



The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – September 2017

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Headteacher's message

It was great to welcome the students back at the start of September. In the usual style, the term has got off to a great start because all of the students are ready to be challenged to learn new things about their subjects and about themselves.

Just as the students challenge themselves to be even better, so should all of us in The Blue Coat Community. We know we can only do this by listening. Over the course of last year we have listened to [yours](#) and the students views about life at Blue Coat and used them to set us some new goals so that your son/daughter gets the best experience possible.

We hope that as the year progresses, you will see and hear about the impact [these improvements](#) are having on your child.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Welcome to our new colleagues who have joined The Blue Coat School in September. We welcome Ms M Burke and Miss J Shaw to our Chemistry department, Miss M Kennedy-Goor to the Biology team, Miss S Preston to her role as SENCO and Miss H Pauline as Learning Resource Manager.

The school calendar is now available to through the school website. We hope this new approach allows you to access the calendar more easily and be more quickly updated if there are any changes. We will always send a parent mail to relevant parents if dates change.

Our new break and lunch arrangements are working very well. The students now have a much better break time experience choosing healthier options which have helped reduced queuing times. At lunch, we have changed how the students queue to encourage them to get more out of their time and are providing more freshly cooked food to all students at any point in the lunch hour. In the coming weeks we look forward to launching our new prefect led activities for the students to enjoy.

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

Key events this term

PA welcome for new Year 7 parents: takes place this Friday 22 September 2017, starting at 7.30pm. We hope that you and your child are able to attend as we feel this is a great introduction for you all, to life at The Blue Coat School.

Staff development day: is on Friday 29 September 2017. Students are not in school on this date.

Y7 information evening with form tutors: takes place on Monday 9 October 2017.

Y12 information evening with form tutors is being held on Tuesday 10 October 2017.



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School Photographs: Students in Year 7, 10 and 12 have had their photograph taken on Thursday 21 September 2017. The photographs will be used for our school information management system.

Information around school: As part of our estates development strategy, we are looking forward to our students having access to the updated display boards around school, sharing better information and more news with them.

Student email account benefits: Our student email accounts have the added benefit of online storage via Microsoft OneDrive and the option to install Microsoft Office on home computers. Students can save school work to the Onedrive and get access in school and at home. Full details on how to access these benefits will be emailed to all students by the 22 September 2017.

Requests for absence: Very occasionally, there are good reasons why your son/daughter may not be able to attend school because of educational, family, religious or other reasons. In these cases it is important that you seek authorisation from the Headteacher in advance. We have developed a new and better online system to help you do this quickly so that we can respond promptly. You can access this online form from our school website [here](#) or by using the quick link that will be on every parent newsletter.

Teaching & Learning

What is the 'MEG'? It is at this time of year that each student is given a 'target' in their subject areas. At Blue Coat we call this the 'Minimum Expected Grade' or 'MEG'. For some students this will be a timely reminder, whilst for others it will be completely new. The MEG is the minimum that we expect from each student, and in a sense this is the challenge of the MEG. It is not something that students should only aim for, but it is something we expect students to achieve and aim beyond.

British Council

The school has been re-accredited with the British Council International School award. This prestigious accreditation acknowledges and recognises Blue Coat's commitment to education with an international outlook, in order to help develop our students into global citizens and prepare them for life and work in a global society.

Personal Development Behaviour & Welfare: We were delighted to recently host our first KS4 induction evening for Year 9 parents. The focus was on the expectations for KS4 students and an insight into the support available for them. We heard from Oi Yi Pereira from CAMHS who gave us an insight into the psychological changes that happen in teenage years and some suggestions as to how to maintain positive communication during the stormy times ahead. A list of agencies supporting families with adolescent children was available. If you would like a copy of the handout please do contact c.cobain@bluecoatschool.org.uk and ask for the CAMHS help sheet from the KS4 induction evening.

CIAG: The start of a new academic year is always exciting, busy and never dull! It is rewarding to see students return with such enthusiasm for their new courses which will set them on the right path for whatever their career choice might be. The buzz is palpable from Year 9s who have started their GCSEs, Year 12 with the new Blue Coat Baccalaureate and Year 13, who approach significant decisions about university courses, apprenticeships and employment. There are many varied opportunities coming students' way and I am sure they will make the most of them. These include employability interviews, careers talks and careers fair, student councils and the further development of lunchtime activities. More information will follow via newsletters and the weekly KS bulletins; it's a great time to be at Blue Coat.

A Level outcomes

Our Class of 2017 cohort of Year 13 students achieved an outstanding set of A Level results, producing the highest recorded results at The Blue Coat School. Well done everyone. You can read more [here](#).

GCSE outcomes

We have celebrated once again, an outstanding set of GCSE exam results. They are a fantastic reflection of the commitment and hard work shown by our exceptionally talented students. Our Year 11 rose to the challenge of the new syllabus in Mathematics and English and across other subjects, outcomes remained high as you can see [here](#).

