

The Blue Coat School Liverpool

Non sibi sed omnibus

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24th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Curriculum Review – Parent Consultation

Over the last few months, we have been undertaking a curriculum review. This has considered the current DfE review undertaken by Dr. Becky Francis. The key findings address issues of the breadth and depth of the curriculum delivery; they propose review of EBacc performance measures; it calls for a review of curriculum content to increase aspects of diversity; calls for the reduction of the impact of exams on pupil wellbeing and the volume of exams that causes this.

We are writing to invite you to take part in a consultation on changes to our curriculum. As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering an ambitious, balanced and sustainable curriculum for all pupils, the school is proposing to adopt a three-year Key Stage 3, a two-year Key Stage 4, and an enhanced Key Stage 5 structure from September 2026. These changes have been developed alongside curriculum leaders, external specialists and Trustees. We now wish to seek your views before the curriculum structure is finalised.

Summary of the Proposed Changes

1. Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) extended to three years

This ensures that all pupils receive their full entitlement to the national curriculum, including strong provision in the arts, technology, languages, humanities and computing. This structure restores the breadth that is fundamental to a high-quality curriculum.

2. Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11) delivered over two years

Students will continue to have 50 lessons per cycle, exactly as they do in KS3, ensuring no loss of learning time. The pupils will be expected to sit 10 GCSE subjects not 11 GCSE subjects. These will be in 4 option blocks not 5, reducing overload and allowing pupils to specialise at the appropriate time.

The school will still be offering more GCSE's than nearly all other high performing selective grammar schools in the country. Option blocks will be built to allow us to maintain our commitment and pathways to offer to languages, economics, humanities, creative arts and PE at Key Stage 5. The same range of subjects will be on offer to all pupils.

3. Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form) strengthened with increased teaching time

A-level subjects will receive an increase to 10 lessons per cycle, providing more depth, even better preparation for exams, and stronger academic outcomes. This supports progression to competitive universities and ensures the long-term viability of a wide range of subjects.



Why These Changes Are Being Proposed

- To ensure all pupils have enough time to study the full national curriculum before specialising.
- To provide fairness for pupils arriving from more than 100 primary schools with varying KS2 experiences.
- To improve support for SEND and disadvantaged pupils through longer foundation-stage teaching
- To protect subjects such as Music, Art, Technology, Languages and Humanities by ensuring strong KS3 participation.
- To reduce pressure and workload during the GCSE years.
- To strengthen A-level provision, giving students more teaching time and increasing success at KS5.
- To create a long-term sustainable curriculum in the context of national funding formulas.

There is no reduction in overall curriculum time across Years 7–11. Instead, time is redistributed to ensure depth, breadth and balance.

The new structure would apply to pupils who are in the current Years 7 and 8 from September 2026, and eventually to all year groups as they progress through the school. The current Year 8 will now make their option choices in the spring term of Year 9.

Current Year 9 and Year 10 pupils will **not** be affected by the proposed change. Year 11 pupils will have 10 lessons instead of 9 at A Level.

We welcome feedback from parents, carers and the wider school community. You can respond in the following ways:

- **Email:** Please send comments to k.crute-jain@bluecoatschool.org.uk by 10th December 2025.
- **In person:** A parent information evening will be held on Friday 5th December at 4.00pm

The consultation period will run from **Monday 24th November to December 10th, 2025.**

Following this, all responses will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees before a final decision is made.

Our aim is to ensure that every pupil benefits from a curriculum that is academically ambitious, broad, balanced and sustainable. These proposals support strong educational outcomes while protecting the full range of subjects that make our school distinctive.

We encourage all parents and carers to share their views. Your feedback is an important part of this process.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K Sexton
Headteacher

