



# The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – November 2017

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## Headteacher's message

Now in their third month, our changes to the break and lunchtime arrangements are well established. The students' break and lunchtime experience is now much improved both in and outside of the dining room. We will be challenging ourselves to improve even further in the months ahead.

One of the changes students really appreciate are the new table tennis facilities, which could not have been provided without the generosity of the Parents Association. As we look ahead, we are talking to the students about other ways we can provide new opportunities by buying new resources and making better use of existing areas of school. We also welcome any ideas you might have. Please do let us know if you have any ideas by contacting [j.holmes@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:j.holmes@bluecoatschool.org.uk) at school.

Many thanks in advance and for your great support.

Mr M A Pennington  
Headteacher

## General notices

**Remembrance:** On Friday 10 November all of our students and staff remembered Old Blues who gave their life in service of their country. The Head boy and Head girl, accompanied by Deputy Headteacher Mrs Yates, also represented the school at a Service of Remembrance at St Georges Hall on Sunday 12 November.

**Term dates 2018-2019:** The term dates for 2018-2019 have been shared via Parentmail earlier this month and are available to download from the school website via the link below.

**Key contacts:** In our recent parent survey we found that some parents do not know where to find the contact details of key leaders in school such as: Senior leaders, Key Stage leaders, Heads of Department and Support Team leaders. You can find a link to the contact details in quick links section below.

### Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

## Key events this term

**Christmas lunch:** On Wednesday 13 December the catering team will be serving a traditional Christmas lunch which will include a desert of ice cream or mince pie. There will be a vegetarian option and other lunch options available.

**Carol concert and Festive music:** We look forward to welcoming you to the Carol concert and Festive music on Thursday 14 December. The event will commence at 7.00pm and doors will be open from 6.45pm. There are no tickets required for this event.

**Christmas Jumper Day / Non-uniform day:** On Friday 15 December the School will support Christmas jumper day in aid of the Save the Children charity. This will also be a non-uniform day. Students are welcome to wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper and a donation of £2.00 will be collected during form time.



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### Christmas Cards

A big thank you to everyone who has purchased one of our Christmas card designs, we have had a fantastic response to this year's appeal. All of the funds raised will go directly to the Development fund.

### Development team:

We are delighted to share with you the third edition of our Old Blues' magazine. In our 2017 edition the spotlight falls on Stuart Ford from the Class of 1989, appointed to Hollywood's prestigious Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Omotara Johnson from the Class of 1998, who as Founder and President of Freedom Tree is bringing healthcare to communities in Sierra Leone, and Amy Kirby from the Class of 2013, who is the youngest professional to complete the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment's Chartered Wealth Manager qualification. To take a look at our Old Blues' magazine please click [here](#).

We are looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our Old Blues' on Thursday 7 December during our festive drinks reception. This special event will take place from 7.00pm in the school Boardroom. To confirm your attendance please contact the Development Office at [development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

### Attendance and Punctuality (CMK)

Thank you for supporting our drive to achieve the highest levels of attendance and punctuality. We are pleased to report that your support has helped us to ensure our students' overall attendance continues to rise.

Our punctuality figures have also shown a significant increase since the equivalent period last year. We also thank form tutors and other pastoral staff who have been monitoring and providing support to students at an earlier stage than previously.

By working together we can ensure that when absence does occur for good reason we can support the students to get back on track with their learning as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for a reminder of the details required when phoning or emailing to the school about an absence or a pastoral concern.

### Student welfare (CMK)

Our talented students achieve so much because they demand a lot from themselves. As they do so, it is important that we, as staff and parents keep a close eye on their welfare.

As part of our work towards providing the very best pastoral care to our students, we will be welcoming a guest speaker from Child and Adult Mental Health Services to talk to form tutors and other staff about spotting and responding to the early signs of anxiety in students.

### What do the grades mean on school reports?

Depending on which year group your child is in, will determine what grades you see on their Progress report.

Year 7 to Year 11 reports use grades 9-1, where the higher the number the higher grade and performance. In Year 9 to Year 11 you will also see M, O or L for core aspects of the curriculum that do not result in a GCSE qualification. This grading is linked to the expectations we have of them and denotes either 'M' for More than, 'O' for On or 'L' for Less than expected performance.

In Year 12 and Year 13, students will receive grades A\*, A, B, C, D or E, with the A\* being the highest grade. As described above, they also receive M, O, or L for parts of the curriculum that do not result in an A Level qualification.

In every year group you will be able to see how your son/daughter is performing in comparison to their MEG (minimum expected grade), which allows you to see how well your son/daughter is progressing.



### Senior Maths Challenge Achievements

The Senior Maths Challenge for Years 11, 12 and 13 took place on Tuesday 7 November and Blue Coat students gave an excellent performance achieving 13 Gold, 51 Silver and 50 Bronze certificates. In addition 14 students qualified for the follow-on round.

Six Year 13 students, seven Year 12 students and one Year 11 student have all qualified for the Senior Kangaroo on Friday 1 December.

**Senior team Maths Challenge 2017:** On Wednesday 15 November four students represented the school at the Regional Final of the Senior team Maths challenge. The team worked well together, dropping very few marks to come a valiant 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a tight fought competition.

### Achievements in Computing

The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge took place during the week of 13-17 November and our Computer Science students took part in this competition. This was the second year we have entered this competition and the results are staggering. Students performed fantastically well achieving certificates in each of the three age categories entered as follows: Junior (Y7): 101 Distinctions and 45 Merits  
Intermediate (Y8/9): 166 Distinctions and 27 Merits and Senior (Y10): 35 Distinctions and 19 Merits

We are waiting to hear which students will be invited to attend a final round and celebration in the New year. Additionally, the top 10% of students nationally will be invited to enter a follow-on competition, the TCS Oxford Computing competition in March 2018. This will involve an impressive 175 Blue Coat Computer Scientists.

### Support in chemistry

Chemistry clinic is available for Key stage 4 and 5 students. Key stage 5: Monday and Wednesday 12:30pm in W15 and Key stage 4: Wednesday 12:30pm in N10. Students should bring along any areas of Chemistry that they need advice and support with.

### Year 7 trip to York

Students in Year 7 have been able to take part in an overnight trip to York to help them get to know other students in their year group. The trips have been a great success with many activities that have enabled the students to develop their independence and social skills. I know you will share my gratitude for the time given by the staff involved and to the Key Stage leaders for organising and leading these trips.

### School Resources

We have recently had the pleasure of working with representatives from our school councils to improve the school library. Not only did representatives contribute their views and ideas to exciting design plans proposed by the school's architect, they also helped to draft a new code to guide all students on the high standards of conduct expected when using the library to make sure all students are able to enjoy using it as a place to research, quietly read, use for study or discuss school project work. The contributions from school council representatives was a wonderful example of how our students enthusiastically engage in opportunities to confidently make their views heard and negotiate and debate in positive ways.

### Readathon

The total amount raised from the recent Readathon was £472.00. This means that we've raised £94.40 for our library and £330.40 for Alder Hey.

This is a fantastic achievement, which will support learning in our library, and for children who are very sick in hospitals across the country.

### Celebrate Reading at Our Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming, the week commencing 11 December 2017, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

The fair will be cashless and all orders can be placed over the phone using Scholastic's quick and secure payment line or alternately, using the credit card machine available. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school library! More details will follow in the coming weeks.



### **Parents' Association Christmas Raffle 2017**

The Parents' Association is once again running its renowned Christmas raffle to raise funds to help enhance the Blue Coat experience for our students. For each book of 5 tickets sold, your child will be allocated one number in the student only draw which is for the fantastic prize of £500 Liverpool One Voucher. In addition there are some great prizes on offer in the main draw. You can find out more about the Christmas raffle on our [website](#).



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