



### Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of the academic year I know the students are looking forward to a very well earned rest over the summer. In readiness for their return, we have already begun work to build even further on this year's significant improvements to the catering service. Through key stage councils, we have gathered the students' views about how we can improve our break time menus so that the students can choose from a much healthier range of options. These changes will help our catering team to improve the quality of lunchtime food by giving them more time to prepare a wider range of freshly cooked dishes including some suggested by the students. We are looking forward to making these significant improvements which support our commitment to ensuring your child is able to enjoy high quality food every day through a variety of well-balanced healthy choices.

I hope this is just one of many reasons that you child is looking forward to the autumn term but I am sure that before then their much to be enjoyed over the summer break. I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Many thanks for your terrific support this year.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington  
**Headteacher**

### General Notices

**Term Dates:** The school term dates for 2017-18 were shared earlier in the year and can be found [here](#). For your assistance, the autumn term begins again at 8.45am on Wednesday 6 September 2017 for all students.

**Library:** There has been a recent 'book drive' held in our library, with Key Stage 3 and 4 students kindly donating unwanted books and so far we have received over 70 books. Thank you to the students who have offered donations so far.

**School calendar 2017-18:** The school calendar will now be shared with parents and students through the [school website](#). This new approach will make it easy for parents to navigate and find key school events of interest. The calendar will be populated during the summer holidays and parents and students will always be informed whenever the calendar is updated.

### Recent Events

**Summer Recital:** The talents of our musicians, supported so well by Mr Emery and Miss Horton, was clear to see in another successful music recital held on the 12 July. The support from the whole Blue Coat community was very much appreciated and thanks are extended to everyone who was able to attend and enjoy the evening.

**Sports day:** The great British weather was finally kind to us and sports day was able to go ahead on Thursday 13 July. The sportsmanship of the students was great to see and the support they received from PE department and other staff was very much appreciated by the students.

**Non-uniform and Trading day:** The students engaged terrifically well in non-uniform day on Friday 14 July helping to raise £600 for the charity KIND which helps children and their families in Liverpool to overcome challenges such as poverty and disadvantage. The money donated is spent on education, support and opportunities for the children. On the same day, Year 10 students demonstrated their business acumen and creativity holding a successful trading day. Well done to the students.



### Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance

Year 12 students (soon to be Year13!) have been working with their Form Tutors this term, exploring their post-18 options. This is an exciting time as students reflect on their possible career path, researching what is needed to achieve their aspirations. The inspirational talk in school from Sandy Mill, Schools Liaison Officer from the University of Cambridge, was well received by all those who attended. Sandy outlined the significant features of a strong UCAS personal statement for an effective application to a competitive course and University. This has set students in a positive direction for their future plans. The new provision of a CIAG (Careers Information, Advice and Guidance) lesson, every two weeks, in their timetable will give an opportunity to explore different aspects of employability and processes for applying successfully. Our Post-18 options evening for students, parents on 7 September 2017, will give helpful guidance on the best route for students, once their AS level results are known. We are looking forward to working with them once they are in Year 13 as they approach their last year at Blue Coat and get ready to face the new challenges of life beyond school.

Students joining us in September in Year 12 will be following the Blue Coat Baccalaureate, an excellent combination of academic, personal development, EPQ and CIAG programmes. This, along with the myriad of opportunities to get involved in student leadership across the school, will enable our students to really stand out when applying to universities and employers. We wish all of our students all the best for results' days in August.

### Progress and Achievement

**Key stage 3 and 4 awards afternoons:** Both events were extremely successful and offered a great opportunity for our students to recognise and celebrate the achievements of their peers. Over 300 students received awards for progress and attainment in their academic subjects and there were a number of pastoral awards including 'most supportive student' and 'personal achievement' award. A similar number of parents were in attendance and it was nearly standing room only in the Shirley hall. Our guest speaker at both events was an Old Blue and ex Blue Coat teacher, Keith Caulkin MBE, who both inspired and entertained our students, parents and staff.

### Departing staff

At the end of this year we say goodbye to some colleagues who have made significant contributions to The Blue Coat School over many years. As Mr Caulkin and Mr Kenny will look forward to a well-earned retirement, Mr Cox, Mr McBride, Mr Smith, Mr Dunkin and Mr Anderton leave us to take up posts at new schools. We wish all of them the very best as they look to new futures and thank them for all they have given to The Blue Coat School.

### Subject News

**Sport:** Students continue to successfully represent the school at different levels across a range of sport; the Year 7 football team reached the last 8 of the ESFA 9-a-side competition. The U16 Basketball team reached the last 4 nationally for the third year running. In cricket, Year 7 and 9 were crowned Liverpool City champions and Year 10 were Liverpool City runners up. Year 9 also doubled-up their success when they played the outstanding Year 8 final from 2015-16 and were crowned Liverpool City champions for 2015-16.

A number of students across Years 7-10 have received individual successes; being selected for Lancashire and Liverpool district cricket teams, Liverpool district football and Merseyside Development Netball squad.

**Chemistry:** 40 Blue Coat students took part in the recent Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. It was a challenging paper but our students were not defeated and achieved 4 gold, 9 silver and 16 copper awards.

**Chess:** The Chess Club held its first "Blue Coat Blitz" tournament this term. Thanks to funding from the Development office we were able to purchase new equipment and what better way to use this than with a staff vs student match against the clock. Players each had three minutes to take their opponent out by checkmate or time. The standard of chess was excellent and we saw a lot of high quality matches played. The winner will be announced at the start of the new school year and they will keep the title of "Blitz Champion" until our Christmas tournament.

### Attendance

So that we are able to support our students more effectively we are improving our attendance monitoring system from September.

We will contact parents if attendance falls below 95%, whatever the reason. We may also ask to meet with you to discuss ways to support your son/daughter. Our aim is to facilitate good communication between home and school.

If attendance falls below 90% we will address this concern in a number of ways. These may include: asking for medical appointment letters when students sign out for an appointment, not authorising absence without medical evidence, involving the Educational Welfare Officer. Sixth Form students will be monitored in the same way, but in addition we may ask students to sign an attendance/punctuality contract.

When telephoning or emailing the school to report absence due to illness, please could you ensure you give information about the nature of the illness, the likely length of absence and whether you are planning to take your son/daughter to the GP. This information helps us to be mindful of the support required for students when they return to lessons.

**Behaviour:** The vast majority of our students display many skills in their own self-discipline, politeness, organisation, motivation and carry themselves around school with great pride. We celebrate the achievements of students who live up to our high expectations and from September we are putting in place the next steps to develop the monitoring of student behaviour so that we can acknowledge the students whose high standards are visible all the time. We are also using our monitoring to help guide and support students who don't live up to our expectations so that minor concerns can be addressed at an earlier stage and well before they have an impact on the learning that takes place in classrooms.

### Uniform

In readiness for the new school year, the uniform expectations can be found [here](#). Parents are reminded that [new house ties](#) come into use from September. For your assistance:

- trousers should be charcoal grey (not black)
- skirts should be knee length with a pleat.

If parents are struggling to find skirts long enough then Trutex on St Marys Road in Garston does stock longer length skirts with front inverted pleat.

It is advisable to contact school suppliers well in advance of the start of term. If there are any queries about uniform then please do contact us in advance of making a purchase.

### KS4 Induction Evening

To strengthen our communication with parents we will be inviting parents of students in Year 9 to an evening meeting to find out more information about how the school supports their sons and daughters as they start their GCSE courses.

The evening will take place on Monday 11 September in the Shirley Hall. More information will be sent out at the beginning of next term.

### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association have held another successful summer raffle, raising just over £1000. The student draw for a £300 Liverpool One voucher was won by one of our Year 7 students and the main prize draw winners have been informed of their success.

Thanks are extended to our PA who continually support the school and opportunities for students in various ways throughout the year.