



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents

As quickly as we have settled into the new term, we find ourselves looking forward to this year's school show. Over the coming weeks our students will be working together on the final arrangements for our musical Sweeney Todd which will take place in the final week of this half term. Watching the students step forward to contribute through their musical, acting or organisational talents is a great joy for all of the staff at Blue Coat.

But we see more than that, and I am sure you do to. It is much to the student's credit that they are willing and able to offer great support and care to fellow students and staff throughout the challenging run up to the show. We also observe just how well they are able to sustain and enjoy their considerable academic efforts at a time of potential distraction. These are terrific qualities and ones that, through the tremendous support of parents and staff, we have always held in such high regard at Blue Coat.

As the school looks even further ahead to how it will support more students in the future, we can be extremely confident that these values, which we all hold so dear, will continue to be lived out to the highest standards at The Blue Coat School.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

School Uniform

School uniform: We are very grateful that so many parents support the school's expectations that the correct uniform should be worn with pride at all times between leaving home in the morning and arriving home in the evening. Occasionally, a small number of students are unable to achieve this standard and require further guidance from school to help them. For your assistance we have summarised some of the things you can help us to address to sustain the high standards we all expect at the Blue Coat School:

- Top buttons should be done up and ties worn smartly
- Casual hoodies and sweaters should not be worn underneath the school blazer
- Hair should be managed appropriately to support health, safety and unrestricted eye sight
- Skirts should support modesty by reaching about knee length

To ensure we achieve a consistent standard for everyone, form tutors will discretely check and guide students about their uniform on a daily basis.

Staff Change

Our thanks and recognition go Mr S Smith who completed his final weeks as Key Stage Leader last term. Since 2011, Mr Smith has undertaken his role as a pastoral leader with great diligence ensuring that our students have had the care and support they need. We recognise that Mr Smith's care has made a significant contribution to some of the best achievements The Blue Coat School has ever seen. Mr S Fee begins his role as Key Stage Leader this term and will take up the responsibility for behaviour and welfare in Key Stage 3.

Parents' Association

Our thanks go to the Parents' Association for their incredible support over the last term. Through their efforts, members of the school community came together in many events including the Year 7 welcome evening, the popular Quiz night which raised £750.00 and the Christmas raffle, which raised £1,500.00 as a result.

Behaviour & Welfare

Absence due to medical appointments: Please could we remind parents to ensure that doctors and dentist appointments are booked outside of school hours wherever possible. It is important there is as minimal disruption as possible to the learning routine of our students.

Progress & Achievement

Annual Key Stage 5 Prizegiving was held on the 5th January. It proved again to be a very popular occasion well attended by both students and parents. Over 70 of last year's sixth formers returned to the school to receive recognition for their academic and extra-curricular success. We welcomed the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Roz Gladden to present the prizes and Luciana Berger, MP, as the guest speaker. The class of 2016 were also welcomed at a drinks reception kindly hosted by our Development office.

Personal development, information, advice and guidance

The School is delighted to have processed 188 applications by the deadline of 15 January 2017. Many students are already receiving offers from their chosen Universities and are all working diligently to ensure that they meet the new entry requirements on Results day in August 2017.

Subject News

Music: School Show rehearsals are going well and excitement is mounting as we move ever closer to opening night. The cast and musicians are doing a fantastic job, putting in hours of rehearsal time and preparation. The set is being constructed and painted, costumes are being designed, and the technical teams are coming together to plan lighting and sound. The students are very much looking forward to showcasing their talents.

Sport: Our Year 7 football team have successfully reached the last 32 of the ESFA National competition. The team are also still in the Liverpool and Merseyside cup competitions. Our Year 7 – 10 netball teams currently remain unbeaten so far this academic year.

School Food

Our catering team are introducing new tastes and eating experiences from around the world. Thanks to our development fund, we are now able to offer students more choices and ensure they are cooked so that more nutritional values are retained. You will find our new school menus on the website over the coming weeks.

If your child has any special dietary requirements please do encourage them to speak to a member of our catering team who will do what they can to assist.

Development Office

School Christmas Cards: Thank you to everyone who purchased our School Christmas Card which raised £1,065 for the Development Fund, helping to fund the 'extras' for our students. You can read more about the impact our development fund [here](#).

School Show Sponsorship: Thank you to those of you who have expressed an interest in sponsoring Sweeney Todd. We still have sponsorship opportunities available so if you would like to support the school in this way and help us make the school show sustainable in the long-term, please do get in touch with our Director of Development, Cat Gransden, on 0151 733 1407 ext 207 or at c.gransden@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Congratulations

Keith Caulkin MBE: The Development Office is delighted that Keith Caulkin was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. Keith's longstanding connection with the School dates back to 1958 when he arrived as a Blue Coat student. Seventeen years later Keith returned to the School to share his passion for physics, inspiring countless Blue Coat students to pursue the subject at university during his 41 year teaching career. Despite retiring from teaching in July 2016, Keith continues to play an extremely active role within the School community, including taking up a new role in the School's Development Office from where he engages with our global network of Old Blues. Away from the Office Keith also finds time to be President of the Liverpool Blue Coat Old Blues Association, prepare Sixth Form students for the rigours of the British Physics Olympiad competition and oversees the School Badminton Club.