

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT: A-LEVEL PRIZE GIVING 2025

Blue Coat School's A Level Prize-Giving Evening, held on 15th December, was a memorable celebration of achievement, service, and community, bringing together students, families, staff, governors, and distinguished guests.

The afternoon reflected the school's enduring motto, "Not for Oneself but for All," a theme that resonated throughout the ceremony and was powerfully articulated in the Headteacher's Prize-Giving Address. In a speech that acknowledged both academic excellence and wider contribution, the Headteacher highlighted Blue Coat's 300-year history and the way each cohort adds to the school's living legacy. While exceptional examination outcomes were rightly celebrated, equal emphasis was placed on students' character, kindness, and commitment to supporting others.

A particular highlight of the afternoon was the address by Stephen Yip, a guest speaker from the charity Kind. His speech offered a compelling insight into the charity's work and its impact on communities, reinforcing the importance of compassion, social responsibility, and collective action. The audience was reminded of the remarkable fundraising efforts of Blue Coat students, who have raised thousands of pounds for Kind over recent years—an achievement that exemplifies the school's values in action.

The programme was further enriched by outstanding performances from the cast of the school musical *Hadestown* and the Year 12 *Everman* project. Their polished and expressive performances showcased the strength of the school's performing arts provision and added a sense of celebration and creativity to the afternoon.

Prize recipients were applauded not only for their academic success but also for their wider contributions to school life and the community beyond it. As the Headteacher noted, Blue Coat students leave the school not simply with qualifications, but with a strong sense of belonging and responsibility—part of a lineage that stretches back three centuries and continues to shape Liverpool and beyond.

The afternoon concluded with warm thanks to staff for their dedication, to families for their unwavering support, and most importantly to the students themselves, whose achievements and values continue to define what it means to be part of the Blue Coat community.

A fitting celebration of excellence, service, and shared purpose, the A Level Prize-Giving Evening was a powerful reminder that success at Blue Coat School is never for oneself alone, but always for the benefit of others.



## WELLBEING BOX - A CALM AND CONNECTED CHRISTMAS

The festive season can be joyful, but it can also feel overwhelming. At Blue Coat, we're encouraging a calmer, kinder Christmas focused on connection, not perfection. Here are some simple ways to support your own wellbeing – and the wellbeing of the young people around you.

### Top Tips for a Stress-Free Festive Season

- Keep plans simple – Time together matters far more than gifts or grand events.
- Share responsibilities – No one person should carry all the festive pressure.
- Protect routines – Regular sleep and mealtimes help children feel grounded and secure.
- Show kindness – Small, thoughtful gestures often create the biggest memories.
- Take a breather – It's absolutely okay to step away and reset when things feel too much.

### Looking After Children

- Christmas can bring excitement, but also anxiety. These approaches can help:
- Keep disagreements away from young people to protect their sense of safety.
- Help them name feelings – Try phrases like: "I can see you're excited and worried."
- Offer choices such as a quiet corner, some colouring, or a moment of fresh air.
- Celebrate gratitude with thank-you cards, small acts of helping, or moments of reflection.

### Where to Get Support

If you or someone you know needs help over the festive period, the following services are available:

- Liverpool CAMHS Crisis Line: 0151 293 3577
- Alder Hey CAMHS (info & referrals): [www.alderhey.nhs.uk](http://www.alderhey.nhs.uk)
- Drinkline (confidential alcohol support): 0300 123 1110
- Liverpool Domestic Abuse Service: 0800 084 2744
- Merseyside Domestic Violence Service: [www.mdvs.org](http://www.mdvs.org)
- Relate Cheshire & Merseyside: 0300 330 5793

Remember: Christmas doesn't have to be perfect - it just needs to be full of care, compassion and moments of connection.

At Blue Coat, we believe in our motto:

✨ **Not for oneself but for all** ✨

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY RAISES FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES



Blue Coat School students and staff marked Christmas Jumper Day with colour, creativity, and generosity, raising further funds for the charities Kind and Whitechapel Centre.



The day saw the school community come together in festive spirit, with a wide range of imaginative and eye-catching jumpers on display. More importantly, the event provided another opportunity for students to put the school's values into action by supporting charities that work to improve lives both locally and nationally.



Funds raised will contribute to the ongoing support of Kind, a charity focused on compassion and community outreach, as well as the Whitechapel Centre, which provides vital services for people experiencing homelessness across the Liverpool City Region. These causes align closely with the school's commitment to social responsibility and service.



Christmas Jumper Day was a timely reminder that small individual actions, when combined, can make a meaningful difference. It was a fitting way to end the term, reinforcing the principle that generosity and community spirit sit at the heart of Blue Coat School life.



## A NEW VISION FOR THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

The Blue Coat School Liverpool is proud to launch its new Vision & Values, marking the culmination of a year-long, inclusive consultation process involving trustees, staff, parents, and students. This work represents a significant milestone in shaping the school's strategic direction and collective identity for the years ahead.

The review was undertaken to ensure that the school's guiding statements clearly reflect who we are today and who we aspire to be. Rooted in our long-standing ethos of Non Sibi Sed Omnibus – not for oneself but for all, the refreshed Vision and Values articulate a confident commitment to inclusion, belonging, ambition, and community, while acknowledging our complex history and setting a modern, future-focused direction.

### Our New Vision

**At The Blue Coat School Liverpool, every student belongs, is valued, and is empowered to thrive. Guided by Non Sibi Sed Omnibus — not for oneself but for all — we honour our story with honesty while forging a modern, inclusive future.**

**We celebrate individuality and champion diversity, inspiring students to flourish in their own way with confidence, curiosity, resilience, and kindness.**

**Our vision is to ignite ambition and nurture integrity and compassion, preparing young people to shape a fairer, brighter world — in Liverpool and beyond.**

The consultation process was deliberately broad and transparent. Trustees engaged in dedicated workshops to ensure strategic alignment and clarity of purpose. Staff contributed through INSET sessions, shaping the emphasis on inclusion, student experience, and academic and personal growth. Parents offered thoughtful perspectives on belonging, diversity, and modernity, while students shared honest and insightful reflections on what it means to feel valued, supported, and ambitious at Blue Coat.

This work strengthens collective identity, sharpens strategic clarity, and ensures that inclusion and belonging are embedded in practice, rather than just in principle. The new Vision and Values will guide strategic planning, curriculum intent, personal development, culture and behaviour, and stakeholder engagement, providing a consistent foundation for future decision-making.

As a historic school looking forward with confidence and integrity, The Blue Coat School Liverpool enters its next chapter with a Vision and Values framework that truly belongs to its whole community. The Trust Board extends sincere thanks to all who contributed to this important work, which will guide the school as every student is supported to belong, flourish, and thrive.

## WHITECHAPEL FOODBANK APPEAL CONCLUDES 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

The Whitechapel Centre's 12 Days of Christmas foodbank appeal has concluded with an overwhelming response, thanks to the generosity and commitment of the Blue Coat School community. Donations from students, families, and staff exceeded expectations, demonstrating the strength of collective action and community spirit during the festive season.

Throughout the appeal, the volume of contributions steadily grew, culminating in an outpouring of food and essential items that will provide vital support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity across the Liverpool City Region. The scale of donations reflected a deep understanding of the challenges faced by some of the most vulnerable members of society, particularly during the winter months.

The Whitechapel Centre works tirelessly to support people affected by homelessness through a range of services, including emergency accommodation, housing support, advice services, and access to food and essential supplies. Its focus is not only on meeting immediate needs, but also on helping individuals rebuild their lives and move towards long-term stability and independence.

The success of this appeal highlights the importance of sustained community partnerships in addressing complex social issues. By supporting the Whitechapel Centre, the Blue Coat community has played a direct role in strengthening local support networks and ensuring that practical help reaches those who need it most. The school would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. The generosity shown throughout the 12 Days of Christmas appeal is a powerful reflection of the school's values in action and a reminder that meaningful change is achieved when a community comes together to support others.

Well done to Curie, who were our overall house winners!



## PHYSICS STUDENTS VISIT CERN AND GENEVA

This week, Blue Coat School physics students took part in an educational visit to CERN in Geneva, one of the world's leading centres for scientific research. The trip formed an important extension to their A Level studies, giving students the opportunity to experience physics beyond the classroom and engage with ideas at the forefront of modern science.

At CERN, students explored the work of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and learned how particles are accelerated and collided to investigate the fundamental structure of matter. Key A Level concepts—including particle physics, forces, fields, and data analysis—were brought to life through guided tours and discussions with scientists, helping students connect theoretical knowledge with real experimental evidence.

The visit also highlighted the nature of scientific research on a global scale. Students observed how large international teams collaborate to solve complex problems, reinforcing the importance of precision, teamwork, and perseverance in scientific enquiry. This provided valuable insight into how physics operates as a real-world discipline rather than a purely academic subject.

Students also learned about the wider impact of CERN's research, including technological advances in medical imaging, computing, and engineering. This helped them understand how fundamental physics drives innovation and benefits society—an important perspective for those considering future careers in science and technology. Alongside the academic programme, time spent in Geneva offered cultural enrichment and reinforced the international nature of scientific work. The visit was both inspiring and academically significant, supporting students' studies while encouraging ambition, curiosity, and a deeper appreciation of physics in practice.



## BLUE COAT CHRISTMAS LUNCH BRINGS SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On Tuesday 16th December, Blue Coat School hosted its annual Blue Christmas Lunch, bringing pupils and staff together to celebrate the festive season in a warm and inclusive atmosphere.

The lunch provided a valuable opportunity for the school community to pause at the end of term, share a meal, and celebrate Christmas together. Pupils and staff alike embraced the occasion, reflecting the strong sense of belonging and community that sits at the heart of school life.

Special thanks go to the canteen team, who truly pulled out all the stops to deliver an outstanding Christmas meal. The care, effort, and attention to detail shown by the catering staff ensured that pupils enjoyed a memorable and high-quality dining experience, which was widely appreciated across the school.

The Christmas Lunch was a fitting way to mark the end of term, and sincere thanks are extended to everyone who took part. It was a joyful celebration that highlighted the importance of togetherness, generosity, and shared moments within the Blue Coat community.



## BLUE COAT STUDENTS ATTEND OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE INTERVIEWS

Over the past two weeks, more than 30 Blue Coat students have taken part in interviews at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, an outstanding achievement that reflects the academic strength and ambition of the cohort.

Students were interviewed for a wide range of courses, including English, Classics, Mathematics, Physics, and History, demonstrating the breadth and depth of academic excellence across the school. Securing an interview at either university is highly competitive and indicates exceptional academic potential and intellectual curiosity.

The interview process is designed to assess how students think and engage with new ideas, rather than simply testing prior knowledge. Candidates are encouraged to analyse unfamiliar material, explain their reasoning, and respond to academic challenges in discussion with subject tutors.

Students will find out whether they have been successful in January. Regardless of the outcome, reaching the interview stage represents a significant accomplishment and places them among the strongest applicants nationally.

The school is extremely proud of all students who took part and wishes them every success as they await their results. Their commitment, resilience, and academic ambition are a credit to themselves and to the Blue Coat community.



## YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS AFTERNOON

On 16 December, Year 11 pupils gathered for their Mock Results Afternoon, an important milestone as they received the results of their GCSE mock examinations. The atmosphere was one of nervous excitement as pupils collected their grades and reflected on their progress so far.

The day began with an assembly focused on how pupils should respond constructively to their results. Emphasis was placed on understanding grades as information rather than judgement, and on using the feedback to identify strengths, address areas for improvement, and plan effectively for the months leading up to the summer examinations.

Staff provided guidance on how mock results can be used to shape revision strategies, inform subject-specific targets, and support productive conversations between pupils and teachers. Pupils were encouraged to view the mocks as a valuable rehearsal, helping them to refine their approach and build confidence ahead of the final GCSEs.

There was also clear enthusiasm about the next stage of their education, with many pupils excited about the prospect of applying to the Blue Coat Sixth Form. The afternoon reinforced the message that careful reflection, resilience, and ambition are key to success, and that pupils are well supported as they prepare for the challenges ahead.



## SETTING GOALS FOR SUCCESS IN 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, setting clear and purposeful goals is an important step for students in every year group, from Year 7 through to Year 13. Whether students are just beginning their secondary school journey or preparing for life beyond Blue Coat, goal-setting provides direction, motivation, and a sense of ownership over learning and personal development.

Goal-setting is important because it helps turn ambition into action. Clear goals give students something concrete to work towards, helping them to stay focused during challenging moments and to recognise progress along the way. As Olympic athlete Michael Phelps once said, "If you want to be the best, you have to do things that other people aren't willing to do." Goals encourage persistence, effort, and resilience—qualities that underpin success both in school and beyond.

The most effective goals are realistic, specific, and measurable. Students are encouraged to set a small number of meaningful goals rather than too many at once. These might include academic targets, such as improving performance in a particular subject, alongside personal goals related to organisation, confidence, or wellbeing. Breaking larger ambitions into manageable steps makes progress more achievable and helps students maintain momentum. As author James Clear reminds us, "You do not rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your systems."

Achieving goals requires consistency and reflection. Regularly reviewing progress, seeking feedback from teachers, and adjusting strategies when needed are all part of the process. Students should be encouraged to view setbacks not as failure, but as opportunities to learn and refine their approach. Thomas Edison captured this mindset when he said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

For older students, particularly in Years 11 to 13, goal-setting also supports preparation for examinations, post-16 and post-18 pathways, and future careers. For younger students, it builds strong habits early—helping them develop independence, confidence, and ambition. Across all year groups, the message is the same: success comes from clear intentions matched with sustained effort.

As the new year approaches, all students are encouraged to take time to reflect on where they are now and where they want to be by the end of 2026. With clear goals, consistent effort, and the support of the school community, every student can move forward with purpose—ready to belong, flourish, and thrive.



## SPORTS REPORT – THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

It was an impressive set of results for The Blue Coat School basketball teams this week, with strong performances across all fixtures.

The U15s delivered a dominant display, securing a convincing 76–30 victory against Birchwood U16s. The team showed excellent teamwork, pace, and defensive discipline throughout the game.

The U16s also produced a commanding performance, defeating Wright Robinson U16s 74–47. Consistent scoring and strong defensive pressure ensured control of the game from start to finish.

In a closely contested match, the U19s demonstrated confidence and composure to defeat Trinity U19s 78–65. Strong attacking play and calm decision-making in the later stages of the game secured a well-deserved win.

Congratulations to all players and staff involved. These results, alongside upcoming fixtures, highlight the continued strength of basketball at Blue Coat and the commitment of our students to representing the school with pride and ambition.



## AARAV REPRESENTS TEAM GB AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Aarav, who recently travelled to South Africa to represent Team GB at the Biathle, Triathle, and Laser Run World Championships.

Competing on the world stage against elite athletes from across the globe, Aarav demonstrated determination, resilience, and commitment throughout the championships. In the Triathle, he finished 27th out of 34 competitors, gaining valuable experience in a highly competitive international field.

Aarav also delivered a particularly strong performance in the Laser Run, placing 13th individually and contributing to a Team Silver medal for Great Britain. This achievement reflects both his individual skill and his ability to perform under pressure as part of a national team.

Representing one's country at a world championship is a remarkable accomplishment, requiring dedication, discipline, and sustained training. Aarav's success is a testament to his hard work and ambition, and he has been an excellent ambassador for both Team GB and The Blue Coat School community.

Congratulations to Aarav on this impressive achievement; we look forward to following his continued success in future competitions.



### KEY DATES

Date	Event
Wednesday 7th January 2026	Term begins
Wednesday 7th January 2026	Year 13 Mock Exams begin
Saturday 10th January 2026	External Sixth Form Open Morning - 10am
Wednesday 14th January 2026	UCAS deadline - 6pm
Thursday 15th January 2026	Y11 Options Evening - 5pm
Saturday 17th January 2026	Trustee Development Day
Monday 19th January 2026	RCO accreditation visit & organ recital - 1:30pm
Tuesday 20th January 2026	Y11 Parents Evening - 4:15pm
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Y8 Online Parents Evening - 4:15pm
Thursday 29th January 2026	Year 11 Options Afternoon

## 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.



## The Liverpool Blue Coat School Foundation

# DEDICATE A PLAQUE ON OUR CHAPEL PEWS



We invite alumni, families and friends of the school to leave a lasting mark on our community by sponsoring a personalised plaque on a chapel pew.

For £100, you can dedicate a plaque in your name or in memory of a former student, becoming a meaningful part of the school's history for generations to come. This is a unique opportunity to honour a loved one, celebrate your connection to the school, and support the ongoing care of our cherished chapel.



Email: [foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk) for more information



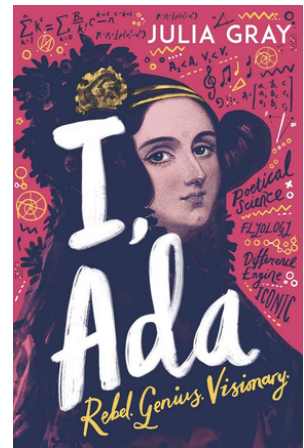
## BOOK REVIEWS

### I, Ada

This short biographical read explores the challenges Ada Lovelace faced as the daughter of Lord Byron, and the experiences that shaped her into the brilliant mind we remember today. The book follows her across Europe on family expeditions, through periods of illness such as her struggle with measles, and into the world of 19th-century science and society.

Ada's life is depicted in a dramatic, engaging way that draws you straight into the detail and atmosphere of the time. It's an easy, immersive read that brings history to life while giving a real sense of the determination and imagination behind her achievements.

Aastha - 11Franklin



### The Famous Five Series

The Famous Five series follows three siblings, their cousin, and her loyal dog as they somehow always end up in the middle of an exciting adventure. Whether they're uncovering secrets, solving mysteries, or getting caught up in unexpected trouble, there's never a dull moment with this fearless group.

I recommend The Famous Five because the stories are genuinely thrilling, especially when the Five find themselves right at the heart of the action. Many of the books are also surprisingly funny, making them a great mix of suspense and humour. They're perfect for readers who enjoy adventure, friendship, and a good mystery.

Maryam - 7Turing



**JADEN (7FR)**



**NIYANT (7FR)**



**NORA (7CU)**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

### CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

### CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically- protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025