecting with plants and nature has a powerful impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing. A recent RHS report found that 96% of teachers observed a positive effect on young people's wellbeing through gardening. Taking part in the Awards will support students to connect with others and feel more in tune with the natural world. Schools tell us that they see a real difference as children smile, breathe and relax when they are in the garden spaces.

3 DEVELOP SKILLS

The Awards are designed to build and grow a wide range of skills that young people can carry into their lives. As well as learning hand-on gardening skills – such as sowing seeds, nurturing seedlings and taking cuttings – they will also develop teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving skills. Gardening can additionally help to build confidence, patience and resilience.

4 SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

Through the School Gardening Awards, students will learn how small, simple actions can help protect the planet.



RHS

Contact:

schoolgardening@rhs.org.uk

From collecting rainwater and growing food, to creating habitats for wildlife, with schools transforming grey spaces by growing plants that will flower, fruit and seed through the year. The Award criteria will help empower young people to take environmental action, no matter the size of your school's growing space.

5 CULTIVATE COMMUNITY LINKS

The final Award level includes a focus on building connections beyond the school gates. Whether it's gardening with family members or past (or future) students, or by welcoming community volunteers, gardening can unite people of all ages.

Key Points

Start your school's gardening journey today at rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/awards

100 percent of schools that have taken part in previous years stated in a recent survey (July 2025), that they would recommend the awards to other schools.

Grow your teaching with free eLearning - build confidence, skills, and plant power in your classroom. Start today: rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/training

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter packed with tips, advice and school case studies at rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/signup

CLOSE UP ON...

FlashAcademy

Find out how FlashAcademy® is equipping The Oaks Academy to support every EAL learner

The Oaks Academy is a thriving oversubscribed secondary school in Crewe where EAL learners make up around 40% of pupils. In September 2020 the school joined The Learning Partnership (formerly The Learning Alliance), and in April 2024 – for the first time in its history – received a rating of ‘Good’ by Ofsted.

AN EAL SUPPORT BASELINE

To support its growing EAL intake, the school adopted FlashAcademy® to deliver structured and trackable English language support. When Louise Ellmans assumed the role of EAL lead, she was tasked with building a stronger, more structured programme for EAL learners.

“To ensure EAL students had access to the same ambitious learning experience as everyone else, I needed to make sure the data we had on their proficiency was accurate and up to date,” she explains. The school had already invested in FlashAcademy®, with Louise leading its rollout by enrolling and assessing every EAL learner within the first half term.

“We rolled out the digital assessment across the whole cohort – and for the first time, we could clearly see where each student was across listening, speaking, reading and writing,” Louise continues. This insight gave her the foundation needed to plan targeted support: *“It was the missing piece,”* she concludes. 520 such assessments have been completed since September 2023, which now form the basis of the school’s EAL strategy.

STRUCTURED INTERVENTIONS

The digital assessment’s setup and lesson management proved straightforward, thanks to FlashAcademy®’s integration with the school’s MIS – initially SIMS and latterly Arbor. As well as being used as an assessment tool, FlashAcademy® has become a key part of the intervention timetable at The Oaks Academy.

Learners working at Bands A to C complete regular lessons set by their teacher, which are tailored to their level of ability. *“We aim for 90% success as standard,”* explains Louise. *“If students*



don't reach that, they repeat the lesson. For more difficult tasks, we lower the target slightly to 75 to 80%, depending on the student.”

Since October 2023, pupils have completed 7,217 lessons (and 339 of those in just the past three months). The majority of lessons to date – 225 – have focused on English language, but students have also been able to access subject-specific content in preparation for their GCSE studies, including biology (25 lessons), economics (20) and chemistry (9). Their progress is monitored by the EAL teacher, with FlashAcademy® used to reinforce their language development and improve access to curriculum content.

CONFIDENT, CONSISTENT VISIBILITY

FlashAcademy® has transformed how The Oaks Academy supports its EAL learners, by giving staff reliable data and giving pupils the tools to thrive. Learners look forward to their intervention sessions, enjoy tracking their results and will often revisit lessons to improve their previous scores.

“They are able to work at their own pace through the lessons, and the boys in particular enjoy making the 90% a competition between them,” says Louise. Printable class-based resources are used to consolidate learning, but students prefer the digital platform. *“They enjoy seeing their results,”* she adds. *“Because they’re assessed across four areas, there’s usually some element of progress to recognise – even if they haven’t moved up a full band.”*

All assessment data is saved in FlashAcademy®. *“I have to regularly report to the Trust and governors, so for me, FlashAcademy® is a great tool to show*



Contact:

team@flashacademy.com
flashacademy.com/secondary-schools



progress – and the fact that students really enjoy it is fantastic for them!”

MEASURABLE EAL PROGRESS

FlashAcademy® helps schools and Trusts accelerate English language acquisition and deliver consistent EAL provision while reducing teacher workload. The newly launched AI-assisted marking feature saves 150 hours of teacher time each year, combined with real-time tracking to support effective planning and intervention.

The platform includes a teacher dashboard for assessment and progress monitoring, alongside a learning app with curriculum-aligned lessons. With 48 home languages, MIS integration, regular webinars for teachers and printable resources, FlashAcademy® supports measurable EAL outcomes across diverse classrooms and settings.

4 REASONS TO TRY... Ann Arbor Publishers



Established in 1972, AAP stands among the leading UK suppliers of an extensive range of educational and clinical assessment tools and teaching resources

1 PRICE MATCH PROMISE
If customers find any product for less elsewhere, including VAT and UK mainland delivery, we PROMISE to MATCH that price and send a FREE GIFT. We are happy to consider ordering in products that we do not stock upon request from customers. Free UK delivery applies to all orders over £100.

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AAP prides itself on being able to offer a free, prompt and personal all-year-round consultancy service. Customers are welcome to email us with any queries regarding product choice, exam arrangements, SpLD/SEND or any other matter related to teaching and assessment, and have them invariably

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In-stock products are dispatched on the same day if ordered before 2pm. Customers wishing to examine products prior to purchase may avail themselves of our 15-day sale or return service. All products (barring software) may be returned in 'as new' condition within 15 days for a full refund or account credit.

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AAP maintains close links with a wide range of the UK's leading support and training organisations in the field of SpLD/SEND. Product discounts are regularly made available to members of

such organisations, as well as directly from ourselves from time to time, as per the details advertised on our website and in our published literature.

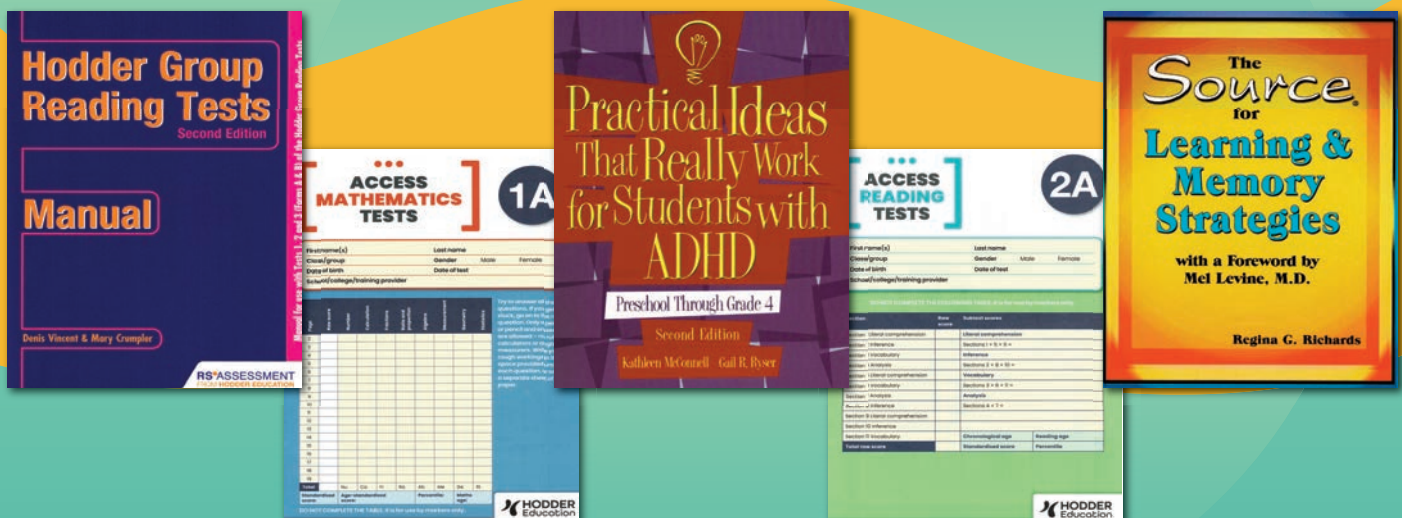


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5 REASONS TO TRY... Teach with Historic Royal Palaces

Help students build a clearer picture of the past with some expert assistance



30 SECOND BRIEFING

History where it happened – delivered directly to your classroom! *Teach with Historic Royal Palaces* is a new YouTube channel for teachers, offering curriculum-aligned videos designed to help bring history to life, and provide support for students' learning and revision.

1 WORLDBUILDING AND IMMERSION

Watch dramatised recreations of significant historical moments that help students to visualise and immerse themselves in key events from the past.

By bringing history to life with carefully crafted scenes, these videos help students develop deeper understanding and improve their levels of engagement, thus making complex topics more accessible and memorable.

2 CURRICULUM-LINKED RESOURCES

Every video is designed with the National Curriculum and exam specifications in mind, with accompanying resources – ranging from source banks, to virtual tours and quizzes – available for each. These provide teachers with ready-to-use materials for deepening students' understanding, while supporting their classroom learning.

3 REVISE WITH OUR HISTORIANS

Watch our expert historians deliver talks tailored to specific GCSE and A Level topics, thus adding extra breadth and depth to students' classroom learning. These videos provide valuable revision material, and can help students gain helpful insights into various historical debates and interpretations from a range of trusted voices.

4 CPD FOR TEACHERS

The channel also offers professional development opportunities,



Contact:

digital.learning@hrp.org.uk
[youtube.com/@TeachwithHistoricRoyalPalaces](https://www.youtube.com/@TeachwithHistoricRoyalPalaces)

featuring talks aimed at teachers given by historians, with the purpose of boosting and enriching subject knowledge. Further dedicated CPD content with a focus on history teaching will be added throughout the academic year.



5 FREE AND ACCESSIBLE ANYWHERE

Available via YouTube, the channel is completely free and easy to access from anywhere. The videos can be used flexibly, either in class or set as homework, making it simple for teachers to integrate high-quality history content into their teaching plans.



Key Points

A channel made especially for teachers and students.

Subscribe to the *Teach with Historic Royal Palaces* YouTube channel to be alerted whenever new history videos are released.

The videos all have free, high-quality accompanying materials that are available via the Historic Royal Palaces website.

Coming soon – videos and interactive tours aimed at helping you to explore our palaces from within your classroom.

5 REASONS TO TRY... Sumdog Maths

Help students make up progress and develop their maths confidence with the aid of this engagingly fun learning platform



30 SECOND BRIEFING

Sumdog is a games-based educational platform that helps students of all abilities improve their maths skills. It builds fluency and confidence through engaging practice. Sumdog helps KS3 students to consolidate KS2 concepts in a fun and interactive way, making it an effective catch-up tool during the transition to secondary school.

1 FILL GAPS IN CORE SKILLS
Sumdog helps students of all abilities build a strong foundation in number. Through providing continuous practice and consolidation of core numeracy skills, the platform helps build mathematical fluency (a deep, conceptual understanding of numbers and operations). For students at the very start of secondary school who might have some gaps in their foundational knowledge, Sumdog is a fun and engaging way to address specific catch-up areas and encourage regular revision.



2 REDUCE MATHS ANXIETY AND CONFIDENCE ISSUES
Sumdog's adaptive learning technology personalises the experience for each student. As students progress, Sumdog adjusts the difficulty of questions to match their individual learning pace, ensuring they remain challenged, yet not overwhelmed. This personalised approach helps reinforce confidence and mastery of essential topics, which is crucial during the transition to a more demanding school environment. Students can play and practise side by side, without feeling conscious about their respective aptitude for maths, as they follow their own unique learning journeys.



Contact:

0131 226 1511 | support@sumdog.com | learn.sumdog.com

engaging game-based activities. Having mastered these concepts, students can then move on to tackle more complex problems and topics as they progress through KS3 and into KS4, ahead of preparation for their exams.

3 SUPPORT RETENTION AND APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE
Sumdog's Fluency Booster adaptivity provides structured, targeted practice that goes beyond rote memorisation. By focusing on foundational concepts – such as number bonds, place value and arithmetic – students strengthen their understanding through varied and

4 BOOST ENGAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION
Built on robust gamification theory, Sumdog provides students with a sense of achievement and progress via virtual rewards for correct answers, accuracy and time spent learning. Students can choose from over 35 games to play, which are embedded within practice questions tailored to their own level, and compete in online maths contests alongside other local schools. Designed to make learning fun, Sumdog provides an interactive learning experience where students can practise and consolidate key skills from the KS2 maths curriculum, without feeling that they have fallen behind.

5 PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS
Sumdog's low-stakes tests identify gaps and misconceptions by analysing how students answer questions, helping teachers group learners for targeted interventions. Having received clear insights into students' individual responses, educators can confidently plan next steps and set targeted practice work on Sumdog for students to complete in-class or as homework.



Need to know

Consolidate core number skills through adaptive fluency technology, or set curriculum-aligned targeted practice

Plan next steps with detailed reports that offer a clear view of student progress and highlight areas of improvement

Engage students of all abilities with over 35 fun, interactive multiplayer games and regular online maths contests with other local schools

A 12-month subscription for your whole secondary school is priced at just £499 – request your free trial today

Q&A

Trusted advice for school trips

Jake Wiid highlights what schools should expect from an educational visits advice service...



30 SECOND BRIEFING

EVOLVE Advice supports schools with expert educational visits, advice and training for your EVCs and Visit Leaders. Our responsive team will help you meet legal requirements, reduce workload and build confidence, so you can focus on creating meaningful learning experiences beyond the classroom.

What does the law say about educational visits advice?

Health and safety legislation requires schools to appoint a competent person to assist with compliance and risk management. This doesn't need to be an external adviser, but many schools don't have the capacity or specialist expertise. That's why it's good practice to work with an Educational Visits Adviser. EVOLVE Advice can help your school meet its legal responsibilities and plan safe, enriching trips, giving you peace of mind – especially for overseas, adventurous and residential visits.

How can an Educational Visits Adviser help me?

Advisers help ensure that your visits are compliant with all relevant guidance. At EVOLVE Advice, we can review your more complex trips, support risk management, advise on planning and help with important issues like inclusion. Whether it's answering urgent queries, or offering final-stage sign-off, we give EVCs the confidence to deliver inspiring trips that meet all the right standards.

What makes a good Educational Visits Adviser?

Look for relevant qualifications and experience, strong communication and an in-depth knowledge of national guidance.



Land & Wave school trips

Ask about response times, out-of-hours support, system expertise (e.g. EVOLVE) and training options. Do they provide clear onboarding, with ongoing support? Would other schools recommend them? We welcome these questions at EVOLVE Advice, as they give us the chance to show why so many schools trust our team.

How is EVOLVE Advice different?

EVOLVE Advice's team-based model provides resilience. Our 'no out-of-office' policy means you'll never be without support, wherever you're based. We know that sometimes you need answers



ABOUT JAKE:
Jake Wiid is the director of EVOLVE Advice



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info@evolveadvice.co.uk
evolveadvice.co.uk

quickly, so our fast-turnaround advice will help to keep your visit plans moving. Our Advisers combine educational experience with legal and technical know-how, giving you a comprehensive and practical source of guidance. We approach even the most complex visits with a can-do attitude, and will help you find a way to make your visits happen.

What added value does EVOLVE Advice offer?

We're more than an approval service. Our IOSH- and IOL-accredited EVC and Visit Leader training builds skills and confidence. We can reduce admin, support inclusion and help you manage your visit system. As part of our schools community you'll also get regular updates, access to resources, CPD opportunities and offers from providers. Our support will help you deliver safe and memorable educational visits, with less stress and more clarity.

What's the difference?

- + Expert advice with no out-of-office delays – expert help when and where you need it
- + Reduce risk, streamline processes and build confidence with responsive, contextual visit support
- + Advice, training, system support, education know-how, technical and legal expertise – all in one place

5 REASONS TO TRY... Sound Sleep Training

Impart some vital lessons about the health benefits of a good night's sleep with this training course for school staff



30 SECOND BRIEFING

Sound Sleep empowers teachers to improve pupil focus, attendance and academic success with curriculum-aligned lesson plans and wellbeing resources over just two twilight CPD sessions.

1 BETTER SLEEP = BETTER POTENTIAL

Teaching about sleep maximises pupils' potential and supports a happier, healthier school experience. Sound Sleep training enables schools to transform students' understanding of sleep so they wake up each morning refreshed, confident and ready to learn. Students cannot achieve a good night's sleep without understanding the importance of healthy sleep and its benefits. We surveyed 247 high school students and shockingly, 87% were unaware that sleep affects their health. (Research links poor sleep with obesity, depression and impaired learning!)



2 IMPROVED FOCUS AND BEHAVIOUR

Teachers who have completed Sound Sleep report a 62% boost in pupil attention, with better focus, increased energy and fewer disruptions. By teaching students to adopt simple strategies for improved sleep into their daily routines, you will notice a real difference as they arrive alert and engaged – particularly useful when students are returning to school after a long summer of no routines! You will learn to pinpoint common hurdles to a good night's rest – like late-night screen use and irregular routines – and how to guide pupils through age-appropriate solutions.

3 READY-TO-TEACH

Say goodbye to lesson planning headaches. Sound Sleep includes everything necessary to deliver engaging, ready-to-teach lessons, eliminating the need to spend hours planning. This



Contact:

training@sleepaction.org | sleepaction.org | [@sleepactionorg](https://twitter.com/sleepactionorg)

allows you to concentrate on what is most important – supporting your pupils. The complete teaching resource pack (slides, lesson plans, worksheets and interactive activities) is tailored to curricula across the UK to help you deliver sleep education, no matter where you are. This allows schools to incorporate sleep education as a key component of their health and wellbeing curriculum.

4 MADE FOR TEACHERS

Sound Sleep is tailored to busy educators and delivered in two short twilight sessions. You'll walk away with a firm grasp of sleep science and a better understanding of sleep's impact on physical health, emotional resilience and academic performance. You will also learn practical techniques to teach pupils about the importance of sleep for their health and wellbeing. Sessions are

highly interactive, featuring case studies and group discussions. Importantly, you'll also receive a certificate evidencing your CPD, including four hours' contact time.

5 BETTER SLEEP FOR ALL

Sound Sleep supports PSHE, mental health initiatives and parental outreach. You will be equipped to conduct sleep-awareness workshops for staff and families, improving community engagement and promoting healthy habits beyond the classroom. Closing the educational gap also starts with a good night's rest. Students from lower-income households experience poorer sleep, putting them at an even greater disadvantage in and out of the classroom. Government funding aimed at closing the attainment gap, such as Pupil Premium, is available to bring Sound Sleep to your school.

Key Points

Teaching about sleep is essential for helping pupils understand the connection sleep has with their health, wellbeing, and learning, thereby unlocking their full potential.

Sound Sleep training boosts pupil attention by 62%, reduces disruptions and teaches screentime and routine strategies, so that students arrive alert, engaged and ready to learn.

Curriculum-linked resource packs include slides, lesson plans, worksheets and activities, enabling teachers to deliver sleep education that meets statutory duties with zero prep required.

Sound Sleep supports students, offers parental engagement workshops and leverages government funding, helping to close the attainment gap and engage the whole school community.

Easy Device Management

Store, charge and update your devices in volume

Why Schools are Switching to Smart Solutions:

- Reduce Costs
- Eliminate Manual Admin
- Streamline Distribution
- Increase Security & Accountability
- Maximise Teaching Time



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= Reduced Costs!**



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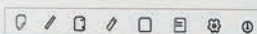


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More here!**

Envoy Smart Locker

How to borrow a device

1. Scan your card
2. Take the device



An intuitive smart locker designed for fast deployment for devices

Envoy™

Drive Efficiency from Your Device Spend

Maximise ROI on your device investment:
Centralise access to boost device use and cut costs.

Save Staff Time

Reduce manual device handovers and admin:
Automate routine tasks and free up your staff
to focus on more strategic priorities.

Improve Device Distribution

Lend laptops and tablets quickly and easily:
Self-service lockers simplify access for students
and staff alike.

Maximise Teaching & Learning Time

Devices are always ready to go, fully charged and
accessible in seconds: no more delays, disruption,
or missing equipment.

Boost Device Security & Accountability

Know exactly who has what, and when: Our full audit trail
helps you keep track of damaged and unreturned devices.

Smarter Decisions with Real Data

With ONARKEN® software, you get full visibility of usage
and trends, helping you plan, purchase, and invest
more effectively.

Join the movement towards
smarter, more efficient
device management



ONE PRODUCT • ONE TREE

Planting a greener future | LapSafe®



THAT'S NOT...



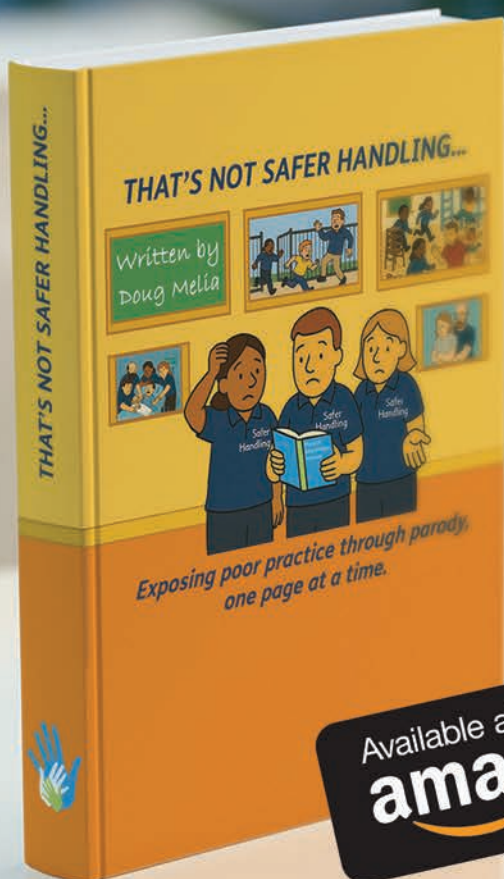
A bold, honest,
and eye-opening
book that
challenges
outdated physical
intervention

This powerful, illustrated book invites readers to reflect on real-world scenarios with fresh eyes. Rooted in lived experience and professional insight, it uses humour and simplicity to expose poor practice and spark meaningful conversations in training, education, and care settings.

Whether you're a frontline practitioner, trainer, or leader, this book encourages critical thinking, challenges the status quo, and promotes safer, trauma-informed approaches.

Written by...
Doug Melia

Available soon
on Amazon



**UPDATED FOR
2025 /2026**

Now paired with our updated, CPD accredited online course; This IS Safer-handling- a guide to understanding reasonable force & reducing incidents in your workplace. This book serves as the perfect companion for anyone working with children or vulnerable people, helping staff apply the lessons from each page directly in their reducing restrictive practices plans.

The Inside Story

DOUG MELIA

is the founder and director of Safer Handling

From playground to policy, find out how Safer Handling became a national standard...



Safer Handling equips staff and volunteers across multiple sectors with legally-informed training to safely manage the distressed, displaced and disregulated. From incident prevention to post-incident support, the organisation helps embed strategies that are lawful, ethical and trauma-aware.



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safer-handling.co.uk



ABOUT DOUG:
Doug Melia is the founder and director of Safer Handling

What began in classrooms and hospitals has become a national benchmark in restraint reduction and the safer handling of incidents.

In 1997, Safer Handling's founder Doug Melia was teaching martial arts as a GCSE option at inner-city schools, encountering first-hand the limitations of no-restraint policies. Outside the classroom, he was working as a door supervisor – before regulations revealed the dangers of excessive force.

This dual perspective revealed to him the urgent need for safer

handling alternatives. In 1999 he launched Safer Handling, and began working with the Lancashire Partnership against Crime and the NHS, teaching personal safety and positive behaviour support strategies to teachers.

From 2001 to 2006, Doug was regularly teaching school staff, whilst simultaneously serving as a High Court enforcement officer. These roles highlighted for him how poorly designed intervention systems could escalate risk, rather than reduce it. This became the primary focus of Safer Handling – to develop respectful, legally defensible systems rooted in lived experience.

From 2006 to 2009, Safer Handling began investing in sector-wide research and professional training, focusing on trauma-informed alternatives to prolonged physical restraint and chemical intervention.

In 2010, Safer Handling launched a suite of DVD resources to help schools meet their statutory annual refresher training requirements. The goal was to make essential knowledge accessible; empower schools to embed safer practices internally; and reduce schools' dependency on external courses.

The company expanded its expert advisory group in 2012, bringing in Julie Wiggs, formerly of HM Customs & Excise, to support clients with post-incident documentation, investigation reports and evidential clarity. Her background and diligence

strengthened our ability to assist settings with internal reviews, regulatory responses and general accountability processes.

By 2015, the business had acquired the Soft Restraint Kit brand and re-engineered it as a new solution for preventing restraint-related deaths. Other new tools were developed to aid clinical interventions and movement, particularly for vulnerable individuals, for whom 'hands on' interventions simply aren't an option.

In 2020, while many providers paused their operations in response to the pandemic, Safer Handling launched a full suite of digital learning resources so that frontline staff in schools, care homes and custody environments could continue to receive vital training. There have been over 50,000 signups to date, from as far afield as Nigeria and Texas.

In 2021, Safer Handling collaborated with the Ministry of Justice to design a fabric alternative to archaic mechanical restraints. The result – Safetycuff – provides a trauma-informed alternative to relying on prolonged holding or use of metal devices.

While there are no plans to utilise Safetycuff devices in schools, their use has now been formally mandated across all UK young offender Institutions and secure children's homes – a landmark moment in terms of lawful and ethical solutions being embedded within national frameworks.

2025 has seen the company launch brand new online courses and unveil a genuine first – a bold, accessible guide called 'That's Not Safer Handling' inspired by the 'That's Not My...' book series for children. The resource will help frontline staff spot signs of poor practice, challenge unsafe routines, and initiate essential conversations around restraint reduction spanning a range of age groups and sectors.

Unique selling points

Flexibility

Flexible training options intended to support busy staff with accessible, time-efficient online and blended learning formats

Organisational experience

Benefit from organisational experience spanning education, healthcare and justice, as well as direct access to our suite of instructional clips and regular workshops.

External reviews

Safer Handling's services are all independently reviewed by external legal, medical and movement professionals

5 REASONS TO TRY... *Review* magazines

Gain teaching inspiration while helping your students explore the wider world with these engaging print and digital titles



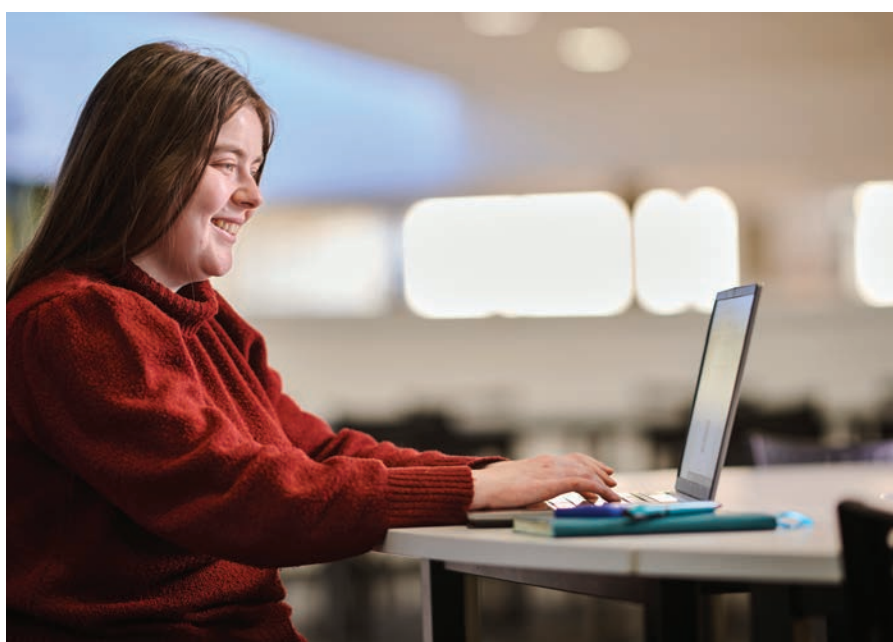
30 SECOND BRIEFING

With 14 different magazines available in print and online, plus two online-only magazine archives, it has never been easier to choose an option that caters for your students' needs.

1 UP-TO-DATE ARTICLES
Textbooks, particularly in fast-moving subjects, require up-to-date articles far sooner than a full book can be produced. That's where the *Review* magazines from Hachette Learning come in. With most of our magazines published quarterly, our new volume begins in September this year. Upcoming issues include accessible, yet in-depth articles on the rise of AI, 2025's Local Election results, the UK energy dilemma, poet Carol Ann Duffy and the changing shapes of families and households.

2 AUTHORS YOU CAN TRUST
Full of practical exam tips, the magazines can help strengthen thinking skills and provide a sense of real-world context, helping learners avoid pitfalls while contributing to their understanding of how different subjects fit together. The magazines also provide practical tips and next steps for how students might further their studies and future careers. They offer quality content reviewed by editorial boards, ensuring the information given is accurate, and give teachers the opportunity to teach challenging topics in a balanced way.

3 SEAMLESS DIGITAL OPTIONS
Hachette Learning has invested in a new platform which uses the same technology as newsstand magazine websites for our eLibraries, which include the digital versions of all our current magazines as well as a back issues archive. This improves user experience, and makes the articles and their accompanying graphics and photographs more straightforward to read. The shift to flowable text also



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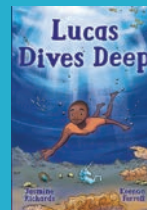
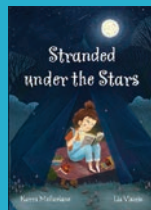
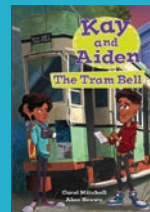
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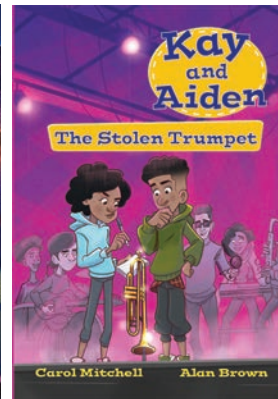
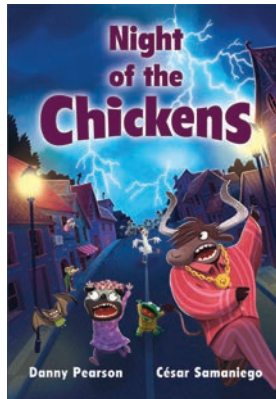
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Boost your students' reading confidence with these compelling new books from Collins

AT A GLANCE

- A new series of 20 decodable fiction and non-fiction phonics books
- Designed to appeal to students aged 11+
- Introduces words and word structures in a planned sequence
- Provides rich opportunities to practise decoding skills
- Accompanied by free teacher notes

REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL



To get students reading, the last thing they'll want is to be presented with a slab of text containing thousands of words. For many at KS3, their reading opportunities need to include shorter phonics books with a good mix of engaging content, ideally presented in a standard paperback format.

Older students can easily feel self-conscious carrying around books that outwardly appear to be too childish for them, so finding an appropriate entry point is paramount. Get it right, and you'll ensure a positive reading experience.

This is precisely what Collins has done. Their new Fully Booked series of decodable fiction and non-fiction books place phonics at the heart of students' reading, with the aim of boosting their self-efficacy.

Why does this matter? Because students who are still developing their phonics skills, especially those not yet reading fluently, can benefit greatly from reading decodable books, which purposefully aim to build confidence, improve fluency and provide a strong foundation for comprehension.

These new books from Collins are both highly accessible and extremely engaging, and should do a good job of providing targeted practice to address reading gaps and building confidence in decoding skills. Though aimed at KS3, these decodable readers aren't age-specific, so much as skill-specific.

There are 10 engrossing fiction titles and 10 inspiring non-fiction titles available, giving students plenty of options to explore,

each with solid hooks to ensnare readers' attention. The titles alone – which include *Night of the Chickens*, *The Thing in the Deep*, *Stranded Under the Stars*, *A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *Football Skills* and *Spider Strike* – should give you a sense of the genre variety on offer.

The books themselves range in length from 24 to 32 pages, and feature top quality illustrations and presentation throughout. The relatable themes found across the series are bound to resonate with students' experiences and interests, and are conveyed through straightforward, approachable writing. Some editions include glossaries, too.

In terms of their main aim – providing a means for students to engage in sequential phonics practice, so that they can develop their foundations in reading – the books hit all the bases, being well-written, with engaging content and numerous opportunities for practising and solidifying phonics skills.

Collins' Fully Booked series will ultimately help students develop the crucial foundational reading skills they'll need to succeed at KS3 and beyond, while at the same time taking big strides towards becoming fluent, independent readers.

Age-appropriate decodable readers like these can help give older students a sense of achievement, while also compelling them to read more.

Collins would seem to have a real hit on their hands here – if you want to find out

more, visit the Collins website, where you'll be able to access some free teacher notes aimed at helping you further develop students' comprehension skills, vocabulary acquisition and recall.

teach
SECONDARY

VERDICT

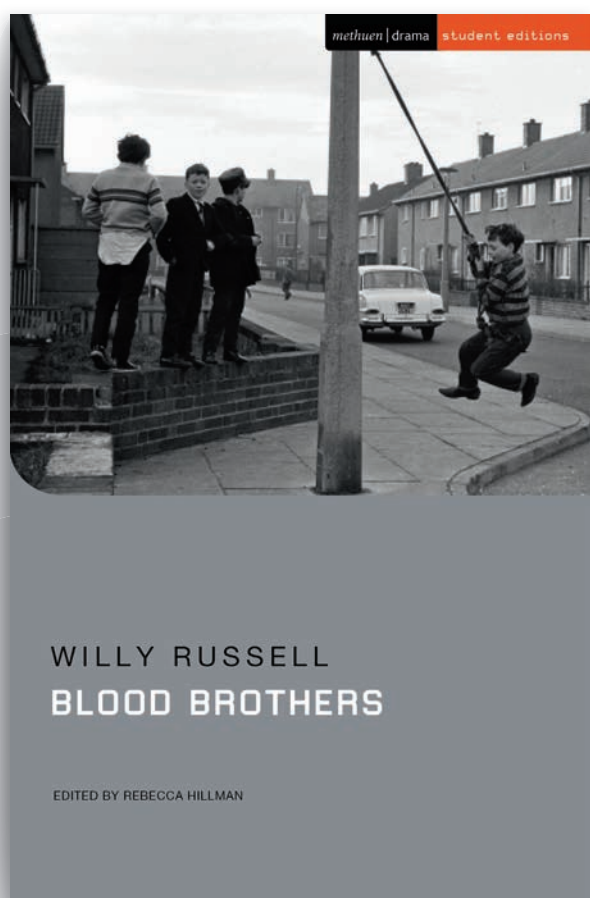
- ✓ Helps students practise their decoding skills, rather than relying on pictures or guesswork
- ✓ Strengthens orthographic memory and mastery of phonic structures
- ✓ Provides students with a sense of achievement, while boosting their enjoyment of reading
- ✓ Supports students with developing their level of independent reading comprehension

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Titles in the Fully Booked series are priced from £6.99 to £7.99; for more information, visit collins.co.uk/FullyBooked

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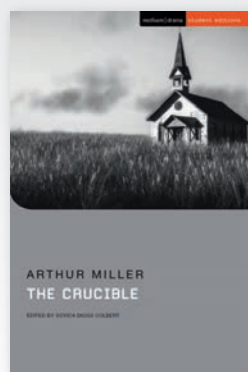
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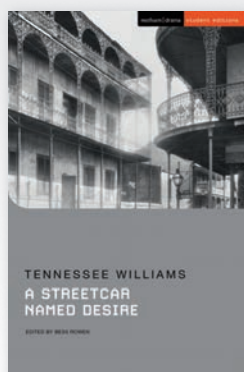
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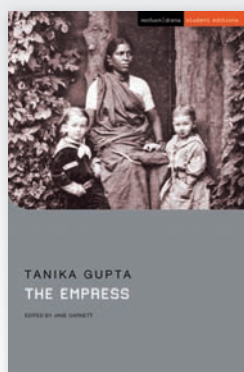
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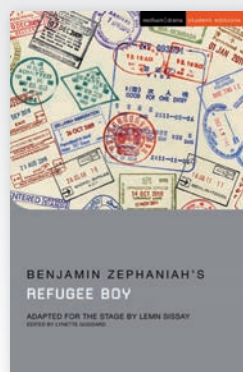
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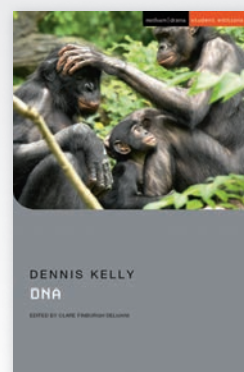
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DRAMA & ENGLISH →

Blood Brothers

A richly informative new edition of Willy Russell's hugely influential play

AT A GLANCE

- A new Student Edition of a classic text, with expert commentary and accompanying notes
- Features a chronology and introduction, plus notes on historical context, form and genre
- Informed, modern analysis of the play's topics and themes
- Provides scope for further explorations of political theatre and classical tragedy

REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL

It's hard to imagine that Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*, one of the longest-running musical productions in West End history, was originally developed as a 70-minute school play first performed in Liverpool in 1981 for an audience of teenagers. Focused around fraternal twins separated at birth, *Blood Brothers* is alternately moving, funny and heart-rending – a classic story of nature versus nurture, adoption, identity, love and inequality that's endured, and retained the privilege of being a set text for GCSE English Literature and Drama courses.

Methuen Drama, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing, has now published a revised Student Edition of *Blood Brothers*, complete with expert commentary that gets right to the heart of the complex topics the play grapples with. This edition commences with a short chronology and a perceptive introduction that clearly sets out what *Blood Brothers* is all about, breaking down the world Russell portrays. We then move into a concise historical overview of the period in which the play was written, touching on the political landscape, entrenched class divisions, poverty and social insecurity of the time.

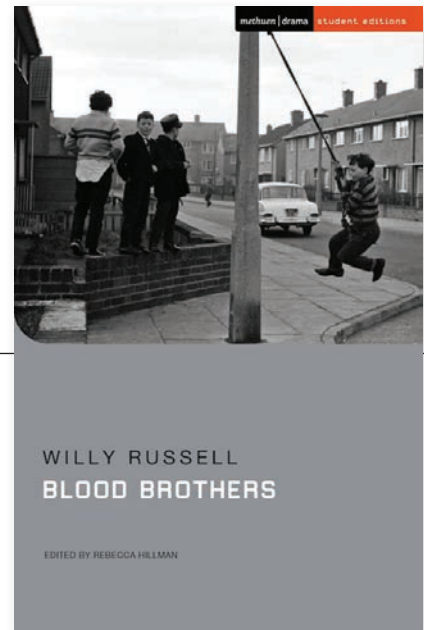
Elsewhere, there's a chapter on form and genre explaining how *Blood Brothers* is a social realist text *par excellence* on one level, while also working as a folk ballad with an epic quality. It's a drama where the ending is revealed at the very start, with much to learn, analyse and understand as

we watch the preceding events unfold.

This edition invites us to understand that while *Blood Brothers* has come to be seen as a Liverpudlian folk opera, Willy Russell effectively wrote the play for all the 'Liverpools' that exist throughout the world. We're encouraged to see how, despite the drama's clear specificity to place, the human interactions that play out make it timelessly relatable.

Having garnered a reputation as 'The standing ovation play', this Student Edition also acknowledges *Blood Brothers*' status as a bona-fide, globally acclaimed smash hit musical – albeit one that doesn't shy away from difficult topics related to social upbringing, class, inequality and injustice. Over the course of many, many productions, it's remained an extremely witty, often dark and deeply poignant work, still thematically resonant to life as it's lived today and defiantly universal – however parochial its concerns might initially seem on the surface. Just reading the lines of this Student Edition, while seeing the production come to life in your mind's eye, is enough to send shivers down your spine.

In keeping with the quality of the text itself, this Student Edition is a class act – packed with lucid, easily digestible, yet valuable insights that will help students think about and analyse the meanings and intentions of the play with greater care. It's also a welcome reminder of why *Blood Brothers* deserves to be part of our cultural DNA.



methuen | drama

**teach
SECONDARY**

VERDICT

- ✓ The supporting notes are highly accessible and rich with insights
- ✓ The well-judged chronology and historical overviews will equip students with valuable context for understanding the play in more depth
- ✓ Encourages critical engagement and more sophisticated comprehension of the text

UPGRADE IF...

You are looking for an intelligible, digestible and readily accessible student text of *Blood Brothers* that gets to the heart of the play's portrayals of class struggle and social inequality



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EDTECH 

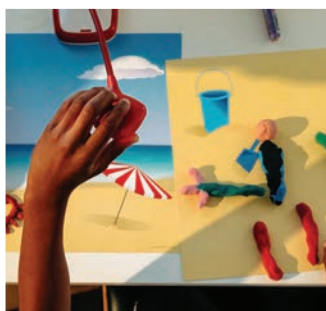
HUE Animation Studio Pro

A super-smart, versatile camera addition to your school's tech toolkit...



AT A GLANCE

- A flexible and easy to use animation camera
- Helpful instructions and manual
- Easy to set up and control
- Pupil-friendly interface
- Adaptable for different ages and skill ranges



REVIEWED BY: RUTH ASTLEY

Are you looking for new additions to your school's camera kit? Is animation on your priority list? Well, if you're looking for a solution that's high in both quality and versatility, look no further...

Technically, the included HUE HD Pro is a great USB camera in its own right, with a reassuringly sturdy construction that should prove durable for classroom use. Its strong, yet flexible neck makes it well-suited for use by pupils – as does the option to use it with the stable base powered via a USB cable. Pupils then don't need to hold the camera to take pictures or create tracking shots.

There's also the option of plugging it in without the base, straight into a desktop or laptop's USB port to use the camera as a classroom visualiser. The HUE Animation Studio Pro certainly performs well in traditional classroom applications, then – but when it's used for the purposes of animation, *that's* when the strengths of this package can be fully appreciated.

The camera's ergonomics and ease of use opens up the possibilities of stop motion film-making across a vast age range. The flexibility of its positioning and movement makes it a good fit for many other types of media, in a variety of ways – from filming visuals placed on a flat surface from above, to capturing 3D objects from different angles, or even in

conjunction with a green screen. More advanced film-makers can explore its time lapse modes and different playback speeds, or even turn the camera upside down for a better angle and flip the image in the camera menu.

The quick setup guide does a good job of walking teachers through the camera's various uses and functions, further aided by the intuitive controls on the camera itself, particularly the focus ring and video feed indicator. The onscreen controls and 'project setting' options should make it easy for pupils to independently edit their creations, and even delete certain scenes frame-by-frame, if necessary. It's also easy to add external music and sound effects, either using HUE's own bank of sounds or by recording your own.

What really sets this camera apart from others I've used in the past is its suitability for different ages and abilities. Having taught clay animation to younger pupils, for example, I know how difficult it is to keep track of how your clay has been positioned in earlier frames.

The included Stop Motion Studio software features an 'onion skin' feature, so that every time you move the clay, the camera will render a fixed 'ghost' image of how the object was positioned, enabling pupils to easily line up their new image with where the old image was, thus

ensuring that the final animation remains smooth.

The accompanying software even provides access to effects such as rotoscoping and pixelation, making it an amazing all-rounder for any animation curriculum, topped off with the ability to record, save and conveniently export your creations to a variety of platforms.

teach SECONDARY

VERDICT

- ✓ High quality, durable hardware
- ✓ Easily accessible software
- ✓ Useful additional resources
- ✓ Highly flexible

UPGRADE IF...

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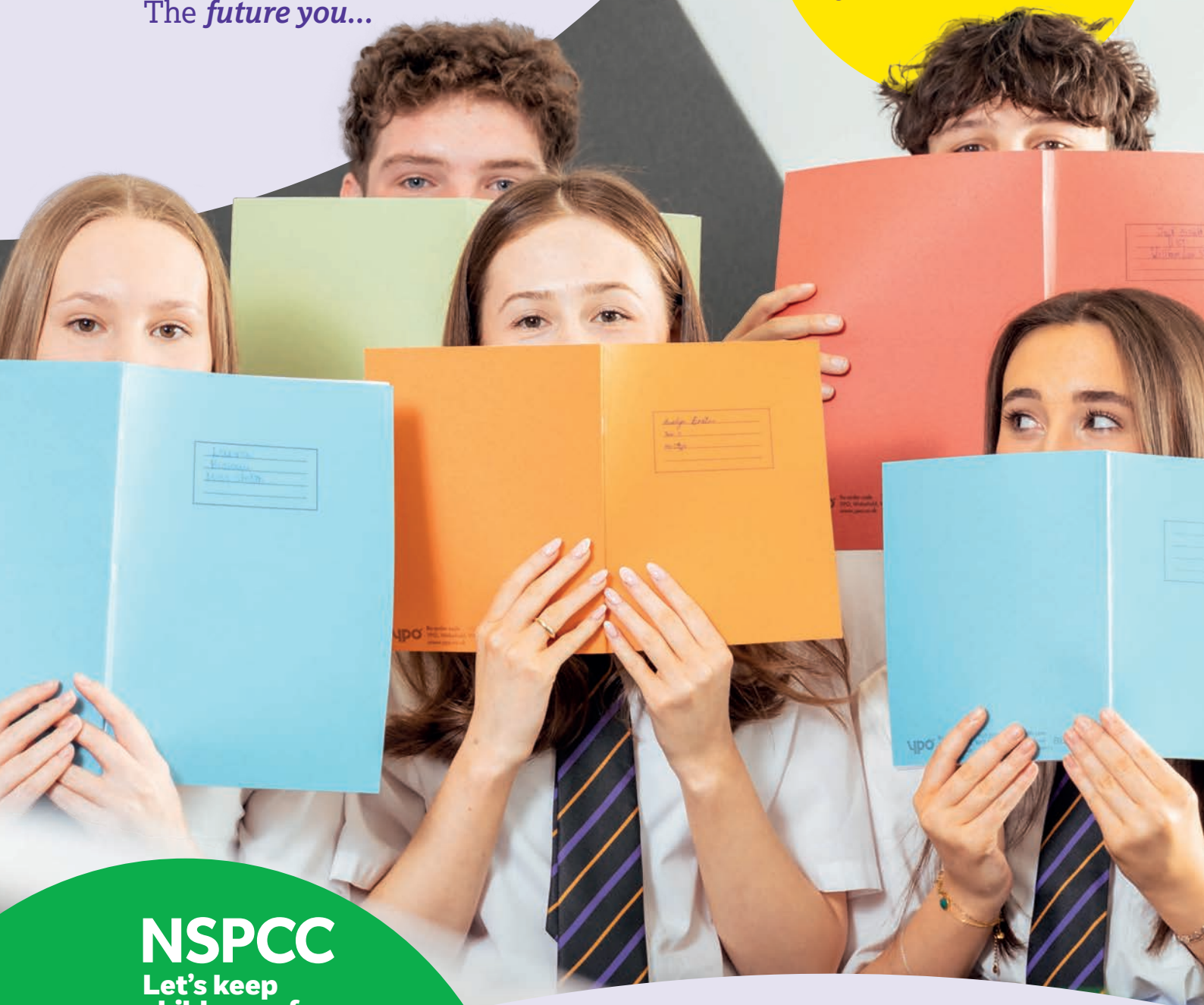
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