



BRIGHT MINDS

BRIGHT FUTURES



A CENTRE OF DISCOVERY AND KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL



At Blue Coat our students achieve the very best. Our vibrant community of Old Blues is an everyday reminder of the amazing successes and achievements that our students go on to achieve once they leave the school.

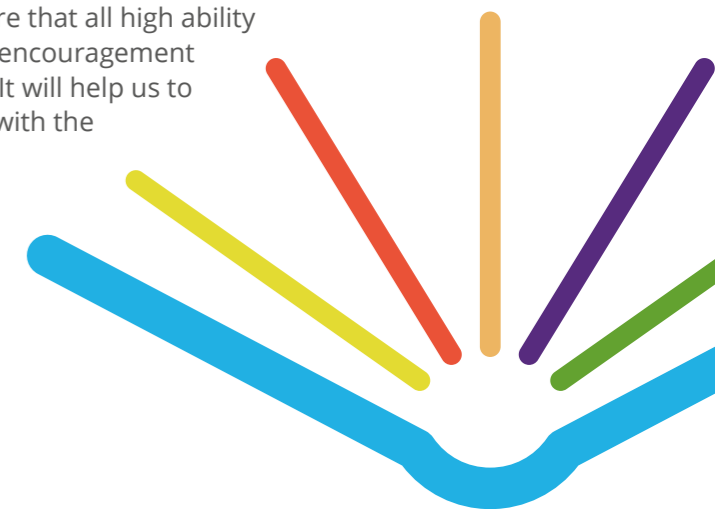
We have outstanding students, and we believe outstanding students deserve the very best learning environment, resources and equipment to support them in achieving their potential. Blue Coat students are the leaders of the future, striving for excellence in all they do. They inspire us to be ambitious at a time when School budgets do not always allow us to realise all of our goals and ambitions. It is because of their bright minds and the future that they represent that they inspire us to be bold and ambitious in our fundraising efforts.

Through our Bright Minds Bright Futures fundraising campaign we will be able to create a state-of-the-art Learning Resource Centre (LRC) which will become a hub for learning in School; a space to collaborate and a space to breathe. Bright Minds Bright Futures provides a unique opportunity for the School community to make a big impact on the lives of our current and future students and to be advocates for their ambitious futures.

But it's not just about Blue Coat students. Our new LRC will enable us to create a step-change in our social mobility programme, providing the space and resource to engage with more local children from disadvantaged backgrounds, striving to ensure that all high ability children in the local area have the information, opportunity and encouragement to apply to Blue Coat, regardless of their financial circumstance. It will help us to increase the life chances of more local children, providing them with the very brightest of futures.

I hope you will enjoy finding out more about this exciting campaign, what it will mean for Blue Coat students and local children, and that you will feel inspired to support us in whatever way you can.

Mr MA Pennington
Headteacher



WE BELIEVE OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS DESERVE AN OUTSTANDING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Over the past few years we have delivered an ambitious redevelopment programme of the School estate, improving facilities for students throughout the School. The East Wing has been renovated to provide an inspirational environment for our Sixth Form students, as well as new classrooms being created for the art, design technology and religious studies departments. Shirley Hall is also undergoing a much-needed refurbishment.

The School library is physically at the heart of the School, beneath Shirley Hall on the lower ground floor. The library should be an intellectually stimulating environment that inspires our students and ignites their creativity and passion for learning. However, in its current state it falls far short of this promise and we believe our students deserve more.

The library is outdated and uninspiring, with bad acoustics making quiet study or reading for pleasure almost impossible. The space does not allow for flexible ways of working, with no dedicated areas for quiet study or group work. ICT is basic, with a small number of fixed machines and no WIFI access or mobile devices available for student use. Resources are limited, with less than a third of the recommended book stock for a school the size of Blue Coat, with only 18% of current students taking out books for study or pleasure.

We asked our students what they think of the current library and what they would want from a new LRC to help them become the best they can be. It is their enthusiasm and ambition that has driven this project and has inspired us to be bold in our vision.



FROM DINING HALL TO LIBRARY TO LRC: THE STORY OF THE SPACE

The School library is situated at the heart of the School, directly beneath Shirley Hall. From 1906, when the School relocated from the city centre to what was then the countryside of Wavertree, the space was the School Dining Hall, and many Old Blues will remember the long wooden tables that stretched across the length of the room. In 2002 the Dining Hall was relocated and the space was converted into the School library, relocating from its previous home in the current Religious Studies classroom. For many years the library was known as The Croston Library, named after Old Blue James Croston and his wife Doris Couch who gifted their entire estate to the School in their Will to benefit future generations of Blue Coat students.





WHAT OUR 'BRIGHT MINDS' TOLD US

It's all about our students. Our students are our story. They are our heritage and they are our future.

We challenged our students and staff to be bold in their vision of how the existing library could be transformed to create a new state-of-the-art Learning Resource Centre. This is what they told us they want:

- More resources (books, journals, audiobooks, online resources) to support academic studies, personal development, careers and leisure reading
- Attractive and colourful – an uplifting space where you want to be and where you want to learn
- Dedicated areas for quiet study, group collaboration and reading for pleasure
- A modern design which doesn't erase the rich heritage of the space
- A flexible, changeable space
- An oasis of calm – somewhere to read for pleasure
- A space for group working and to share ideas
- State-of-the-art ICT and access to WIFI



"We want our library to be somewhere where we are inspired to do more and learn more."



A SPACE TO COLLABORATE

Blue Coat students are the leaders of the future and we recognise that they need the space to collaborate, to inspire creative and entrepreneurial thinking, and to develop their leadership skills.

The new LRC will incorporate six sound-proofed glass meeting pods on the mezzanine level as well as dedicated soft seating areas to encourage relaxed and informal group working.

The new LRC will inspire Blue Coat students to think bigger and better, be it through discovery reading or collaborative learning opportunities. The LRC will provide a space to promote individuality, unconventional thinking and creative problem solving, providing students with the resources and the environment needed to inspire them to achieve and thrive, both during their time at School and when they leave us for pastures new.

As a school we are lucky to have an amazing global community of Old Blues keen to support current students of the School, and we will be excited to utilise this new space to host inspirational guest lectures and events from our Old Blues, as well as friends of the School and external guest speakers, on a range of topics and areas of expertise.



“With their inquisitive minds and an infectious love of learning our new Learning Resource Centre will open up a world of opportunities for our students. Access to an inspiring modern facility, rich in resources and technology, will enable them to explore what matters to them.”

Mr John Adamson, Spanish teacher

“A library isn’t just somewhere to find a book. It’s a place where we can unlock knowledge, share our thoughts and challenge opinions.”

Year 9 student

A SPACE TO BREATHE

Our students have told us that they need a dedicated space to relax, to breathe, to just 'be'. The new LRC will provide that space, an oasis of calm at the heart of the school helping our students to be mindful and supporting their mental health and wellbeing.

Research increasingly shows the importance of reading for pleasure and the new space will provide dedicated quiet areas with comfortable soft seating and improved acoustics so that group working and quiet study and reading for pleasure can co-exist. The National Literacy Trust believes that reading for pleasure is the most important indicator of the future success of a child, and we also know the positive impact that reading for pleasure can have on the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

"The new LRC will provide an essential oasis of calm where our students can seek a break from the rigorous academic demands of their school day – a place to relax, reflect and recharge within a purposeful and calm atmosphere."

Ms Scilla Yates, Deputy Headteacher, Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

"Leisure reading makes students more articulate, develops higher order reasoning, and promotes critical reasoning."

National Endowment for the Arts

"Reading for pleasure can, of course, transport readers to new and different realms, fuelling their imagination and making them better writers. It also provides an essential opportunity, in an increasingly stressful world, for young people to reflect thoughtfully upon their own lives and upon the lives of others."

Mr Tim Kershaw, Head of English

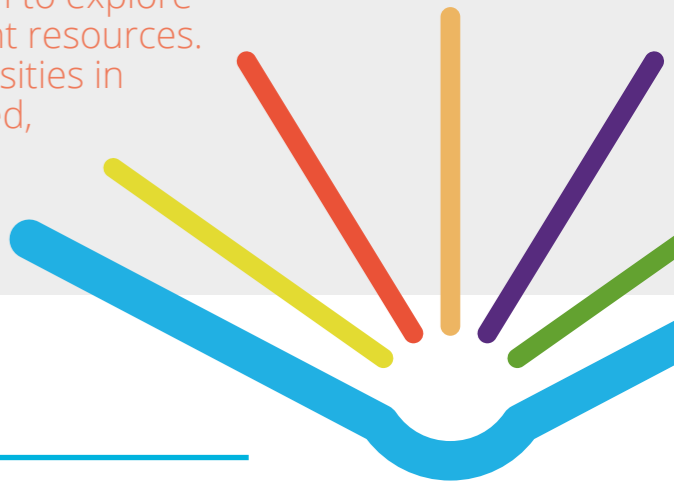




THE RESOURCE HUB

The ground floor of the new LRC will centre around a Resource Hub, providing more books and online resources to stretch our high ability students, equipping them with the resources needed to further their studies, and preparing our Sixth Form students for higher education. There will also be dedicated resources to support students' personal development and careers guidance, as well as a wider selection of literature to encourage reading for pleasure.

“It will be fantastic for students of all ages to have easy access to a wide range of online science publications. This will enable us to carry out more project and investigative work with younger students, and really stretch our most able students throughout the school, allowing them to explore their interests beyond the scope of our current resources. Our Sixth Form students aiming for top universities in this country and abroad will be better prepared, through a deeper understanding of current research areas.” Mrs Michelle Maskell, Head of Chemistry



IMPROVED ICT AND ACCESS TO WIFI

ICT improvements are a priority across the School estate, and the new LRC provides an opportunity to provide students with the equipment and technology that they need to succeed. Mobile devices with WIFI access will be a key feature to enable flexible working, as well as providing access to online resources to support students in their learning and personal development.



HELPING US REACH MORE LOCAL CHILDREN FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS

The State of the Nation Report 2017 by the Social Mobility Commission cited Liverpool city region as one of the areas in England with the lowest chance of social mobility. We believe in the power of education and the impact that this can have on children's life chances, goals and aspirations, therefore social mobility in Liverpool is an important thing for us to tackle.

We have always been an inclusive School and we have an outstanding record of securing progress for high ability children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Over the past 5 years we have put in place a range of strategies to give children who are eligible for free school meals a better chance of gaining a place at the School including:

- Increasing our student admission number from 120 to 180 so that more children can benefit from a Blue Coat education
- Setting aside 27 places in Year 7 specifically for high ability disadvantaged children
- Engaging with primary school Headteachers
- Developing outreach opportunities to help children and parents from disadvantaged backgrounds consider what a Blue Coat education would offer them.

Whilst these strategies are working, and the number of Year 7 students eligible for free school meals has doubled in the past two years, we're committed to doing more, and we know that we can only achieve this goal by working in close partnership with others through inspiring and engaging outreach activities.

A dedicated space to deliver more outreach activities

Our new Learning Resource Centre will become the hub of our social mobility programme, providing a dedicated space to deliver more outreach activities to encourage more primary school aged children to consider Blue Coat as an option for them.

In addition, the National Literacy Trust's research suggests that young people who are eligible for free school meals are more likely to use their school library than their peers who are not eligible, particularly out of school hours. As part of our long-term plans we are keen to build on our current after school opening times, to explore extending the LRC's opening hours, particularly during exam periods to provide the space and resources that our students need to thrive.







A SPACE SO AMBITIOUS, WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE

Our students have created a bold and ambitious vision for a new LRC, and with your help, we can make their vision a reality.

Through Bright Minds Bright Futures we are seeking to raise the £1.2 million needed to create this new space for our students. We have already raised £200,000, but we need the help of the entire School community – Old Blues, parents, staff, students and friends old and new – as well as charitable trusts and corporate partners, to raise the remaining £1 million.

The sooner we do this the sooner we can create this amazing new facility to help our 'bright minds' become the very best they can be.

We hope you will feel inspired to play your part in creating this fantastic new LRC, not just for our current students but for local children that we hope will join Blue Coat in the future.

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about Bright Minds Bright Futures please contact the Development Team at:
development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk
0151 733 1407 ext 207

“Books give knowledge. Knowledge brings wisdom. Wisdom is power!
#readbooksandrultheworld”

Jacob, Year 10

Bright Minds Bright Futures is a fundraising campaign administered by The Blue Coat School, a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, Company Number 07950827.

Photography: Sane Seven



BRIGHT MINDS

BRIGHT FUTURES



www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/support-us/brightmindsbrightfutures

 @LiverpoolBCS