



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents

In March we enjoyed our first ever Founders' celebration week. The week came about after listening carefully to the students' views about how they wanted to participate in remembering our rich heritage. As expected, they had great ideas and it was a pleasure to see how much they engaged in the many varied activities which you may have heard about and can read about below.

One of the strengths of our school is the value of our students' views which we seek to take wherever appropriate. Over the coming months we will be using this to gather their views on lunchtime at Blue Coat. We want to make sure that the many different spaces they have to enjoy lunch meet their needs and preferences. I look forward to sharing the improved outcomes of this consultation with you in the summer term.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General Notices

End of Term arrangements: School will finish for the spring break this Friday 7 April 2017. Students in Years 7-11 will be registered as normal for afternoon registration and will finish at 1.40pm and Year 12 and 13 students will be free to begin their spring break by signing out in the usual way, from 12.30pm onwards.

Spring break revision opportunities: The school will be open for some revision classes during the first week of the spring break (Monday 10 April to Thursday 13 April 2017). Students are welcome to attend if their subject teacher has specifically offered to put on a revision opportunity.

Start of Summer Term: All students will return on Monday 24 April 2017 when school re-opens for the summer term.

Free School Meals

It was pleasing to note that a number of parents took advantage of their entitlement to free school meals following the article in last month's newsletter. If you think you may be entitled and have not yet applied, it isn't too late - you can apply at any time. Remember, 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.



Behaviour and Welfare

As part of our continual drive to improve our pastoral provision, senior and middle leaders have had the opportunity in the last few weeks to visit students in their form groups. We are proud that within our findings our students report receiving a high level of support, care and guidance from their form tutors. This is holistic support that includes both their individual welfare and achievement. It is an important reminder of the pivotal role this relationship plays in the success and development of our students.

Progress and Achievement

Key stage awards afternoons: Following on from our first successful key stage awards afternoons in 2016, we are very pleased to be able to provide you with information for our 2017 awards afternoons taking place during the summer term. These events are a great opportunity for students and their parents to come together and celebrate the wonderful achievements of the students across Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 for academic, sporting, musical and extra-curricular successes.

Our Year 9 and 10 students will celebrate with their parents on Wednesday 28 June 2017 and our Year 7 and 8 students and their parents will join together on Monday 3 July 2017. The celebrations will take place in the school's Shirley Hall during the afternoon and further details will be circulated after the spring break. Refreshments will be served after each of the events, for parents and students.

Key Stage 5

As students are busy preparing for their final weeks of school and upcoming exams, plans are well under way for the Year 13 Prom and yearbook. These are organised by the Senior Prefect team, facilitated by the key stage 5 leaders. In previous years the approximate costs were £20 for the yearbook and £30 for the prom. Payment for each of these items will be through parentmail, so if you have not already activated your account, we would ask that you do this in advance of the payment deadline. Further details will be given to students after the spring break. We would like to wish all of the Sixth Form a productive but restful holiday.

Maths

MEM challenge: Students in all years spent time over the February half term completing problems set as part of the challenge. Over 80 entries were submitted and we are now awaiting the results.

In the Year 9-11 Intermediate Maths challenge, our students gave a record breaking performance achieving 33 Gold, 63 Silver and 38 Bronze certificates. Further round qualifications include; 4 for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad, 28 for the Intermediate Kangaroo and 32 students sat a follow-on round to the IMC.

Year 7-11 house relays: On 22 March students participated in the relays, assisted by a large number of our sixth formers. Students really enjoyed this popular event and are eagerly awaiting the results to see if they have managed to secure a much sought after Bronze, Silver or Gold medal.

UKMT Team: On 23 March two students each from Year 8 and Year 9 represented the school in the regional final. The team had trained hard over a number of weeks and finished in a valiant 2nd place behind a formidable team from Merchant Taylors.

Computing

Bebras Follow-on@: After a successful competition last term, 195 of our computing students took part in the follow-on round in March. Students enjoyed the challenges and are currently awaiting the results.

Girls' Cyber First competition: 42 of our Year 10 Computing students took part in this competition run by the Nation Cyber Security Centre. It took place over a number of weeks, incorporating online challenges. Four of our teams did particularly well, scoring over 250 points.



Sport

The Year 7 Football team reached the quarter final of the ESFA cup and the semi-final of the Liverpool cup and our Year 10 were runners up in the Merseyside cup. The U16 basketball team reached the last four of the EBBA National competition for the fourth successive year. Our Year 8, 9 and 10 netball teams have all been crowned Liverpool city champions and on the recent PGL netball trip our teams reached 2nd and 3rd in their age groups. Years 7-10 swimming teams finished a creditable 2nd place in a recent gala against Calderstones school.

Careers

In February, the Maths department welcomed back two old blues: Stephen Chen (2016) and Jenny Williams (2012). Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 enjoyed talks about Maths, Further Maths A-Levels, Oxbridge and university applications, Actuarial Science and the importance of A-Level results post-university.

A visit was also welcomed from Liverpool University undergraduates who spoke to Year 12 Mathematicians about Maths at University and gave them a flavour of a Maths Lecture.

Development Office

Founders' Week: The Development office was pleased to be so actively involved with this year's Founders' Week celebrations, offering opportunities for our students to find out more about the school's heritage and our history of philanthropy. Just some of the activities we were involved with include:

- Inviting our friends from the Bluecoat arts centre in to deliver a workshop on the school's heritage to our Year 7 students, as part of the My Bluecoat project
- Encouraging students to take part in a house-themed non-uniform day, raising £834 for the School's Library appeal
- Creating a film for the Founders' week assemblies around 'the gift of education' showcasing many of our Old Blues and how they benefitted from their Blue Coat education
- Running a Founders' facts quiz with students across the school to encourage them to research the school's history.

Squirrel Blog launched thanks to the Development fund: The school would like to thank all parents who generously contribute to the Development fund. One of the key projects that has been funded this year is the Squirrel Blog, a new online blog led by students. The Squirrel Blog, previously a printed magazine, provides a fantastic opportunity for students across the school to get involved, develop skills in online copywriting and editing, and will enable students to share articles throughout the school year. The Squirrel Blog is a great example of the kind of project that we are able to support thanks to the generosity of so many of our parents, Old Blues and friends of the school. Thank you for your support.

Parents' Association

The PA wine tasting evening was held on 24 March 2017 at the school. The evening was a huge success with around 70 people in attendance and was hosted by Mike Stoddart of Oddbins wine merchants of Allerton Road. Guests had the opportunity to sample a selection of diverse wines with Mike giving his expert tasting tips and talking in depth about each wine. There was a raffle, fun quiz and a bar selling prosecco and beer. A selection of specialist and artisan cheeses were provided by the Liverpool cheese company. A total of £600 was raised from the event and this will go toward funding equipment or activities for Blue Coat students.

The Parents' Association would like to thank all those who attended for their generosity and support and hope to see you all again next year.

