



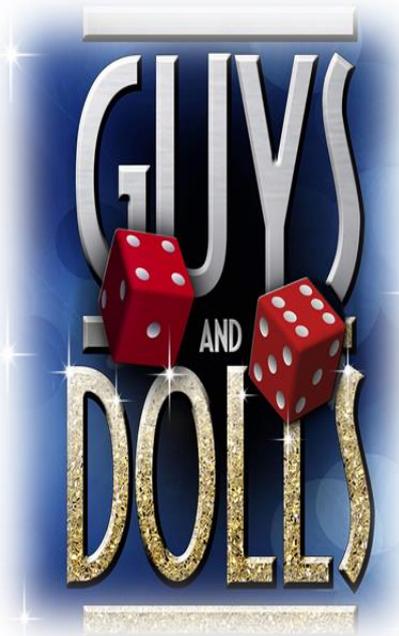
Headteacher's message

After months of preparation from students, teachers and support staff, this week we can enjoy our school show: Guys and Dolls. Our early audiences this week have rightly been full of praise for the students acting, singing and musical accompaniment. I am very sure that those of you with tickets for later this week will be equally complimentary.

The show is the cumulative effect of tremendous efforts from so many across our incredibly supportive community. Of course, the students' endeavours should be recognised first but we know they could not push themselves as they do without your parental support which is always appreciated. I do take this opportunity to also share with you the huge contribution from many of my colleagues with particular thanks to Mr Emery, Miss Horton, Miss Aldred and Mr Kershaw. Support from our parent community has also been tremendous. The financial support provided by reliable supporters of the school, including the Parents' Association ensures that all of us connected to The Blue Coat School, can properly support and develop our students' artistic talents.

Many thanks and well done to all involved.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher



General notices

GCSE and A Level exam dates for Year 11 and Year 13 students are available for parents to view on the school website using the examinations quick link below. Students will be provided with their own individual schedule in the coming weeks.

GCSE and A Level exam venues: Our careful planning has ensured that current building construction phases are progressing well without any significant disruption to learning or school life. As a pre-emptive and pre-cautionary measure, this year we will be relocating the summer GCSE and A Level examinations to the Sports Hall so that students and parents can be absolutely confident of no disruption during the external exam period.

Quick links

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Key events Spring term 2018

February half term: Students finish for half term on Thursday 8 February and return to school on Monday 19 February 2018.

Friday 9 February: is Staff development day and students are not in school.

Thursday 1 March: Annual Careers' fair will be held and Year 8, 11 & 12 students and you can find out more information [here](#).

Monday 5 – Friday 9 March will be our Founders celebration week and further detail on the timetable of events for the week, will be shared after half term.

Wednesday 21 March: Tod scholarship interviews take place for Year 12 students.

Friday 23 March is the end of spring term and school will finish at 1.40pm.



Languages

The Languages department enjoyed a visit from the students of Frederic Bazille High School in Montpellier in January. Year 12 and 13 students chaperoned our French guests so that they could enjoy two days in the life of Blue Coat including attending lessons. Mr Caulkin kindly provided all students with a presentation about the history of our school over a buffet lunch in the Boardroom.

Trips

We wish all of our students and staff taking part in the Ski trip to Italy, Business Studies trip to New York and the History trip to Paris, safe journeys and enjoyable experiences. Thank you to all staff who are supporting the students on the trips.

School facilities

Our facilities team colleagues have been listening to student's views on the availability of fresh drinking water. As a result, the team are exploring the possibility of increasing the availability of water fountains at key locations around the school where students can fill their own reusable water bottles. Benefits include easy access to fresh drinking water, reducing the need for students to purchase bottles of water/soft drinks each day and by introducing more sustainable alternatives to disposable plastic bottles we will significantly improve the school's impact on the environment.

FACT: In 2017 students bought approximately 65000 plastic bottles of water and soft drinks from school catering.

Chemistry

Congratulations to the fourteen students who recently took part in the Chemistry Olympiad. Results will be announced soon. Preparations have also begun for Year 12 Chemistry students who are interested in taking part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, which will take place in the summer. Students are invited to come along to after-school preparation sessions which will take place on Thursdays at 3:30 in N10, starting on Thursday 8 February 2018.

Computing

On Sunday 28 January, four Year 9 students attended Oxford University for the second round of the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Whilst there, the students also had the chance to explore an Oxford College and attend some academic lectures. Congratulations to the students for qualifying for Round 2, we await news of their efforts very shortly.

Sport

It has been a successful few weeks for our Year 9 sports teams. The boys football team reached the last 64 of the National football competition, before losing to Bacup school, which was no mean feat given that over 3000 teams entered. The basketball team have reached the last 8 of the National Competition and play Queens School Hertfordshire on 26 February.

Construction work

We are pleased to inform parents that our construction project to improve classrooms and sixth form accommodation is now well underway.



Work has started in the Art department to create two fantastic new studio teaching spaces with workroom annex (see photograph) and as this phase of the project nears completion, contractors are now readying themselves for phase 2 in the east wing to create a new sixth form common room, study area and bistro.

Health and safety of the school community has remained a priority for us and we have worked hard to protect students and staff from the presence of construction work to minimize the impact on day to day school operations. Where we have needed to implement slight changes to the way students move around the school, our students have responded, as they usually do, in a positive and co-operative manner.

We look forward to keeping parents updated on progress. In the meantime please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



How can I support my child's learning?

At parents' evening a question that is always asked and is welcomed by teachers is; "What can we do as parents to support our child in school?" Very often, the answer lies within the context of our Good Student Habits. These are five areas that we track as teachers to support the progress that each student is making in each subject. They are Organisation, Respect, Participation, Responsibility and Resilience.

The importance of these 5 habits can be seen from the fact they span all subjects in all key stages. We report on these features of development three times per year but you may wish to talk to your son/daughter about these habits at any point in the year to find out how they impact on their learning in each of the subjects they study.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

In our November newsletter we were pleased to report our whole school attendance and punctuality improvements due to new improved systems for monitoring and supporting students.

In addition to this, over the last 18 months we have put in place an improved and more efficient system for monitoring and supporting behaviour in school. Prompt and effective interventions are put in place that support the learning environment and supports the needs of students. We have recently reviewed, rewritten and updated our school behaviour policy. This policy outlines for students, staff and parents the school's approach to ensuring a safe and positive learning community in which students can thrive.

We will be sharing this policy with parents via the school website in the coming weeks.

Careers, information, advice and guidance

There is always a buzz of excitement in the build up to and on the evening of our Annual Careers Fair, which takes place on 1 March 2018. Our students approach the event with an interesting combination of curiosity, interest and wonder. We are thankful that we can rely on a fabulous support team of parents, alumni and friends, all prepared to give up their time to support our students as they research the limitless possibilities in the next steps of their career path.

We look forward to seeing Years 8, 11 and 12 as they enjoy their conversations with and the presentations from a wide range of professionals, eager to share the pride they have in their career choice.

Students' achievements beyond school

Our school is strongly committed to celebrating the achievements of students both in and outside of the classroom. Since December we have been piloting with Year 7 parents a new system of collecting information regarding their son/daughter's out of school achievements and the system has proven to be a great success. The information captured will be used in our end of term assemblies and our awards afternoons.

We will be extending this data capture to all year groups and guidance will be shared through parentmail in the coming weeks. The new system is entirely voluntary for parents and is only requested in the interests of supporting your son/daughter in recognising their talents and strengthening our school community.

Library

Congratulations to our students who participated in the sponsored read organised by 'Read for Good' organisation. Students' participation has raised a fantastic £527.00 which will help bring the magic of books and stories to children in hospital.

Thank you to Ms Pauline for organising and leading the successful event.



Development team

Development Fund: We would like to thank our network of Development Fund supporters for their ongoing generosity. So far this term we have been able to support an array of upcoming projects including, a new Model United Nations programme, the Art department's 'Artist of the Month', new equipment for hockey and badminton teams and a theatre performance and workshop for our GCSE English students

Thanks must also go to our Parents' Association for purchasing a giant outdoor chess, as well as equipment for our popular fitness club, and a £1,000 donation towards LEGO Mindstorm, which will feature heavily in our STEM activities week.

Blue Coat: For All: At the end of January we invited BBC Radio Merseyside listeners into the Shirley Hall to promote our Heritage Lottery Funded organ restoration project. We are extremely lucky to have the Directors of Music from Liverpool's Anglican and Metropolitan Cathedrals, both former Blue Coat students, and internationally renowned organist Ian Tracey involved in this exciting project. To expand the use of our restored 1874 Father Willis organ, we are exploring plans for a Blue Coat Organ Scholarship, for both current students and external students, using our organ and both the Liverpool Anglican and Metropolitan organs.

As part of the grant we must raise a further £25,000 towards the project through donations and direct fundraising. If you would like to help us reach our fundraising target please get in touch at development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk or on 0151 733 1407. More information about this project can be found on our website. www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/heritage-lottery-fund-spotlight-falls-blue-coats-historic-father-willis-organ/

Parents' Association

Following on from the success of the Christmas raffle, the PA donated £1233.95 to the PE department, which together with a matched donation from the Development office enabled them to purchase new cricket, boxercise and netball equipment. A small donation was also made to Business Studies for their 'Apprentice' initiative for Year 8 and Year 11 students.

The much awaited Quiz night tickets are now on sale via Parentmail. This family fun evening on 9 March starts at 7.00pm; there will be a bar selling beer, wine and snacks, cash prizes for the top 3 teams and chocolate hamper prizes for the winners of the 2 children's rounds. We will also have a raffle on the night. Feel free to bring family and friends and have a great night whilst raising money to benefit all our Blue Coat students.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey at the Year 8 and 9 Parents' evening, we are always happy to receive suggestions for fundraising activities and events. You can contact us at:

parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Our next PA meeting is on Monday 5 March at 7pm.

