



The Blue Coat School

Newsletter 7 March 2017

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Headteacher's message

We finished last half term in spectacular fashion with four terrific performances of our school show, Sweeney Todd. All of us who were lucky to see the show were in awe at how well the students rose to the challenge of the highly complex storyline, musical score and set. The cast, orchestra and crew reached far beyond our expectations to put on as high a standard of school show that many of us have ever seen. Well done everybody.

It is only right that we also recognise the efforts of the staff who gave so much to bring this show about. Led by Mr Emery, the team comprising of Miss Horton, Mr Kershaw and Miss Aldred brought our show together with a tremendous amount of unseen preparation that extended well into the previous school year. I am sure you will share my gratitude for the talent and commitment of everybody who has worked quietly behind the scenes to help realise a show we are all proud of once again.

We are already looking forward to next year and hope that you are too.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Parking on Church Road and Prince Alfred Road: We are very eager to ensure the highest levels of road safety around school at all times. Many of you will have noticed the vigilant efforts of the senior leadership team to encourage parents in cars to choose their parking space with consideration for others. We are most grateful to parents who do not park on park on yellow road markings and who avoid parking over residential or school driveways. Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep the students safe.

Advance notice: We have been informed by the Council that the section of Church Road in front of school will soon be designated as a 20mph zone. We are very positive about this measure which will support the great majority of parents and public who already show care and consideration in their driving.

Founders' celebration week.

With over 300 years of history and a founding story that sets a great charitable example, we place great importance on remembering the founders of The Blue Coat School. This year, for the first time, we are extending Founders' day into a Founders' week that begins on Monday 13 March 2017

Following extensive efforts to canvass the students' views across all age groups, we are planning a week of more engaging, more varied and more relevant activities that the students can get involved in. You can read more about these opportunities on the attached guide.

Tod Scholarships

Year 12 students will be able to apply for Tod scholarships in support of educational travel over the summer holidays. Students may individually or collectively apply for funding to support an educational opportunity in their chosen area of interest.

Students will receive an introduction to the Scholarship opportunity from Mr Pennington and the deadline for applications to be considered is Thursday 16 March 2017.

Progress & Achievement

Thank you to all of you who have sent in details of your son or daughter's achievements. We are continually delighted and amazed about how much our students get involved in activities outside of school and especially the large number who support charitable organisations. In order to keep our records up to date please can I ask you to email Mrs Lisa Hayburn at: l.hayburn@bluecoatschool.org.uk with any new achievements.

Behaviour & Welfare

Supporting the Welfare of our Students: Our Key Stage Leaders and Learning Support department work closely together to support our students through any challenges and difficulties that they may face. We are always seeking to further improve mechanisms and systems that support the welfare of our students. I would like to offer assurance to parents that if you have any concerns or welfare issues regarding your child to make contact with their Form Tutor or Key Stage Leader who will put appropriate support in place.

Mobile Phones: Please can parents ensure students in all year groups follow school policy and do not use their phone at any time in school without authorisation from a member of staff. Students should not be ringing/ texting home to ask to be picked up or to relay messages without prior authorisation.

Personal Development, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Annual Careers Fair took place on 2 March. It was a great opportunity for students to explore potential career paths and be inspired about possibilities for their future. A wide variety of professions, employers and universities were able to provide information and advice on questions students had and a number of talks were offered by experts in their field. Students were enthusiastic and asked really searching questions about the careers represented, creating a fabulous and encouraging way for students from Years 8, 11 and 12 to research a range of options for their future career.

Careers talks have been given this term by Old Blues as part of the Inspiring Futures programme. Gary McCreadie, Class of 2005, a linguist and who is now training as a Paramedic, shared his joy of languages. Holly Ellis and Lucy Nugent, Class of 2011, outlined their career progress to date; both work in the medical research profession, Holly in Genetics and Lucy in Pathology. It was wonderful to see engagement between former and current students and impressive to witness their success and generosity.

Prefects: We were delighted to appoint 107 Year 12 students as prefects, who have all approached their duties with enthusiasm and diligence and we are grateful for their continued support. Thanks also to our Senior Prefect team for their guidance and conscientious commitment to their leadership role.

Options' Evenings

There are two Options' evenings taking place during March, both commencing at 7.00pm in Shirley Hall:

Year 11 Options' Evening takes place this evening, Tuesday 7 March 2017

Year 8 Options' Evening takes place on Thursday 16 March 2017.

Key information will be shared on both evenings and parents and students are encouraged to attend the events.

Free School Meals

Did you know that by registering for free school meals (FSM) your child not only has the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious free school meal that has been prepared in house by our experienced catering department, but the school also benefits from additional pupil premium funding for all students registered for FSM. Please help us to provide the best support for your child by registering for FSM if you are eligible.

Registration is confidential and taking up the meal is recommended, but is not compulsory. An information leaflet has been designed for parents outlining eligibility criteria and is available to download [here](#). Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further queries.

Subject News

History and Politics trip to Berlin: During the February half term the History and Politics department ran a highly successful GCSE curriculum enrichment visit to Berlin. Over the four day trip, 68 students and 7 staff visited a number of sites of historical significance which were designed to augment the students' study of Germany from 1890-1960. Students visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, The Soviet War Memorial, the German Historical Museum, Cecilienhoff, Wannsee, Plötzensee Prison, The Olympic Stadium, The Reichstag, The TV Tower and Checkpoint Charlie. The students showed great maturity and their behaviour was impeccable throughout the visit.

Development Office

Blues in Business Events: We recently held our first Blues in Business events in Liverpool and London. Both events were a great opportunity to meet Old Blues from a variety of different sectors, including finance and investment, law, science and technology, and medicine. The events provided our Old Blues with a great opportunity to develop their business contacts, share ideas and advice, catch-up and discover more about the Development Office and the numerous ways they can help support Blue Coat students. We are grateful to Investec for sponsoring our Liverpool event and an anonymous Old Blue for making a donation to contribute to the London event. We very much look forward to hosting more Blues in Business events in the future as way to engage our ever expanding network of Old Blues.

A Global Network of Old Blues: We continue to reach out to our Old Blues around the world who are a great source of inspiration for our current students. Over the last month we've added a number of Old Blues to our online map, including: Paul McEvoy MBE from the Class of 1983 who is based in Quito in Equador and is the General Manager of Quit's Stock Exchange; Andrew Kehoe from the Class of 2008 who has recently started a new tech venture in San Diego in the US; Hollie Haigh from the Class of 2015 who relocated to the US to attend Vermont's prestigious Middlebury Liberal Arts College; and Dr Neil Forrest from the Class of 2000 who has relocated to Singapore to work at the International Medical Clinic.

Our online map can be viewed on the School website at:

www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/old-blues/old-blues-around-world/