



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents

My colleagues and I are extremely fortunate to work with your gifted children who, individually and collectively, demonstrate a relentless high calibre in their ability, attitude and desire to develop further. We have the greatest students and, as a result, are constantly seeking to give them an even better educational experience through improvements to teaching and the school building.

Behind the scenes we are making quiet progress with our £1.5m project to redevelop the East Wing into a brand new sixth form centre and to refurbish Shirley Hall to the standard it deserves. As we look forward to beginning this work in the coming months I am delighted to share even more good news. The government has awarded the school a further £0.5m to undertake significant redevelopment work on the upper floor of our main school site. This work will give the school two brand-new modern day art studios and remodel existing space into a suite of 6 classrooms to support our increasing student numbers. At the same time, we are also proud to announce the school's success in securing access to £180,000 of the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the historic organ in Shirley Hall back to its original condition. As part of this project, we are looking forward to a number of educational and community opportunities for students and friends of the school to enjoy.

With all these positive outcomes and our library appeal progressing well, we can all be extremely excited about the improvements we will be able to make to the fabric of our school. As our community looks back at our 300 year history with great pride, we can also look forward to ensuring that The Blue Coat School is a great place to be now and well into the future.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General Notices

End of half term arrangements: School will finish for the May half term on Friday 26 May 2017 and Year 7-10 students will return on Monday 5 June 2017.

Study Leave: For your assistance, Years 11, 12 and 13 will begin study leave after Friday 26 May 2017. Year 12 will return to normal school timetable on Monday 12 June 2017.

Sports Day: Sports Day will be on the afternoon of Friday 30 June 2017 at Wavertree sports ground and full detail will be circulated after half term.

Summer Recital: The summer recital will take place on Wednesday 12 July 2017 at 7.00pm in Shirley Hall. The programme will include performances by many of the school's musical ensembles including orchestra, concert band, choir and jazz band along with a selection of soloists from all year groups. Ticket information will be shared with parents after half term. Tickets will only be available to purchase through Parentmail.



Supporting our students

In recent weeks we will have all been aware how public figures have played an important part in raising awareness of mental health issues for both young people and adults. At Blue Coat we are always striving to build our capacity to support our students who experience stress and anxiety which can have an impact on their learning and development. On the 8 May 2017 we invited sixth form parents to attend a presentation run by an outside specialist agency to offer suggestions and guidance to parents on how best to support their child through the demands and stresses of public exams. It proved to be a welcome and positively received evening.

Throughout the year we have had a regular items at our half termly staff meetings to train and offer guidance to staff on a variety of safeguarding issues. In our upcoming meeting in June all staff will partake in a training session to enhance their awareness of the signs in young people who are experiencing stress and anxiety in order to offer early and appropriate support. This is in order to make us all even better equipped to offer the best support and care for our students.

Year 7 – 10 Internal Examinations

Internal exam week is the first week back after half term. We are hoping that our students will prepare thoroughly over the half term holiday as we would like their results to be an accurate reflection of the work that they have put in over the course of the academic year. These results will enable our subject leaders to monitor progress, set targets and plan subsequent lessons.

Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance

After the external examinations we are looking forward to working with Year 12 in preparing them for their post-18 options. Students will be working with their Form Tutor on the UCAS registration and application process and researching into their options both in higher education, apprenticeships, and employment. The main purpose of the IAG programme is to enable students to access their next steps. The school has a strong history of this, where the majority of students go on to study at their first choice university or are successful in gaining sponsored degrees, apprenticeships, and employment.

Maths Successes

The Junior Maths Challenge for Years 7 and 8 took place on Thursday 27 April and Blue Coat students once again gave a record breaking performance achieving 50 Gold, 74 Silver and 55 Bronze certificates. Two of our Year 8 students qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and 23 students have also qualified for the Junior Kangaroo. Well done to all students who took part.

Sports News

Our netball teams in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have had a fantastic year, with all being crowned city champions as well as winning the premiership Liverpool schools netball league. This is the first time the school has achieved these successes in one academic year. Well done to all of the teams.

Art & Design Technology

Year 9 Design Technology students performed well in the recent Make It and Manufacturing Institute Enterprise competitions last week and when attending a STEM challenge day at LJMU about how to use E-fit technology.

To help them further, we will soon be giving them a new laser machine which will enable students to develop and manufacture CAD/CAM products to the highest standard.

We are very proud of the students' efforts and if you would like to see some of their great work, look out for the showcasing of the GCSE and A-level students' work during next half term and a display of their work on the school website.



Business Studies

Well done to the Year 9 Business team who won the recent Make It and The Manufacturing Institute Enterprise competition held at Anfield stadium last week which was sponsored by Survitec. The team now go forward to the regional final in July.

Development Office

Heritage Lottery Fund: We are pleased to have secured a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £17,800 to kick-start our 'Blue Coat for All' project. This project will allow for the much needed refurbishment of our Father Willis organ in Shirley Hall; the categorisation, digitisation and sharing of school archive materials from 1906 onwards when the Wavertree site was first occupied; and the recruitment of a full-time project manager to oversee the project, an exciting community engagement programme as well as the management of the school archives. This initial funding will enable us to plan our project further and carry out a community consultation. Following on from this we will then submit a bid to hopefully secure a delivery grant of around £160,000 which will enable us to restore the organ, hopefully in the summer of 2018.

We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their support and we look forward to keeping you updated on this exciting project.

The hunt for our missing Old Blues: In April we created a [film](#) to help us find our missing Old Blues which was viewed via our School community newsletter, website as well as our social media channels. The film resulted in an increase of 10% of Old Blues on our database which is fantastic, with many looking forward to helping our current students through careers talks.

We now have over 2,000 Old Blues that we are regularly in contact with, but estimate there are around 9,000 out there so we still have some way to go. If you know any Old Blues please do encourage them to get in touch: www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/old-blues/keep-touch/.

Parents' Association

Grand Summer Raffle: This year's Summer Raffle will be drawn on Friday 14 July 2017. The student only raffle prize is a fantastic £300 Liverpool ONE voucher, and the main raffle prizes include Beats headphones, cash, champagne, some great vouchers and lots more!

A covering letter and 2 books of tickets per student, will be sent home by Friday 16 June 2017. Thank you for your continued support and good luck.