FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2026
ISSUE 8

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM – REMEMBRANCE DAY AT THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

As Remembrance Day approaches, The Blue Coat School community will once again come together to honour the courage, sacrifice and service of those who have given their lives in conflict. Throughout the week, students and staff will have the opportunity to purchase poppies in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, demonstrating our collective gratitude to the men and women who have served our country.

On Wednesday 11th November, the school will observe a two-minute silence at 11am, joining millions of people across the nation in a moment of quiet reflection. This important tradition provides an opportunity for our students to consider the sacrifices made by previous generations and reflect upon the values of courage, duty, peace and service to others.

Remembrance has a particularly poignant significance at The Blue Coat School. Throughout our long history, many Old Blues have answered the call to serve their country, with some making the ultimate sacrifice. Their names are recorded in our school Chapel, providing a permanent and deeply moving reminder of their bravery and the close connection between our school's history and the history of our nation. These were once young people who walked our corridors, sat in our classrooms and shared the same hopes and ambitions as our students today. Their sacrifice must never be forgotten.

Our school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself, but for All, has particular resonance at this time of year. It reminds us of the importance of selflessness, service and placing the needs of others before our own. Through our Remembrance activities, we aim to ensure that future generations of Blue Coat students understand the significance of these sacrifices and appreciate the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today.

We encourage all members of our school community to wear their poppies with pride and take time to reflect on those who have served, those who continue to serve and those who never returned home. We will remember them.

A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE: YEAR 11 PRIZEGIVING 2026

Friday 6 November was a very special afternoon at The Blue Coat School, as we came together for our annual Year 11 Prizegiving Ceremony – one of the most prestigious and eagerly anticipated events in our school calendar.

This wonderful occasion will celebrate the outstanding academic, sporting and cultural achievements of our former Year 11 students, many of whom are now flourishing in Year 12, alongside those who have moved on to exciting courses and opportunities at colleges and institutions across Liverpool and beyond. It is an opportunity to recognise their hard work, determination, talents and the tremendous contribution they have made to school life.

We are particularly delighted to welcome Old Blue Paul Thwaite, Group Chief Executive Officer of NatWest Group, as our distinguished guest speaker. Paul reflected on his own journey from the classrooms of Blue Coat to leading one of the UK's largest banking groups, sharing his experiences and offering valuable advice on embracing opportunities, overcoming challenges and building successful and fulfilling lives beyond school. His return is a wonderful reminder of the extraordinary journeys our students can undertake.

The afternoon featured musical interludes from our exceptional school choir and talented musicians, adding a wonderful sense of celebration and showcasing the breadth of talent within our school community. Their performances helped make this a truly memorable occasion for students, families and staff alike.

Above all, Prizegiving is about celebrating the young people who make Blue Coat such a special place. Every achievement reflects not only individual ambition and perseverance but also the encouragement and support of parents, carers, teachers and the wider school community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our students, parents and carers for their tremendous support throughout the year and for helping to make this such an exceptional year group. We are immensely proud of everything our students have accomplished and enjoyed an afternoon filled with inspiration, music, applause and a great deal of Blue Coat pride.
Congratulations to all our prizewinners and to the entire year group. Your achievements deserve to be celebrated, and we look forward to seeing where your journeys take you next.

Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself but for All.

Once a Blue, always a Blue!













EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS – UNA CELEBRACIÓN DE LA VIDA Y LA FAMILIA



El Día de los Muertos es una fiesta muy importante en México. Se celebra cada año los días 1 y 2 de noviembre. Durante estos días, las familias recuerdan a sus familiares y amigos que han muerto. Aunque el nombre parece triste, ¡es una celebración llena de alegría, música, comida y muchos colores!

Una de las tradiciones más importantes es preparar un altar, también llamado ofrenda. Las familias ponen fotografías, flores, velas y la comida favorita de las personas que quieren recordar. Las flores de color naranja, llamadas cempasúchil, son muy populares. Según la tradición, su color y su olor ayudan a guiar a los espíritus de los familiares hasta sus casas.

Durante esta fiesta, las calles y las casas están decoradas con calaveras de colores y papel picado. Muchas personas se pintan la cara como una calavera y algunas familias visitan los cementerios para llevar flores y recordar momentos especiales. También comen pan de muerto, un pan dulce tradicional, y calaveras de azúcar.

El Día de los Muertos tiene una gran importancia cultural porque combina antiguas tradiciones indígenas de México con algunas tradiciones cristianas. Es una fiesta que enseña la importancia de la familia, el amor y los recuerdos. En 2008, la UNESCO reconoció esta tradición como parte del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de la Humanidad.

En The Blue Coat School, aprender sobre celebraciones como el Día de los Muertos nos ayuda a conocer otras culturas, respetar diferentes tradiciones y comprender mejor el mundo. Esta fiesta nos recuerda un mensaje muy bonito: las personas que queremos siempre viven en nuestros recuerdos.

NOVEMBER: A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE, REFLECTION AND HOPE

As we enter November, the Christian Church marks a particularly significant time in its calendar, offering us an opportunity to reflect on the lives of those who have gone before us, remember loved ones who are no longer with us, and celebrate the values of faith, service and compassion that continue to shape our communities.

The month started with two important Christian commemorations: All Saints' Day on 1st November and All Souls' Day on 2nd November. Although closely connected, each has its own special meaning and provides an opportunity for reflection, gratitude and hope.

All Saints' Day celebrates the lives of the saints, both well-known figures throughout Christian history and the countless ordinary people whose lives have been marked by kindness, courage, faith and service to others. It reminds us that making a positive difference in the world does not always require extraordinary achievements. Often, it is the small, everyday acts of generosity, compassion and selflessness that leave the greatest legacy.



All Souls' Day is a time when Christians, particularly within the Catholic tradition, remember and pray for those who have died. It is an opportunity to honour the memory of family members, friends and others who have touched our lives. Churches often mark the occasion with special services, prayers and the lighting of candles, symbolising the enduring light of love, faith and hope.

These commemorations have particular resonance within our school community. At The Blue Coat School, our history, traditions and heritage remind us of the importance of looking beyond ourselves and recognising our responsibilities towards others. Our school motto, Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – Not for Oneself, but for All, reflects the very principles of service, generosity and compassion celebrated at this time of year.

BONFIRE NIGHT – ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS, STAY SAFE!



Following Bonfire Night yesterday, Friday 5th November, we hope our families enjoyed the celebrations safely. As fireworks may continue over the coming days, it is important that we remind our young people of the dangers associated with fireworks and the responsibility we all share in keeping ourselves and others safe.

We strongly encourage all students and families to attend organised, professionally managed fireworks displays rather than setting off fireworks at home. These events provide an opportunity to enjoy the excitement and spectacle of fireworks in a safer, controlled environment, with appropriate safety measures in place.

Fireworks are not toys. They contain explosive materials and can cause devastating injuries, including serious burns, permanent damage to eyesight and, in some circumstances, life-changing consequences.

Playing with fireworks, throwing them, carrying them around in public or using them to frighten others is extremely dangerous and completely unacceptable. What might seem like a harmless prank can have tragic consequences for individuals, families and the wider community.

We ask parents and carers to reinforce these important safety messages at home, reminding children never to pick up discarded fireworks, attempt to relight fireworks that have failed to ignite, or handle fireworks without appropriate adult supervision. We should also remember the distress that fireworks can cause to vulnerable individuals, young children and animals.

At The Blue Coat School, our expectations of being Ready, Responsible and Respectful extend well beyond the school gates. Bonfire Night is another opportunity for our students to demonstrate these values by making sensible choices, looking after their friends and showing consideration for others. Please leave fireworks to the professionals and help ensure that Bonfire Night is remembered for all the right reasons. We wish all our families a safe and enjoyable evening!

A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS AT BLUE COAT

Christmas preparations are well underway at The Blue Coat School, with students getting creative as they make a range of sustainable items ready for the Christmas markets.

Students have been giving old school uniform a festive new lease of life, transforming blazers into decorative bows, ties into beautiful rose baubles and old jumpers into yarn to crochet Christmas tree ornaments. It's a fantastic example of how unwanted materials can be reused and reimagined rather than thrown away.





FROM BLUE COAT TO OXFORD: AN INSPIRING JOURNEY OF ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

I'm currently in my third year studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at the University of Oxford, at St Peter's College, and looking back, it's amazing how much I've learned and experienced since leaving Blue Coat. University has been an incredibly exciting journey, not just academically, but also in terms of the people I've met, the opportunities I've discovered and the confidence I've gained along the way. One of the things I've enjoyed most has been getting involved in everything university life has to offer. From representing Oxford in fencing as part of the Blues (first) team, to getting involved in student leadership, women's representation and finance societies, I've had the chance to explore interests I might never have expected to pursue. Over the summer, I also completed four internships at different finance firms, which gave me the opportunity to experience the industry first-hand, develop new skills and explore potential career paths. I've also been fortunate enough to recently receive a scholarship for academic achievement in Politics, which has been a particularly rewarding moment. Some of my favourite memories, however, have come from the everyday experiences of university life, whether that's spending time with friends, meeting people from completely different backgrounds or simply trying something new.

If I could give one piece of advice to current Blue Coat students, it would be to never rule yourself out of an opportunity before you've even tried. It's easy to look at certain universities, careers or experiences and assume they're for other people, but you really never know what's possible until you give yourself a chance. Don't feel that you need to have everything figured out, either. Some of the most valuable opportunities I've had at university have been things I hadn't even considered when I was at school. I'd encourage students to pursue what genuinely interests them, even if it means trying something unfamiliar or taking a slightly unexpected direction. Looking back, some of the most valuable parts of my university experience have had little to do with academics, but instead with the people I've met, the things I've got involved in and the opportunities I've taken along the way. I'm incredibly grateful for the foundations Blue Coat gave me, and I hope current students make the most of their time there while feeling excited about everything that lies ahead. My advice would simply be to make the most of what's available to you, be willing to try things you might not initially see yourself doing, and don't let self-doubt stop you from pursuing an opportunity.

Stephanie Currie





AARAV BRINGS HOME WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS



Aarav had a very successful week away participating at the World Championships for Biathle, Triathle and Laser Run in Madeira, Portugal.

He came away with a bronze medal for the individual U13 Laser Run and a Team GB gold medal. He also participated in the triathle leading the race into the open water swim but unfortunately got injured and fell back and didn't achieve a medal.

Luckily this event was mostly over the half term holidays but we still needed a couple of days off school due to the travel time and length of the event.

Thank you to the school for your continued support.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM FOR SIXTH FORM

Each A Level subject has provided additional guidance to develop their understanding beyond the curriculum delivered in lessons. This is to maximise the use of their time in the independent study sessions. For example this half term Economics are encouraging students to engage with the budget. To delve into who is the "winners" or the "losers" and why. They have also asked to engage with

- The OBR's *Economic and Fiscal Outlook,* published alongside the Budget. Read the overview chapter only: https://obr.uk
- One piece of independent analysis, from either the Resolution Foundation (https://www.resolutionfoundation.org), which looks at the effect on households and living standards, or the IFS (https://ifs.org.uk), which looks at tax, spending and fiscal rules
- Two newspaper responses with different political leanings, for example The Guardian and The Telegraph, or the FT and The Times. Note where they agree and where they disagree.

In the world of the classics, students have been looking into Ovid's Metamorphoses and reading a short article about the recent cinema version of the Odyssey. Leading to asking students to reflect on "Why students should continue to study Classics".



Geographers are looking into Hazards, Risk and Reliance. Encouraging students to read Pluvial Flooding in Urban Areas: The invisible Hazard. Guiding students to focus on the relationship between physical hazard, exposure, vulnerability and resilience. Culminating in the students completing a urban flood – risk for Liverpool.

Departments have developed reading lists that complement both independent study and classroom content. The texts have been carefully selected to extend students' knowledge beyond the curriculum, strengthen university applications, and encourage them to consider their classroom learning within a broader academic context.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER: SIXTH FORM TOY DRIVE FOR ALDER HEY

This Christmas, our Sixth Form Charity Team, led by Emilia and Faridah, will be launching a whole-school Toy Drive in support of Alder Hey Children's Charity, helping to bring joy to young patients spending the festive season in hospital. The initiative aims to collect 400 new toys and gifts from across the school community, with donations being gathered, stored in school and delivered directly to Alder Hey Children's Hospital at the end of the collection period. To achieve this ambitious goal, each form group has been challenged to donate approximately 10 gifts, with around 60 donations per year group, helping us reach our whole-school target of 400 items.

Donation Categories

To ensure gifts are suitable for children of all ages, different year groups will be encouraged to focus on particular age ranges:

KS3: Babies and Toddlers (0-3 years)

Suggested donations include:

- Musical toys
- Sensory toys
- Arts and crafts sets
- Rattles
- Storybooks

KS4: Young Children (4-10 years)

Suggested donations include:

- Simple jigsaws and puzzles
- Plastic toys
- Character-themed toys (e.g. Disney, Bluey, Peppa Pig, Barbie)
- Arts and crafts activities

KS5: Tweens and Teens (11-16 years)

Suggested donations include:

- Gift cards
- Headphones
- Portable speakers
- Toiletry gift sets
- Self-care items
- Stationery
- Books and journals



Important Donation Guidelines

To meet Alder Hey's requirements, all gifts must be:

✅ Brand new
✅ Unwrapped
✅ Safe and suitable for children

Unfortunately, the charity cannot accept:

❌ Second-hand toys
❌ Clothing
❌ Very large toys
❌ Perishable food items

These requirements will be clearly communicated through assemblies, posters and form-time announcements.

Driving the Christmas Challenge

To encourage participation and create some festive excitement, students are developing a Christmas stocking-themed donation tracker, which will show our progress towards the 400-toy target. Updates will be shared regularly through Teams and displayed around school.
Specially designed posters will also be placed around the site, while assemblies and notices will help keep the campaign at the forefront of everyone's minds throughout the collection period.

Collection and Delivery

The toy drive will run from 23 November until 4 December, with daily collections taking place from form groups. Donations will be securely stored within school before being delivered to Alder Hey on 4 December by members of the Sixth Form team.

Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for children and families facing hospital stays. Through this toy drive, our students hope to make a real difference by ensuring that as many young patients as possible receive a special gift during the festive season.

Please support this fantastic cause if you can and help us make Christmas brighter for children who need it most.

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN THE UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

This year saw a record number of students from Blue Coat take part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Mathematical Challenge, with an impressive 243 students from Years 11-13 participating, alongside one enthusiastic Year 10 student entering for the first time.

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a national charity that promotes the enjoyment and study of mathematics through enrichment activities and competitions. The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a prestigious nationwide competition designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and critical thinking through a series of challenging multiple-choice questions.

Our students achieved some exceptional results:

- 32 Gold Awards
- 62 Silver Awards
- 83 Bronze Awards
- 28 students qualified for the European Senior Kangaroo
- 4 students qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1

UK Maths Trust

These results represent a tremendous achievement and reflect the dedication, resilience and mathematical talent of our students. Achieving a Gold Award places students amongst the highest-performing mathematicians in the competition nationally, while qualification for the European Senior Kangaroo and the British Mathematical Olympiad requires outstanding performances against some of the UK's strongest young mathematicians.

A special congratulations goes to Aaron (Year 12), who achieved the highest score in the school, an outstanding accomplishment in such a competitive field.



We are incredibly proud of all students who chose to challenge themselves by taking part. Their success highlights not only their mathematical ability but also their willingness to embrace difficult problems and think creatively. We look forward to seeing how our students perform in the next stages of these prestigious competitions.

Well done to everyone involved on a fantastic set of results and for helping Blue Coat achieve its highest-ever participation in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge.

CAREERS BREAKFAST INSPIRES STUDENTS WITH INSIGHT INTO DEVOPS

Students were treated to an engaging and inspirational Careers Breakfast this week as we welcomed Ben Weston from Forge, who shared his experiences of working in the fast-growing field of DevOps.

Ben introduced students to the wide range of careers available within the IT industry, including coding, website development, cybersecurity and systems management. He explained the different qualifications and pathways into the sector before reflecting on his own career journey.

One of the most valuable messages Ben shared was the importance of resilience. He spoke openly about how his original plans changed when he did not achieve the A-level results he had hoped for. Rather than allowing this setback to define his future, Ben took an alternative route by completing a foundation year at the University of Liverpool before continuing towards his career goals. His story demonstrated that success does not always follow a straight path and that determination, adaptability and hard work can help overcome obstacles along the way. The session was highly interactive, giving students a real insight into the world of DevOps. Ben captivated the audience by displaying a live map of cyberattacks taking place across the globe and explaining how his role involves protecting Forge's websites and systems from threats such as these.

Students were then challenged to design their own website concepts, with Ben bringing their ideas to life and demonstrating some of the coding and technical skills used in his day-to-day work. The enthusiasm in the room was clear to see, with students contributing creative ideas and asking thoughtful questions throughout.
It was a fantastic morning that not only highlighted the exciting opportunities available within IT and DevOps but also reinforced the importance of perseverance and finding your own path to success. We would like to thank Ben for giving up his time to inspire our students and provide such a memorable and informative experience.

LIVIA'S FESTIVE DESIGN TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Congratulations to Livia in Year 12, whose fantastic artwork has been selected as the winning design in The Blue Coat School's Christmas Card Competition 2026.



Livia's colourful design features a festive squirrel wrapped up in a Blue Coat-inspired scarf, complete with a Christmas pudding and candy cane. Set against a wintry blue background with snowflakes and decorative lettering, the artwork combines plenty of Christmas character with a distinctive Blue Coat touch.



Livia's winning artwork will now feature on the school's official Christmas cards for 2026. The cards are available to purchase in packs of 10 for £10, with all profits supporting the Enrichment Fund, helping to provide further opportunities and experiences for Blue Coat students.

A huge well done to Livia on creating such an imaginative and eye-catching design, and congratulations on being chosen as this year's winner!



KEY DATES

Date	Event
Monday 09th November 2026 - Friday 13th November 2026	Y10 & Y12 Internal Assessment Week
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th November 2026	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday 30th November 2026 - Friday 4th December 2026	Y11 Mock Exams Week
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 11th December 2026	Christmas Markets
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Term Ends for Students at 3.30pm
Thursday 17th December 2026	A-Level Prizegiving Event
Wednesday 6th January 2027	Students Return
Monday 11th January - Friday 15th January 2027	Year 13 Mock Exams
Thursday 14th January 2027	Year 10 Parents’ Evening
Saturday 16th January 2027	External Sixth Form Information Talk and Tour
Friday 27th January 2027	Year 11 Options Afternoon
Friday 27th January 2027	GCSE French trip to Manchester

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Non Sibi Sed Omnibus



SEND Coffee Evening

PARENT MEET & GREET

Join us for an informal coffee evening to meet our SEND team and find out more about the support we have on offer for our SEND students.

Wednesday 18th November | **4:00pm – 5:00pm** | **The Blue Coat School**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:

- SEND support available in school
- The Graduated Response process (Assess, Plan, Do, Review)
- External agencies and specialist services
- The ASD Training Team from Liverpool City Council will be available to speak to.

TO ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL:

senco@bluecoatschool.org.uk

The Blue Coat School Christmas Card 2026

The school's Christmas cards are now on sale until Monday 23rd November, 8pm via Parentmail



Congratulations to the winning artist, Y12's Livia

Cost is £10 for a pack of 10 A6 cards,

Cards will be delivered to students
w/c 30th November

Inside message to read:
'Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year"

All profits will support the Enrichment Fund

Any queries, please email seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk