



The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – December 2018

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Headteacher's message

At the end of this term it is extremely pleasing to see the progress that students in all year groups are making through their Autumn Term reports. Their outcomes are a terrific reflection of the efforts they sustain and the talents of our staff teams which include both long serving and newly formed teams.

As ever, we are not complacent and always look forward to the future with increased aspiration for our students. This often includes taking your views on what we can do to change, adapt and refine students experience for the better. With your views, we are able to support students and teachers with further improvements to teaching, learning, facilities and accommodation that to help them work as closely and successfully together. Thank you very much for your valuable feedback to the school which always helps us provide the best provision possible for your children.

We are already looking forward to the Spring Term but before then, I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

End of Term Arrangements: The Autumn term will end on Thursday 20 December 2018 which will be a short day. Sixth form students must follow the normal signing out process and can begin their Christmas holidays at 12.30pm. Years 7-11 students will attend period 4 to be registered and the school day will end at 1.40pm. If you do not wish your son/daughter to leave until 3.30pm please can you contact the school office at office@bluecoatschool.org.uk to let us know.

Requests for absence: We would like to thank parents for completing the request for absence online form which was introduced in September. The information gathered from this form has supported the introduction of a better procedure for students leaving lessons for out of school appointments. We appreciate the time taken by parents in completing this form and for providing the school with more detailed information of any requests for absence.

School Car Park: Thank you to parents for your recent support of our request to park safely when picking up or dropping off your children. In the interests of students' safety, we do politely ask that parents refrain from using the school car park to pick up or drop off because it has not been designed to be used safely for that purpose. Many thanks in advance.

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

Key events Spring term 2019

7 January:	Start of spring term, all students return
8 January:	A Level Prizegiving
15 January:	UCAS deadline for all applicants
16 January:	Year 8 Options evening
16 – 18 January:	Year 11 mock interviews
22 January:	Sixth form external information evening
31 January:	Year 9 girls HPV vaccination



office@bluecoatschool.org.uk



www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk



twitter.com/liverpoolbcs

San Sebastian Exchange

A big thank you to the Blue Coat families who hosted the Spanish exchange students from San Sebastian, the staff involved with the organisation and the staff who welcomed the Spanish students into their lessons.

The exchange is an excellent way to develop language and cultural awareness. The exchange students thoroughly enjoyed their visit both in school and visiting famous Liverpool landmarks during their stay.

Biology

Year 13 Biology prefects and Biology staff have worked tirelessly over the last half term to develop the support we offer to year 11 and 12 students as they settle into a challenging term. We have already seen a positive effect for those students that have embraced the opportunities available to them and we encourage and look forward to even more students making the most of these opportunities in the new year.

UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

During November, Blue Coat Computer Science students took part in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Students performed well achieving certificates in each of the three age categories entered as follows:

- Junior (Y7) – 47 Distinctions and 47 Merits
- Intermediate (Y8/9) – 65 Distinctions and 61 Merits
- Senior (Y10) – 16 Distinctions and 16 Merits

Additionally, the top 10% of students nationally will be invited to enter a follow-on competition, the TCS Oxford Computing Competition in March 2019. This will involve an impressive 147 Blue Coat Computer Scientists.

Debating Society

At the weekend, the Bluecoat Debating Society competed in The London School of Economics Schools Debating Competition which is the largest British Parliamentary Tournament in the UK. There were over a hundred teams competing from various schools, including Eton, St. Pauls, Dulwich, Wellington and Westminster. Blue Coat A team won the novice final which is the highest award and ranking they could have received in their category. In addition, the Bluecoat B team won two of their debates and received praise for an exceptional performance given it was their first time competing in any debating competition.

English Book Club

We are looking forward to launching our book club, starting the first week back in spring term 2019. The club will be open to all KS3 students and is going to be held on Friday lunchtimes in WO6 from 12.30-1.00pm.

The aim of the club is to give students an opportunity to share in their enjoyment of reading for pleasure and discuss anything they wish about the novel and the writer's craft in a totally relaxed environment. Hopefully, this will encourage some of our more reluctant readers to see how much fun reading can be!

We have been most fortunate in being able to begin the club with some brand new and exciting books, which will be entertaining while, at the same time, subconsciously improve students reading skills, which has got to be a bonus!

Supporting our Sixth form students

There are a range of ways that we provide guidance and support to our students as they foster their own positive emotional and mental well-being. After Christmas we are pleased to be inviting an Old Blue into school to work with some of our sixth form students. Our ex-student is in the last year of his medical training and has specific and personal insights into the ways students can ensure they prepare themselves well for the mental and emotional challenges they may face at University, the work environment or within their vocational studies. He will lead assemblies and a lunchtime group sharing strategies and ideas for peer-support. We are very grateful for this opportunity and the positive input for our students.

Mock Examinations

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have recently sat their mock exams. As well as providing our students with the opportunity to practice effective revision strategies, improve their knowledge and ability to recall information, these mock exams also provide our teachers with useful information about progress and can highlight any misconceptions in students' understanding which allows teachers to plan appropriate future learning opportunities. In the New Year, we look forward to working closely with the students to support and stretch them further toward their GCSE's and A Levels.



Staff update

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Tyers who retires from teaching after 10 years of service to The Blue Coat School. We thank Mrs Tyers for the contribution she has made to The Blue Coat School both in and outside of the classroom.

As we look ahead, we welcome Miss Abrahams, Mrs Warren, Mrs Nolan, Mr Bruns and Miss Hobson to our Geography, English, Religious Studies and Biology teams in the Spring term.

We also look forward to Mrs Ward starting with us as Head of Languages in April.

Personal development

Within [Personal Development](#), students across key stages 3 and 4 have been enjoying the addition of dedicated careers, information, and advice and guidance lessons. The aim is to open students' eyes to a variety of careers from an early age, equipping them with the skills needed for University and the workplace. Students in year 9 and year 11 have worked extremely hard to produce high quality CVs, which will directly feed into mock interviews for year 11 in the spring term. Meanwhile, year 8 have spent time considering the University application process, researching potential degree courses in order to focus their GCSE option choices. Over the coming months, students across the key stages will continue to enjoy a range of opportunities to develop their careers portfolio.

Developing students learning skills

As one of many approaches to monitoring the experience of Blue Coat Students senior and middle leaders regularly undertake visits to lesson. It is always tremendous to see such a high level of student engagement and participation taking place within lessons. Many students are developing the skills and confidence to assess their current attainment within each subject and as a result are able to take even more ownership about what steps they need to take to improve still further within each subject. We believe it is really important to develop this approach to learning to provide our students with the skills they need to succeed at every stage in their life.

Chess Club

Well done to 11 students from years 8, 9 and 10 who represented Blue Coat in our first competitive Merseyside Chess Association (MCA) league fixture at Merchant Taylors. All students played very well and Blue Coat B Team are currently second in their league. Our next fixture will take place in the new year. MCA also run "congress" competitions which are open to everyone and information on the next congress will be shared with parents as soon as it is available.

We have also had our annual Blue Coat Blitz tournament which saw 12 teams compete against each other in a series of rapid games to see which one would be crowned "Blitz Champion", well done to the winning team who scored an incredible 18 points, out of a possible 20. Thank you to all the staff who participated. In the Spring Term we will begin our brand new School League which will see players awarded not just for winning games, but for developing their puzzle solving skills, studying Grand Master games, and participating in mini competitions. We hope as many students as possible will have fun participating in this new league.

Sporting achievements

Water Polo: Year 8 students recently took part in a Liverpool School's water polo competition and two mixed teams took part. One team won their pool winning 3 and drawing 1 game and the second team won 2, drew 1 and lost 1. It was the first year Blue Coat has taken part in this competition. The teams finished 4th and 6th place overall, which is a fantastic achievement for the students.

Fencing: We are pleased to share and congratulate the recent sporting success of one of our Year 8 students Stephanie Currie, who has been selected to represent the North West region in a team of 4 in the prestigious U18 Winton cup fencing competition, to be held at Millfield Public School in December. The cup is given the highest respect in the fencing community where integrity and etiquette are demanded at every level and so every region sends their best fencers in honour.



Development Team

Old Blues' Festive Drinks: On Thursday 6 December we welcomed over 40 Old Blues back to the School for our Old Blues' Festive Drinks. Guests ranged from Old Blues who left the School in 1959 to 2010 and for many it was the first time that they'd returned to the School since leaving. Old Blues enjoyed listening to some of our talented student pianists and hearing about recent student successes and achievements. We are very grateful to our Year 13 students who gave their time to speak to the guests, as well as a number of Sixth form students who volunteered at the event.



Development Fund

The Development Fund is going from strength to strength and we are delighted that so many projects are being funded in school thanks to the generous support of our parents and Old Blues. Since September 27 projects have been funded, many in partnership with the Parents' Association, and we look forward to sharing details on projects funded in our half-termly giving update. Thank you to everyone who supports the School through giving to the Development Fund, your giving has an immediate impact on our students.

Development Fund

Donate Online: It's now even easier than ever to support the School as we are now able to accept donations online. So if you have been meaning to give a donation to the Development Fund or Learning Resource Centre Appeal but haven't quite got round to filling in the donation form, you can support us by clicking here. Thank you.

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who supported this year's Christmas Raffle, which raised over £2,500. The student-only draw for a £500 Liverpool ONE voucher was won by a very surprised Year 7 student and the main prize draw winners have been informed.

The PA has also recently donated £219.30 to the English Department for a lunchtime reading.

The next PA meeting is at 7pm on Monday 8 January 2019; new members are always very welcome. The PA can be contacted via parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk and on Twitter [@BluecoatPA](https://twitter.com/BluecoatPA)

