

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CLASS OF 2025 GCSE PRIZEGIVING



The Class of 2025 were formally honoured for their outstanding achievements at this year's GCSE Prizegiving Afternoon, held on Thursday 4th December in the historic surroundings of Shirley Hall. The event served as an opportunity to recognise the dedication, perseverance, and personal growth shown by our students throughout their GCSE journey.

Students, teachers, parents, carers, and friends gathered together for a wonderful celebration that reflected both individual excellence and the collective spirit of the year group. The afternoon opened with a warm welcome from the Headteacher, who spoke proudly of the determination the cohort had demonstrated through challenging and transformative years in secondary education.

A particular highlight of the event was a keynote speech delivered by Faryal Iqbal, Old Blue and distinguished researcher in environmental science. Faryal shared reflections on his own school experiences, speaking passionately about resilience, curiosity, and the importance of carving your own path. She encouraged the students to embrace both success and setbacks as essential parts of learning, leaving the audience inspired and uplifted.

Applause filled the hall as each prizewinner crossed the stage to collect their certificate and be celebrated by their peers. A number of students were honoured with special accolades acknowledging extraordinary dedication to the school community. These moments highlighted the diverse talents and accomplishments that make the Class of 2025 so unique.

The afternoon was enriched by musical performances from current students, whose talent added both elegance and joy to the occasion. Families and staff were invited to stay afterwards for refreshments, where the celebrations continued with photographs, conversation, and plenty of shared pride.

From the first welcome to the final applause, the Prizegiving Afternoon was a memorable tribute to a year group that have shown exceptional resilience, strength of character, and commitment to excellence. The entire school community looks forward with great excitement to seeing all that the Class of 2025 will achieve in the years ahead.

"It was wonderful to see our students shine and to share in the celebration of their accomplishments. We are incredibly proud of every one of them."

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients and well done to the whole Class of 2025 for everything they have achieved so far.



PUPIL VOICE DRIVES REAL CHANGE FOR SAFER SCHOOL STREETS

Over recent months, our School Council and a group of passionate pupils have raised concerns about traffic outside the school site, particularly unsafe parking and vehicles stopping on the zig-zag markings near our entrances. They spoke confidently about how these issues were putting pedestrians at risk and making daily travel to school more stressful than it should be.

Last week, representatives from the School Council met with our local MP, Paula Barker, to share these concerns and discuss how the community can work together to improve safety around our school. We are incredibly proud of how our students represented their peers - they spoke clearly, respectfully, and with a real sense of social responsibility.

We are pleased to report that their voices have already made a real impact.

There has been a visible increase in visits from both police officers and council transport teams during drop-off and pick-up times

Vehicles stopping illegally on Prince Alfred Road are now being challenged and moved on
New road safety markings have recently been installed to reinforce the rules and protect pedestrians

These actions directly reflect the concerns raised by pupils, a brilliant example of active citizenship and the power of speaking up to drive positive change.

A huge thank you to our students

Your commitment to making our community safer is something to celebrate. You have shown leadership, teamwork, and a genuine care for others.

A message to all families:

Please support this important campaign by:

- ✓ Following the traffic guidance and signage
 - ✓ Avoiding stopping on yellow zig-zags
- ✓ Parking safely and considerably further away and walking the final stretch
- ✓ Keeping crossings and pavements clear to protect pupils and families

Together, we can ensure everyone arrives and leaves school safely and calmly each day.



DISSECTION DAY IN BIOLOGY

In A Level Biology, practical work is much more than a break from theory - it is a vital part of how students learn, think, and develop as scientists. Practical investigations allow students to apply biological concepts in real-life contexts, developing key skills that go far beyond the classroom.

Through hands-on experimentation, students strengthen their ability to observe accurately, record data reliably, and analyse results with a critical eye. They also learn to problem-solve when experiments don't go exactly to plan, just like in real scientific research!

This week, our Year 12 students performed a fish head dissection - a challenging but fascinating practical that brought their recent studies on anatomy and gas exchange to life. Students demonstrated excellent teamwork and precision as they identified key structures, strengthening both their observational and technical dissection skills.

The lively atmosphere and the excitement of discovery definitely overshadowed the usual Friday chip-day aroma - the Biology labs were temporarily transformed by a much fishier scent!

These activities play a key role in preparing students for their Practical Endorsement and assessments, building confidence in core techniques such as dissection, microscopy, and handling equipment safely and responsibly.

Practical learning is also a powerful tool for memory and understanding. By actively doing science rather than just reading about it, students retain knowledge more effectively and recognise how theoretical ideas link together. This supports high-quality learning habits, including responding to feedback and improving work through dedicated reflection time - often referred to as DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time). Effective feedback, as recommended by research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), helps students take ownership of their progress and continually refine their scientific skills.



INSPIRING FUTURES: NHS CAREERS ASSEMBLY FOR YEAR 11

This week, students in Year 11 attended a special assembly focused on the wide range of careers available within the National Health Service. The session aimed to inspire our future healthcare professionals and guide them towards the next steps in their education and training.

Representatives from NHS Careers highlighted just how diverse the NHS workforce is, from doctors, nurses, and midwives, to physiotherapists, radiographers, pharmacists, paramedics, mental health specialists, and hundreds of other roles that help keep our health service running every day. Students were surprised to learn that around 50% of NHS careers are not medical, including opportunities in IT, engineering, finance, administration, and research.

The session also emphasised the importance of preparation and experience. Students were encouraged to:

- Explore different pathways - university degrees, apprenticeships, and vocational routes
- Gain work experience through hospital volunteering, GP placements, care homes, or local wellbeing programmes
- Develop key skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, and empathy
- Show passion for helping others and an understanding of the values of compassionate care

Y11 found the assembly incredibly valuable, gaining insight into what they can begin doing now to support their ambitions from researching entry requirements to joining extracurricular activities linked to science and care.

We are proud to see so many of our students aspiring to careers that make a positive difference to society.

The NHS Careers team was impressed by the maturity, curiosity, and enthusiasm shown by our students, a strong sign that the future of healthcare is in good hands.





ALADDIN SHINES AT CITY OF LIVERPOOL COLLEGE PERFORMED BY BEAP YOUTH THEATRE



Students from Blue Coat School took to the stage this week in a truly magical production of Aladdin, hosted at City of Liverpool College and performed by the incredibly talented BEAP Youth Theatre.

From the very first notes of the opening number, the audience was captivated by the professionalism, confidence, and charisma of the cast. The acting, singing, and dancing were all delivered to an exceptionally high standard, a level you would expect to see in a professional theatre.

Our outstanding Blue Coat performers - Keira McAuley, Alisha Chikuruwo, Emily Grady McCabe, Harriet Sholicar, Max Sholicar, Eti Conley, Asher Summerscales, Scarlett Coney, Lucas Jones, Reuban Fletcher, Shrevin Radhakrishnan, and Tessa Lake (Dance Captain) -all shone on stage. Their energy, teamwork, and love of performing were clear in every scene.

The cast brought the much-loved characters to life with style and humour. From the commanding Emperor to the dazzling Genie in the lamp, and the hilarious Widow Twankey, each performer made their role memorable and unique. The musical numbers were vibrant, the choreography precise, and the singing filled the theatre with excitement.

The production also benefited hugely from the hard work of backstage and technical teams, whose seamless scene changes and clever special effects helped bring Agrabah to life - the magic lamp certainly delivered its sparkle!

It was a night that showcased the dedication and immense talent of our pupils, leaving families and staff bursting with pride. Congratulations to all involved in BEAP Youth Theatre's spectacular performance of Aladdin - a true triumph of creativity, passion, and professionalism.



SAN SEBASTIÁN EXCHANGE VISIT

We are delighted to welcome our exchange partners from San Sebastián this week!

San Sebastián, located on the beautiful northern coast of Spain in the Basque Country, is famous for its stunning beaches, rich culture and world-renowned food scene. Our students have been building friendships with their Spanish partners for several months, and now they finally have the chance to meet in person.

Our visitors arrived at school on Tuesday 3rd December, where they were warmly welcomed by staff and by the students who hosted them during their stay. In the evening, everyone came together for a festive Christmas dinner, the perfect opportunity to break the ice and begin creating shared memories.

The programme for the week included a range of lessons, collaborative activities, and cultural experiences. These were designed to help students put their language learning into action while discovering school life in another country.

Why School Exchanges Matter

- Exchanges are a powerful part of language learning. They:
- Build confidence in speaking and listening in a real-world context
 - Strengthen independence, resilience and personal growth
 - Promote mutual respect, cultural awareness and global understanding
 - Create lasting international friendships
 - Offer staff valuable opportunities for professional collaboration and exchange of ideas

We are incredibly grateful to the host families who are opening their homes and providing a warm welcome to our guests. Their generosity and support are the heart of this exchange programme, making the experience authentic and memorable for everyone involved.

A fantastic week of learning, friendship and cultural celebration!



EXPLORING LANGUAGES THROUGH FILM AND CULTURE

This term, our A Level linguists have had two exciting opportunities to deepen their understanding of language, culture, and cinema.

On Tuesday 2nd December, our A Level Spanish students enjoyed a special cinema trip where they explored Spanish-speaking culture through film. Watching an authentic Spanish-language production allowed students to experience the language as it is naturally spoken, while also providing them with valuable insight into the themes and issues that shape Spanish society today.

The very next day, Wednesday 3rd December, our A Level French students travelled to Home Cinema in Manchester for a French cinema screening followed by an interactive workshop. Students not only watched a French film but also took part in activities designed to build their confidence using film analysis and cultural interpretation; key skills for A Level success.

These events play an important role in enriching the curriculum. Studying literature and film helps students:

- Understand cultural identity
- Analyse characters, themes and historical context
- Improve listening and comprehension skills
- Appreciate the perspectives of other countries and communities

Both trips were inspiring experiences that brought language learning to life beyond the classroom. Our students represented the school brilliantly and returned with renewed enthusiasm for their studies.

We look forward to offering even more cultural learning opportunities in the future - ensuring our linguists continue to grow not just as language speakers, but as global citizens.



WORLD CARROM CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are delighted to share some exciting news from our school community. Rafael, one of our talented Year 10 students, has been selected to represent Team UK at the World Carrom Championship in the Maldives.

This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to Rafael's dedication, skill, and passion for the sport. Competing on the world stage is no small feat, and we couldn't be prouder to see him showcasing his talent internationally.

Please join us in wishing Rafael the very best of luck as he takes on this incredible challenge. We'll be cheering him on every step of the way!



BUILDING CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE: YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

This week, our Year 11 students took part in mock interviews, an invaluable opportunity designed to help them prepare for the exciting pathways ahead, whether that be sixth form, university, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

Students met with a range of interviewers, including staff and external professionals, who supported them in practising the skills needed to make a strong first impression. From speaking confidently about their strengths to answering challenging questions under pressure, each student gained experience that will benefit them for years to come.

Preparing for interviews at this stage has a huge impact on students' futures. These sessions help them to:

- 🗨️ Build communication skills
- 🧠 Develop self-awareness — understanding their achievements and ambitions
- 📅 Experience real interview structure and expectations
- 🌟 Grow confidence in presenting themselves professionally
- 🎯 Set clearer goals for post-16 pathways

Feedback from interviewers was very positive, praising the maturity, enthusiasm, and preparation shown by our students. Many Year 11s left feeling proud of what they have achieved and more aware of how to continue improving.

Mock interviews are an essential step in helping young people take ownership of their futures. We are proud of how well our students represented the school, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow into the leaders, innovators, and professionals they aspire to be.

🏀🏐🏆 SPORTS REPORT – THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS 🏀🏐🏆



Netball

Y7, Y8 & Y9 vs Archbishop Blanch (A)

Congratulations to our Year 8 and Year 9 teams, who won all their fixtures in an excellent display of teamwork and determination.

Y9 & Y10 – LSSP Netball Competition

A fantastic performance from both year groups, who topped their groups to reach the final. In a thrilling match, Year 10 narrowly defeated Year 9 with a score of 6–5.

Football

U12s vs St Mary's (A), Merseyside Cup

Despite a strong effort, our U12 team fell to a 4–0 defeat.

Valuable lessons learned as they continue to grow and improve this season.

Basketball

U15s vs Wirral Grammar U16s (A), English Schools

A competitive match with plenty of spirit from our U15s, who were edged out 62–47.



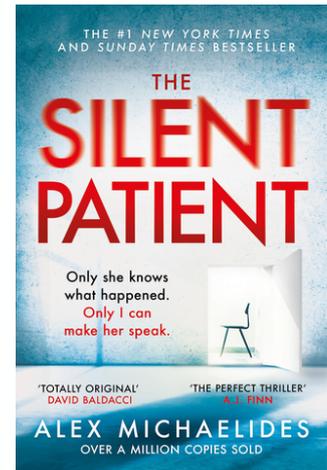
BOOK REVIEWS

The Silent Patient



The Silent Patient follows Alicia Berenson, a painter who becomes mute after murdering her husband, and Theo Faber, the psychotherapist determined to uncover her reasons. Through shifting perspectives and a series of revelations, the novel builds suspense and challenges the reader's trust in both characters. Its powerful twist deepens themes of trauma, obsession, and self-deception, while the vivid, tightly structured writing draws readers into the unfolding mystery. Overall, it is a gripping psychological thriller about silence and the secrets it conceals.

Jawata - 10 Seacole

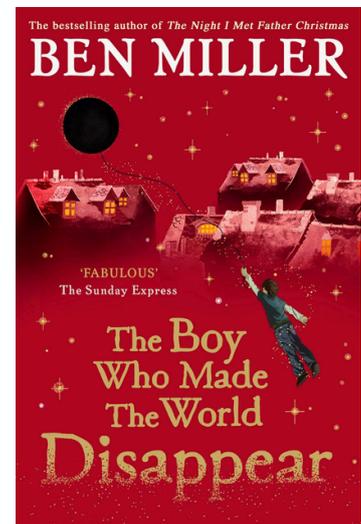


The Boy Who Made The World Disappear



The Boy Who Made The World Disappear was an absolutely amazing book because of its captivating elements and humour. This book is unique/interesting in many ways, such as the main plot and the main character's journey throughout the book. When I had finished reading this book, I couldn't stop thinking about the book (in general) and its moral because of its ending. If you enjoy humorous/fiction books, then this book is perfect.

Leo - 7 Seacole



HONGYANG (7TO)



MIA (8CU)



DANIEL (7TU)



The book of Useless Knowledge

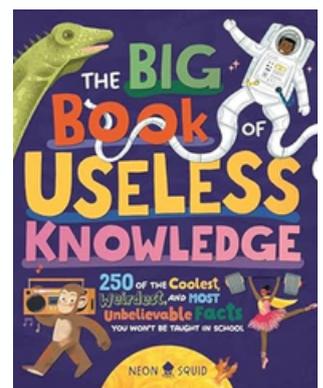


The book is about uncommon facts about a wide variety of topics-space, nature, humans and almost every major topic!

The book is very interesting, and it is nonfiction, so all the facts are real.

So if you want a fun book to read, this is the perfect book!!!

Keshoan - 7 Roscoe



SEACOLE HOUSE HOSTS 'THE BIG BRAIN-OFF' QUIZ!

This Wednesday, Secole House hosted a lively and competitive Charity Quiz Event for students in Years 10–13, bringing together our senior students for an afternoon filled with teamwork, quick thinking, and plenty of friendly rivalry. The event, held in aid of Whitechapel and Kind, aimed to raise funds for two incredible charities that support vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

The quiz featured a range of challenging rounds, each packed with thought-provoking and, at times, seriously taxing questions. Students were pushed to dig deep and work together under pressure.

After an exciting and closely fought contest, the overall winners were a Year 13 team from Turing House, who demonstrated an impressive breadth of knowledge and teamwork throughout the event. Congratulations to them on a well-earned victory!

A huge thank-you goes to Secole House for organising such a successful and enjoyable event, and to all the students who took part with such enthusiasm. Most importantly, we are proud that all proceeds from the afternoon will go directly to Whitechapel and Kind, supporting the vital work both charities do to help those in need.

Well done to everyone involved for making this a memorable afternoon of fun, fundraising, and community spirit!



🎄 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL 🎄

This December, our school community has come together in a truly generous spirit to support the Whitechapel Foodbank through our annual 12 Days of Christmas Foodbank Appeal. The initiative was officially launched during House assemblies, where students learned about the vital work Whitechapel does across the city to support individuals and families facing hardship. Their mission—to provide emergency food, compassion, and hope—resonated deeply with our students, inspiring an enthusiastic response right from day one.

Starting on 1st December, we introduced a Reverse Advent Calendar, inviting students to bring in a different essential item each day. Instead of opening a door to receive something, our school community has been opening their hearts to give something—small acts of kindness that collectively make a big impact. From tins and toiletries to festive treats and household staples, the donations have been thoughtful, generous, and steadily growing.

Adding a touch of Christmas magic to the appeal, our very own team of school “elves” have been hard at work behind the scenes. Each day, they visit form rooms to collect the donated items, sorting and organising them ready for the Foodbank’s collection. Their energy and commitment ensure that every contribution is handled with care and that the process runs smoothly throughout the appeal.

This project not only supports those who need it most but also reminds us of the power of community, compassion, and looking out for one another—values that lie at the heart of our school.

Thank you to every student, family, and staff member who has taken part so far. Let’s keep the momentum going as we continue our 12 days of giving and help make this festive season brighter for those in our city who need it most. 🎁🌟





BIOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025 - HABITATS



We're excited to announce this year's Biology Photography Competition! The theme is 'Habitats' and we want you to showcase animals, plants, or fungi within their wider ecosystem.

Focus on the biodiversity of your chosen habitat, whether it's a tiny microhabitat or a vast landscape.

Your photographs could:

Zoom in on a subject using macro-photography

Capture a wider perspective on land, underwater, or even from above!

Closing date: 18th December

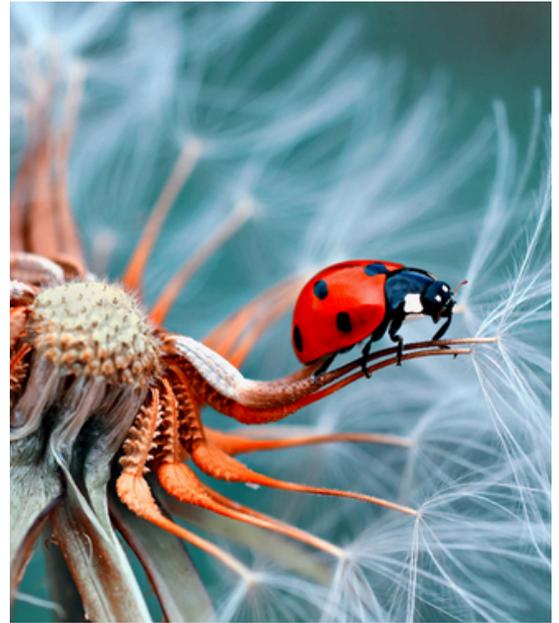
Please email your entries, marked 'Photography Competition', to Mrs Bruce.

Remember to Include:

Your name and form group

A brief description of what you've captured

We can't wait to see your creativity and the incredible habitats you discover!



SPECIMEN DRAWING COMPETITION



Create an A3 artwork showing plant or animal anatomy

Draw, paint, sketch, or go digital!

Closing date: 18th December 2025

Submit to Mrs Bruce in N14

Need paper? See Mrs Bruce in N14.

Prizes and achievement points to be won - get creative!



THE BLUE COAT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale!

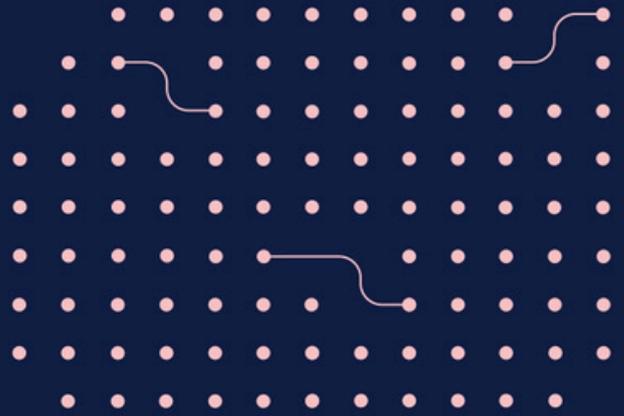
We've got amazing prizes this year including theatre tickets, experience and vouchers, and every penny raised goes directly to support our students

Get your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/BCSRaffle2025>



Lock up your identity

Protect yourself like you protect your home or car



Keep valuables out of sight

- ✓ Hide your passwords in a password manager
- ✓ Don't share your passwords across systems or with anyone
- ✓ Never write passwords down



Lock your doors

- ✓ Follow your school's password policy
- ✓ Use multi-factor authentication wherever possible
- ✓ Lock your computer and other devices when not in use



Slow down

- ✓ If an email or message urges you to act quickly, slow down
- ✓ Never respond to messages that make you feel panicky or stressed
- ✓ Allocate mindful time to your emails



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UPCOMING EVENTS



The Blue Coat School

Winter Market & Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 7th December
12.00pm - 3.00pm

Celebrate the festive season at our school Christmas Market!
Stop by for refreshments and listen to our choirs' Carol Concert rehearsal

*Gift Stalls
Student Stalls
Tombola
Festive refreshments*

Watch the choir rehearse in the Chapel

Open to the Blue Coat Community
including family, friends, Old Blues and local residents

Tickets £3, [follow this link!](#)

12 Days of Christmas

Monday December 2nd - Tinned Meat/Fish
Tuesday December 3rd - Milk (UHT or Powdered)
Wednesday December 4th - Jam
Thursday December 5th - Feminine Hygiene Products
Friday December 6th - Instant Coffee
Monday December 9th - Tinned Veg/Fruit
Tuesday December 10th - Fruit Juice (Long Life)
Wednesday December 11th - Tinned Tomatoes
Thursday December 12th - Tinned Custard
Friday December 13th - Biscuits
Monday December 16th - Instant Mashed Potato
Tuesday December 17th - Shampoo and Soap

Supporting: South Liverpool Foodbank Christmas Appeal

TOMBOLA PRIZES NEEDED

DROP AT RECEPTION
before 5th December

New items: Bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic, books (adult and teen), toiletry gifts, stationery items, chocolates, sweets, etc.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

- DEC 1** TINNED FRUIT
- DEC 2** BISCUITS, CRISPS, CHOCOLATE
- DEC 3** COFFEE, TEA BAGS, SUGAR
- DEC 4** MAYO, KETCHUP, BROWN SAUCE
- DEC 5** TINNED SOUP
- DEC 8** HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES
- DEC 9** TINNED VEGETABLES
- DEC 10** NOODLES, RICE & PULSES
- DEC 11** TINNED MEAT (E.G. TUNA, HAM)
- DEC 12** CEREAL, PORRIDGE POTS, UHT MILK
- DEC 15** GIFT TOILETRIES SETS
- DEC 16** SELECTION BOXES

ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS WELCOME!

SUPPORT THE EXPERIENCES THAT HELP SHAPE STUDENTS

From clubs and competitions to creative projects and performances, our students gain so much from extracurricular opportunities, and your support keeps them going.

A contribution of just £10 per term (£30 per year) per student makes a real difference. Plus, every £10 donation earns a chance to win £50 in our monthly raffle!

See Parentmail for payment details and give today, together we can keep our enrichment programme rich, varied, and open to all.

