



The Blue Coat School

Newsletter 16 September 2016

Church Road, Wavertree

Liverpool, L15 9EE

T: 0151 733 1407

F: 0151 734 0982

Headteacher's Message

We have enjoyed welcoming back the students over the last two weeks. As they return to school re-invigorated and rejuvenated, my colleagues and I are looking forward to their many achievements the coming year will have in store.

I offer a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and parents. I have no doubt they will all settle in quickly and enjoy the academic and pastoral development Blue Coat proudly offers.

Over the coming weeks, we are working with our staff to make the most out of all parts of our new school day. We hope that all of the students in all key stages notice our efforts to make assemblies and form time a more relevant and supportive part of their Blue Coat experience. In the month ahead we will seek your views to evaluate our efforts.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

New Staff: We welcome 5 new colleagues to The Blue Coat School this term: Ms S Yates (Deputy Headteacher), Miss K Aldred (Design Technology), Mrs E Nock (Geography), Mrs L Heery (History) and Mr M Stokes (Computing) are pleased to join our talented staff and students.

General Information

School Uniform: We have changed the format of our School Uniform and School Expectations documents so that they are clearer for staff, students and parents. The documents are attached and we ask that you read them carefully. There are some changes we would like to highlight, which were explained to all students last term:

- All students (including Sixth Form) are expected to tie their hair back if it is shoulder length or longer.
- The colour of socks has changed for Sixth Form girls. The current Year 13 students may continue to wear navy if they choose to do so.

The standard of uniform for our students is generally very high and we would like to thank parents for their continued support in this.

School Planners: All students have been issued with a planner. The expectation is that they will be used to record homework and serve as communication for more minor messages between yourselves and staff. We hold the expectation that parents/carers will be monitoring the completion of homework at home and we request that you sign the planner weekly in the space provided. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that this is signed. Their form tutor will be checking that the planner has been signed by their parent/carer and will be issuing sanctions if they consistently fail to do so.

Year 12 & 13 lunchtime and afternoon procedures: We have introduced a more efficient and safe method of recording when 6th form students leave the building at lunchtime and during the afternoon. Students have the privilege of leaving and returning to school once from 12.35pm onwards as long as they follow the new signing in and out procedures. I am pleased to report that 6th form students have adapted to the new system extremely well.

School Calendar: The most recent school calendar is now available to download from the school website under School Life – Information for Parents.

School Website: Over the coming weeks our school website will be reviewed and updated to ensure parents can access more information about school life.

Exam Successes: Congratulations must go to our GCSE and A level cohorts this year, for once again meeting the challenges that were set for them by staff and delivering a set of results that individually and collectively they should all be proud of.

At GCSE, four out of five students achieved at least 7 A*- A grades in the subjects, creating an overall school performance of 78% of all grades reaching the top A*- A category. In particular the students this year achieved more A* grades than we have ever done in the past, which is a real achievement in itself. So too at A level, we secured the highest A*- B percentage ever in the history of Blue Coat, enabling all of our students who wished to continue their studies at University take up these opportunities in their chosen areas of study.

We are quite rightly proud of all of our students here at Blue Coat, but especially all of those this year that met the challenges of the external examinations and proved that they were more than adequately prepared for them.

Sport Successes: Y10 Cricket Team played in the Lancashire Plate final on Thursday 15 September and were crowned winners. Y9 were Lancashire Plate semi-finalists, Y8 are due to play in the final very soon and Y7, 9 & 10 were all Runners- up in the Liverpool Cricket finals.

Extra-curricular sport: takes place at lunch time, after school and at weekends and students will be informed of clubs available to participate in. Students attending sport during lunchtime will receive an early lunch pass from the teacher responsible, if required.

Collection arrangements after sports fixtures or practices: After school or at weekends students can be collected or make their own way home from fixtures. Collection will always be from the main school entrance on Church road and students will be given fixture finish times to provide to their parents. For away fixtures, students will be taken to and from the venue by School. If parents wish their child to make their own way home from an away fixture a letter/note must be in lodged in the student's planner in advance. Parents are very welcome to attend sporting fixtures if they are able to.

Duke of Edinburgh: During the last academic year the Duke of Edinburgh award at The Blue Coat School has seen outstanding commitments from students across all year groups. 210 students in Y9, 11 and 12 completed the bronze and silver award and this year we are expecting this to increase. Year 12 students have now been given the opportunity to complete the Gold award at school! Throughout the year the students have battled through the elements in North Wales and Lancashire. Not only are these students achieving a nationally recognised award but are developing skills that are highly regarded by Universities and employers. Students will be presented their award by Alan Hinks OBE, who was the first mountaineer to climb all 14 mountains 8000 metres and higher, at the annual Bluecoat D of E awards evening.

A huge congratulations to all those students who have worked hard to complete their award. A sincere thank you to our support staff Mike Lennon and Julie Preston, our staff Mrs Heath, Miss Baker, Mr Tyson and Miss Long and Jo Roberts from the North D of E team.

Personal Development

Students will find a new subject on their timetables this year: Personal Development, under the leadership and management of Mr Farrell. These lessons and events will give students an opportunity to explore a wide range of topics and issues within and beyond the curriculum. The skills developed, both in these lessons and throughout the School, will enhance their experiences and help to equip them to be ready for further education and life in modern Britain.

Local Road Improvement Scheme: Please be aware of major roadworks in roads local to School which will involve some road closures which may impact on journeys to and from school.

Local Traffic: Please do continue to show courtesy to students, other road users and our local residents when picking up and dropping off your children.