



Headteacher's message

As our first half term comes to a close, we are delighted to report the students' enjoyment of our new sixth form facilities, classrooms, and art studios. Our new corridors and corridor management have also helped ensure the students have a better experience when moving from one place to another.

Our ambitious developments to the estate have continued this term with two new RS classrooms currently under construction which the students will be able to use from November. Planning is also underway for the full refurbishment of Shirley Hall, one of our most iconic venues, to be brought back to its finest condition in the latter half of this year.

We look forward to updating you about these improvements and how they will further enrich the experiences of the students as the year progresses.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Half term: Students finish for half term on Friday 19 October 2018 and return to school on Tuesday 30 October 2018.

School office: During the half term break the school office will be closed. There will be limited monitoring of the school email address for any notifications that cannot wait until the school office opens on Monday 29 October 2018.

Staff development day: The school is closed on Monday 29 October 2018 for a staff development day.

Good Student Habits

Over the next half term, all of our students will be given a progress report that contains not only their academic performance information, but also that of their attitudes in class. To remind us, the Good Student Habits (GSH) are Organisation, Respect, Participation, Responsibility and Resilience. We know that our students do well in these areas, but the one that often catches them out is 'Participation'. As a school, we are trying to give a vital message to all of our students, it is not simply about turning up to class that is important, but it is what you do when you get in there that makes the difference. Participation is about the 'positive and active' process that takes place in the classroom, and so this is probably a good opportunity to have a chat with your child to ask them, how much of an active participant are they in each class they attend?

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

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[Examinations](#)

Key events this term

Ski trip 2019 parent information meeting 18 October 2018, 6.00pm in Dining hall.

Year 11 Options evening 1 November 2018, starting at 6.00pm in Shirley Hall.

GCSE Prizegiving 5 November 2018 starting at 2.00pm in Shirley Hall.

Remembrance Service 9 November 2018: The services will take place in school and all students from Year 7 to Year 13 will attend.

Year 7 York trip 2 & 3 and 9 & 10 November 2018: Students and staff will enjoy visiting York on the annual residential trip.

Year 8 Parents' evening 13 November 2018 starting at 4.15pm.

Year 13 Parents' evening 21 November 2018 starting at 4.15pm.



Supporting student safety

During the summer term we invited parents to a workshop on supporting your child's safe use of social media. This term our work has continued in guiding and supporting students in keeping themselves safe as they utilise modern technology. We are constantly training teachers and support staff help guide and support your children in how to safely enjoy the technology around us in our daily lives. This support is offered both within the curriculum but also through our pastoral provision. We value your parental support as we strive to remind our students how to keep themselves safe.

Careers, information, advice and guidance

As we come to the end of a very busy half term it is an ideal opportunity to reflect on what the students been involved in so far and what they have to look forward to after the break. Fifty-seven Year 13s completed their early entry applications for UCAS and now eagerly await updates on their next pathway. Year 11 are also looking to the future through Careers Interviews, and exploring the numerous opportunities that are available to them after GCSEs. The next half term will see the rest of Year 13 finalise their UCAS or next steps, as well as taking part in mock interviews, whilst other year groups will have the opportunity to meet with guest speakers or prepare for their future choices.

Mental Health Awareness

The school theme for the week of 8 October, was Mental Health Awareness. A number of assemblies took place during that week for all key stages informing them of how to look after their own mental health and where they can access support both in and out of school if they felt that this was appropriate to them. Within school, students can access a range of support including the key stage mentoring service and learning support. We also work alongside a number of outside organisations to provide effective care for our students' mental health.

Mental Health problems in young people in the UK has grown recently so we think it is vitally important that we work with you closely, if you have any concerns regarding your sons/daughters mental health, so that support can be put in place quickly and efficiently.

Charity fundraising

Year 12 students are running a charity netball tournament that will take place in the week beginning 5 November 2018. Monies raised from the tournament will go towards a very worthwhile cause - supporting parents whose children are in intensive care at Alder Hey Children's hospital.

The Year 12 students are also running 'the foodbank challenge' over the twelve days of Christmas. Students throughout the school will be encouraged to bring in specific items in the first two weeks of December in order to support the most vulnerable members of society.

Model United Nations

In November Mr Pearson is taking eight Year 12 students to participate in the Liverpool chapter of the Model United Nations at Liverpool Town Hall. They will have to represent different countries at the General Assembly, debate a set of resolutions and they will be performing committee work throughout the day. This is a great event that will provide the students with the opportunity to strengthen their public speaking skills.

Congratulations to our Year 13 student who represented the United Kingdom at the European Youth Parliament event in September; a fantastic achievement and opportunity for him.

Art and Design Technology

The Art and Design Technology department are pleased to announce they have recently been given approval, to purchase a 'state of the art' video wall to be displayed outside the newly refurbished 2nd floor Art rooms. This new technology will be used in lessons as an assessment tool and equally as a means to celebrate and display the high quality work students produce within Art. The screen can be used to support lessons and reward achievements within the department and is controlled by the subject teachers via the cloud or from their classrooms; enabling fast uploading of work and innovation within the subject.



Year 7 Social media play

At the beginning of September our Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to experience a social media play performed by local drama company Altru.

The students experienced an exciting portrayal of how different uses of social media can impact lives of students now and in the future. Students took part in a Q & A session, discussing key areas of online safety in further detail. They also had the opportunity, during form time, to continue this discussion so they all have a good grounding in the safe use of social media and the internet. We look forward to continuing to work with all of our students in the future in supporting their use of social media.

Music

Budding Blue Coat composers are having a rare chance to hear their own string quartet pieces played by some of Britain's best musicians, in a new Music department project. A Liverpool String Quartet, the Ensemble of St. Luke's, comprising of members of the string section of the RLPO is leading the one year project with visits to Blue Coat School for Years 12 and 13 music students, playing their compositions, giving advice and support on playing. The project is part of the A Level Music course. An impressive 14 Year 12 & 13 music students are taking part and it is hoped to include a selection in the A Level Music Recital in May 2019.

Musicologist Dr Alberto Sanna, is giving a new series of lessons in early Baroque string music at Blue Coat School. In a new music department initiative, Dr Sanna and fellow tutor Elizabeth Elliott and Donatella Paiano are teaching a group of 14 Grade 5 and above students in the secrets of how 18th century music is played.

My Bluecoat

The intertwined history of The Blue Coat School and the Bluecoat Arts Centre, which occupies the School's original premises in Liverpool city centre, is now more accessible than ever with the launch of a new website, [My Bluecoat](#).

My Bluecoat brings together stories, films, documents and archival images based in one of Liverpool's most celebrated historic buildings, which housed Blue Coat Hospital (School) from its completion in 1717, until relocation to the present site in 1906. My Bluecoat plots a timeline in words and pictures from the building's beginnings as the Blue Coat charitable boarding school for Liverpool's poor children through to transformation in the early 20th century into the UK's first arts centre, a role that continues today. The Blue Coat School was deeply involved in research as a partner for the My Bluecoat website during 2017, the building's 300th anniversary year, along with Liverpool Record Office. We continue to enjoy a strong partnership with the art centre through our 'Blue Coat for All' organ restoration project.

Mr Caulkin's Diamond Celebrations

On Saturday 13 October, Old Blues, parents, staff and former staff raised a glass of 'fizzics' in honour of Mr Caulkin's 60 year association with The Blue Coat School. From a range of Mr Caulkin's favourite experiments to the culinary delights of a Thermodynamic Tagine, the evening's celebrations were notably physics themed. We would like to thank everyone who attended this special event for their generous support. All funds raised during the evening have contributed towards our Learning Resource Centre Appeal.

We would also like to thank Mr Caulkin for his ongoing support of The Blue Coat School.

Chess Club

Our Chess team have been hard at work getting ready for their matches. A great way to develop your strategic thinking is to have a go at puzzles, where you look for a possible checkmate, or way to gain an advantage. Two of our Year 8 students, have come up with these two puzzles for you to try.

White to move – Mate in 2



White to move – Mate in 2



Parents' Association – supporting PE and Music

We are delighted to announce we have recently donated £1040 to the PE department to purchase various items of handball, basketball, football, hockey and rounders equipment. We are also working on granting a substantial amount to the Music department in the next month; more details to follow.

Parents' Association – getting involved

Date for your diary:

Monday 12 November 2018: 7pm. (main school entrance); everyone is welcome to come along to our next PA meeting.

Parents' Association – events

The School Chapel was the magnificent venue for this year's Wine Tasting evening, hosted by Oddbins' Mike Stoddart. We would like to thank Mike and The Liverpool Cheese Company for generously donating both their time and expertise, as well as raffle prizes on the night. A huge thank you to everyone who came along.

The Halloween disco, for Years 7 & 8 students will be held on the big day itself, Wednesday 31 October and tickets are now on sale via Parentmail.

We are busy organising our fantastic PA Christmas Raffle and are appealing to The Blue Coat School community for donations, vouchers, or experiences, to add to our list of prizes this festive season. If you can help in anyway please contact us at parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk or @bluecoatPA.