



The Blue Coat School

Newsletter 14 November 2016

Church Road, Wavertree
Liverpool, L15 9EE
T: 0151 733 1407
F: 0151 734 0982

Headteacher's message

Last week we were delighted to welcome Old Blue Mike O'Brien back to school as guest speaker in our GCSE Prize Giving event. Students, staff and parents all remarked on the power and usefulness of Mike's messages about being ready for choices and of life-long learning. This is just one example of the many ways that increasingly, The Blue Coat School is benefitting from its growing network of alumni who offer continued service to the school through their time, expertise, contacts and financial support. It is a great example to our current students that so many Old Blues find reward in supporting the school that gave them an exceptional start in life.

We are able to achieve this because of our development office and the contributions many of you make to the school's development fund. As we watch this continue to grow and see how the students enjoy more and more benefits as a result, I wanted to share my appreciation of your efforts to support the school's aims in this area. It is by working together in this way that we can all be confident about giving our students the best experience we can.

Thank you for your kind support.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Admission arrangements consultation: Our [consultation](#) about proposed changes to admission arrangements runs from 4 November – 19 December 2016. Parents' views are invited through: schoolconsultation@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Remembrance: On Monday 14 November 2016 students and staff will remember Old Blues who gave their life in service of their country. The service is taking place on Monday so that Year 7's who travel to York on 11 November are able to participate. Matthew Cooper and Sorcha Keenan will also represent the School at a Service of Remembrance at St Georges Hall on Sunday 13 November 2016.

Term dates 2017/18: We will be able to share term dates for 2017/18 in the coming weeks to assist parents who wish to consider family holidays. Information will be sent via parent mail shortly.

Estate development

We wrote to you in March 2016 to announce our plans to incorporate the clock tower entrance and connected spaces into the day to day running of the school. This will provide students and staff with more and better spaces as the school grows.

We are extremely grateful to The Blue Coat School Foundation for supporting the school by providing access to these spaces and for the very generous donation of £1.5 Million to facilitate a range of exciting refurbishments and redevelopments. Our thanks go to all trustees for the care and support they have given to the school and for the quiet work that has taken place behind the scenes to bring us closer to starting this new phase of development.

We hope to share our plans with you in the coming months.



office@bluecoatschool.org.uk



www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk



twitter.com/liverpoolbcs

Behaviour & Welfare

Uniform: Thanks to students and parents for your positive engagement with our efforts to ensure the highest standards of uniform and appearance. These are the usual school standards that were communicated to parents in the summer term and again in recent weeks.

For your assistance: As you will see from our website we have sourced a new [supplier](#) for skirts that are suitable for school. This should be of real benefit for those parents who have had understandable difficulties in sourcing these from the usual outlet.

Progress & Achievement

GCSE Prizegiving: Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the event on 1 November. The afternoon was a great success and our guest speaker Mike O'Brien gave an inspiring talk to the students. Students' hard work was recognised and they were pleased to receive their awards and certificates. Thanks are extended to our Parents' Association for their help with refreshments.

Club and Societies: We are in the process of updating the School website with information about the clubs, societies and extra-curricular opportunities available to our students. You will also find details about the various support sessions staff put on for students should they wish to attend.

Personal development

Year 10 and 11 pupils have recently taken part in two thoroughly enjoyable healthy lifestyles themed days. They were able to work closely with The Red Cross on first aid training, The Amy Winehouse Foundation on drug and alcohol abuse and Greg Falola on healthy relationships. There will also be democracy mornings taking place soon where students will learn about topics such as parliament, electoral systems and the role of MPs.

Sport

In Football, teams are currently competing in the following competitions:

National ESFA U12 & U14.

Liverpool Cup U12, 13, 14 & 15

Merseyside Cup U12, 13, 15 & 16

Our Year 7 and 8 boys are working hard in the Liverpool football league which takes place every Monday at Walton Hall Park.

Our basketball teams will be taking part in the English Schools Basketball fixtures between now and the end of January 2017 and we are hoping to achieve similar success as last year, when we reached the last 4 Nationally at U15/14 age groups.

Our netball season in 2015/16 was a successful one with the school winning the overall Merseyside Premier Netball League. Additionally our Year 8 & 9 teams were crowned City Champions and we are hoping for further success in the league, with Year 7-10 teams remaining undefeated to date.

We wish our U16 Hockey team the best of luck in the 2nd round of the National on 18 November 2016 in Manchester and look forward to more good news from the hockey league which runs until March 2017.

Music

It has been a busy term of music making as our orchestras, choirs and bands start the process of preparing for the traditional Christmas events that are coming up in the school calendar. It is wonderful to see so many of our enthusiastic students involved in these groups. Our String Ensemble made an excellent contribution to the Year 11 GCSE Prizegiving with a lively rendition of *Basse Danse* from Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite. This was complimented by an atmospheric performance of Ravel's *Habanera* for Alto Saxophone by one of our Year 12 students. Preparations are underway for our annual Remembrance Services which will feature solo performances by Year 13 students on Xylophone, Piano and Violin. Elsewhere, after a hard fought round of auditions, rehearsals have begun in earnest for the school show *Sweeney Todd* to be performed in February 2017. Principals and ensemble have made a great start to learning the challenging score and bringing the characters to life whilst the show band has begun rehearsing on Friday's after school. Students are representing the school in regional and national groups. Well done to Dean Rogers (Year 13) who has gained a coveted place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain as a percussionist. This fantastic achievement is testament to his hard work and determination.



Development Office

School Show: Thank you to those of you who have expressed an interest in sponsoring Sweeney Todd. We are still seeking a main sponsor of the show, our Gold Sponsor, as well as Silver Sponsors and we hope that you will be interested in supporting the School and our students in this way. All funds raised in sponsorship will directly support the School Show. For further information please contact our Director of Development, Cat Gransden, on 0151 733 1407 ext 207 or at c.gransden@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Old Blues: Over the last month we have welcomed back several Old Blues into the School:

Joseph Lee, Class of 1993: Joseph currently lives in Shanghai and was back in Liverpool with China's second largest television network operator, Shanghai Media Group, who are currently filming him as part of a documentary highlighting his English education. Joseph attended Blue Coat from 1987 to 1993 and studied A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and General Studies. He continues to hold the School in high regard, with fond memories of former teachers Mr Cowan and Mr Caulkin. Returning to China in 1999 with a degree in Computer Science, Joseph established a number of highly successful companies within the software and communications sector, with one company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange. His love of cars led to him found Car King Ltd, the largest used car company in China, which he also runs as CEO.

Stu Grieve, Class of 1954: As part of Old Blue Brian Stuart Grieve's 80th birthday celebration. Stu enjoyed a surprise visit to the School whilst on a visit to Liverpool with his family. On leaving the School in June 1954 Stu joined the RAF, becoming a test pilot and ultimately a commercial airline pilot. 62 years on, Stu remains extremely grateful to the School attributing much of his success in the airline business to his Blue Coat education

Mike O'Brien, Class of 1995: We welcomed back Mike O'Brien from the Class of 1995 as guest speaker at GCSE Prize Giving. Throughout his time at School Mike was a keen basketball player, playing for the U19 team in 1995 when they became the 'Champions of Liverpool'. Mike studied English Literature, French, Geography and General Studies at A Level, and went on to study Law at Sheffield University. After graduating Mike started his career in London at the global Law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer in 1999. He moved to UBS as an investment banker in 2004 and is now a wealth advisor to technology entrepreneurs. In his speech Mike said students at the Blue Coat have a "desire to learn, to keep moving and to want to achieve". He shared with students his journey since leaving the School, and believes that being from Liverpool has given him a competitive edge and, most importantly, a good sense of humour in the world of work!

Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor that you or someone you know may be interested in. Details are set out below. If you would like further information please contact recruitment@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Vacancy for Lunchtime Supervisor
Hours: 12.20pm to 1.40pm
Monday to Friday, Term Time Only
Hourly rate: £8.21



office@bluecoatschool.org.uk



www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk



twitter.com/liverpoolbcs