



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL PRODUCTION TRIUMPH HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION

This week, Blue Coat School Liverpool staged an extraordinary run of *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, delivering four unforgettable nights of theatre to packed audiences and receiving acclaim from across the school community and beyond.

Each performance showcased the exceptional talent, dedication, and professionalism of our students. From the principal cast to the ensemble, band, and backstage technical teams, the production was defined by its musical precision, emotional depth, and striking visual storytelling. Audiences were captivated by the maturity of the performances and the high production values achieved throughout the week.

Adding to the excitement, the school was delighted to receive messages of support and encouragement from leading figures connected to the West End production.

Anaïs Mitchell, writer and creator of *Hadestown*, shared a heartfelt message with students, thanking them for choosing to tell this story and encouraging them to “go forth and bless the weary world with your truth and beauty,” recognising the power of young people bringing the narrative to life.

We also received warm wishes from George Francis, Music Director of *Hadestown* in London’s West End. George, who has local roots in Liverpool, wrote to congratulate students after seeing footage of the production. He encouraged the cast to enjoy every moment of performing such a powerful story through its “amazing music,” and expressed his hope to visit the school in the future.

The company performed to full houses across all four nights, a testament to the anticipation surrounding the show and the reputation Blue Coat productions continue to build. The standard of performance, musicianship, and technical execution made this one of the most accomplished school productions in recent years.

We were also delighted to welcome back Jamil, an Old Blue currently performing in the touring production of *Miss Saigon*, which comes to Liverpool in April. His visit was a wonderful reminder of the lasting connections and inspiration that Blue Coat alumni continue to bring to our students.

Congratulations go to every student involved, as well as to the staff whose expertise and commitment made the production possible. It was a remarkable week of theatre and a fitting celebration of creativity, collaboration, and the performing arts at Blue Coat.



LIVERPOOL GREEK ACADEMY – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT

We are delighted to share news of the outstanding commitment and academic achievement demonstrated by a group of our Year 9 pupils through their work with the Liverpool Greek Academy.

The Liverpool Greek Academy, funded by Classics for All, offers free Classical Greek lessons to state-school students from across Merseyside. Pupils enrolled on the programme work towards the Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek in their first year, a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to half a GCSE, with opportunities to progress to full GCSE and even A Level study in subsequent years.

Their dedication to committing additional weekend time to academic study is highly commendable. Reports from the Academy highlight their enthusiasm, perseverance, and the excellent progress they are making in what is a challenging and intellectually rigorous subject.

We are also proud to recognise the continued achievement of Charles F and Evie P in Year 13, who have been studying with the Academy for the past four years and are preparing to sit their A Level examinations in Classical Greek this summer.

We congratulate all six students on their scholarship, curiosity, and commitment to learning beyond the classroom. They are exceptional ambassadors for Blue Coat, and we look forward to celebrating their continued success.



WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, joining schools across the country in promoting reading for pleasure and celebrating the transformative power of books.

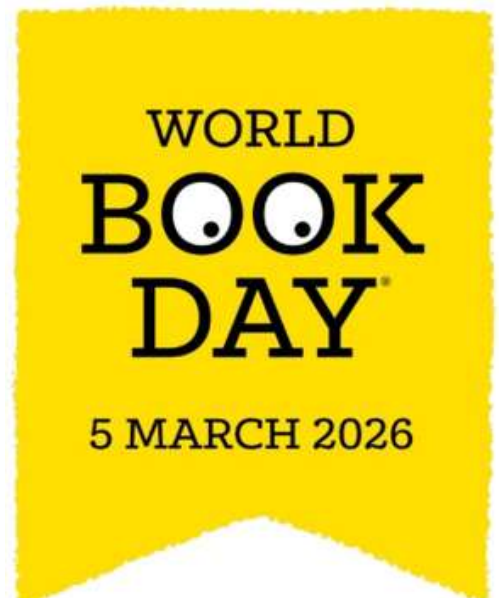
To mark the occasion, World Book Day tokens have been distributed to Form Tutors for all students. These tokens can be used either to purchase a specially selected £1 World Book Day title or to receive £1 off any full-price book at participating booksellers. We strongly encourage all students to make use of their token and choose something that genuinely interests them, whether that be fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, poetry, or biography.

In addition, a digital book token will be made available via a Teams post on Thursday. This ensures that every student has access to the initiative and can participate fully in the celebrations.

Staff across the school have also been getting involved by submitting their favourite books and personal reading recommendations. This information will be used to create an interactive World Book Day quiz for students, designed to spark curiosity, discussion, and friendly competition while introducing pupils to new authors and genres they may not have previously encountered.

Throughout the day, departments and Form Tutors will be encouraging reading conversations, book recommendations, and reflection on the importance of literacy, not just as an academic skill, but as a lifelong source of enjoyment, empathy, and imagination.

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day together and hope it inspires all members of our school community to pick up a book and read for pleasure.



SHARPER REVISION: BUILDING MEMORY SKILLS FOR GCSE & A LEVEL SUCCESS

As GCSE and A Level exams approach, students at Blue Coat are stepping up their revision. However, success is not simply about the number of hours spent studying; it is about how effectively knowledge is committed to memory. Developing strong memory habits can significantly improve confidence, recall, and exam performance.

One of the most impactful strategies is retrieval practice, actively recalling information without notes. Quizzes, flashcards, and practice questions strengthen long-term memory far more than re-reading. Alongside this, spaced revision, revisiting topics over time rather than cramming, helps students retain knowledge more securely.

Students are also encouraged to use interleaving, mixing subjects and topics within revision sessions to build flexibility in their thinking. Combining words with visuals through dual coding, such as mind maps, diagrams, and timelines, further strengthens recall, particularly in content-heavy subjects.

Beyond study techniques, lifestyle factors matter. Sleep, exercise, hydration, and regular screen breaks all support memory consolidation and cognitive focus.

Through tutor time, classroom practice, and revision guidance, Blue Coat continues to equip students with the tools to revise smarter as well as harder, building the foundations for exam success and lifelong learning.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE

Our School Council has asked to share an important message with parents and carers regarding road safety around the school site.

Students have raised concerns about the speed of vehicles on Prince Alfred Road and the parking congestion on Church Road, particularly at the start and end of the school day. Heavy traffic and unsafe parking are making it more difficult for pupils to cross safely and are causing understandable anxiety for many of our younger students.

We ask all members of our community to be mindful that these roads are used by large numbers of children each day. Small changes in driver behaviour can make a significant difference to student safety.

Please support us by:

- Observing speed limits at all times near the school.
- Avoiding stopping or parking on yellow lines or near crossing points.
- Refraining from mounting pavements when dropping off.
- Allowing extra time so journeys are not rushed.
- Considering parking a short distance away and walking the remainder.

The School Council are proud to advocate for the safety of their peers, and we thank parents and carers for working with us to ensure our school community remains safe, respectful, and considerate to all.



TALKING TEENS – PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

We are pleased to offer parents and carers of Year 9 and Year 10 students the opportunity to take part in **Talking Teens**, a free parent support programme delivered by Liverpool City Council Family Hub in partnership with Natasha Donohue from our school's Student Support team.

Parenting teenagers can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also bring challenges as young people navigate adolescence. Talking Teens is designed as a friendly, practical course to help parents manage the ups and downs of teenage life, supporting calmer communication and a happier home environment.

Across five sessions, the programme will explore common questions many parents face, including how to manage disagreements, encourage open conversations, understand teenage sleep patterns, and support emotional wellbeing. The sessions provide practical strategies alongside the chance to share experiences with other parents.

The group will be small and supportive, with around 8–10 parents and will be led by two trained facilitators. Refreshments will be provided, and parents are welcome to attend on their own, with a partner, or with a friend.



Programme Dates:

Tuesday 24th February – Registration session
Tuesday 3rd March
Tuesday 10th March
Tuesday 17th March
Tuesday 24th March

Talking Teens

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Location: The Blue Coat School

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended. If you would like to attend, please contact head@BlueCoatschool.org.uk by Wednesday 18th February to reserve your place.

We look forward to welcoming parents to what promises to be a supportive and valuable programme.

SUCCESS IN THE UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

Earlier this term, 230 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the **UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC)** - a national competition designed to promote mathematical reasoning, precision, and problem-solving at a high level.

We are delighted to celebrate an outstanding set of results:

67 students achieved Gold
84 students achieved Silver
43 students achieved Bronze

These outcomes reflect not only strong mathematical ability but also resilience and analytical thinking, as the Challenge is designed to stretch even the most able young mathematicians.

A remarkable **52 students have now qualified for follow-on rounds**, progressing to prestigious next-stage competitions including the **Mathematical Kangaroo** papers and the **Cayley, Hamilton and Maclaurin Olympiad Challenges**. Reaching these rounds places students among the highest performers nationally.

Special recognition goes to:

Micah M (Year 9) – Best in Year
William Z (Year 10) – Best in School
Aaron F (Year 11) – Best in Year

We congratulate all students who took part for their commitment and enthusiasm, and we wish those progressing to the next rounds the very best of luck.



UK Maths Trust

ST VALENTINE'S DAY – HISTORY AND MEANING

Each year on **14th February**, people across the world celebrate **St Valentine's Day** — a day associated with love, friendship, and acts of kindness. While today it is often marked by cards, flowers, and messages of appreciation, the origins of the day are rooted in history and Christian tradition.

St Valentine is believed to have been a priest or possibly a bishop who lived in Rome during the 3rd century. At that time, Emperor Claudius II had banned soldiers from marrying, believing single men made better warriors. According to tradition, Valentine defied this order and continued to perform marriage ceremonies in secret, supporting couples who wished to commit their lives to one another.

When his actions were discovered, Valentine was imprisoned and later executed on 14th February. Over time, he came to be remembered as a symbol of love, loyalty, and sacrifice. Legends also suggest that while in prison, he wrote a letter signed "from your Valentine," a phrase that continues to be used today.

By the Middle Ages, St Valentine's Day had become associated with romantic love, particularly in England and France, where it was believed that birds began choosing their mates in mid-February. The tradition of sending cards and messages grew from this period and has continued to evolve into the celebrations we recognise now.

Today, St Valentine's Day is not only about romantic relationships but also about showing appreciation for friends, family, and those who matter to us. Acts of kindness, gratitude, and thoughtfulness remain at the heart of the occasion — values we are always proud to promote within our school community.



ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT

Next week marks the beginning of **Lent** in the Christian calendar, starting with **Ash Wednesday** a significant and reflective moment in the Church year.

Ash Wednesday opens the 40-day period leading up to Easter, mirroring the time Christians believe Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. It is a day centred on reflection, humility, and spiritual renewal. In many church services, worshippers receive a cross of ash on their foreheads. The ashes, traditionally made from the previous year's Palm Sunday crosses, symbolise both human mortality and the call to repentance — a reminder to reflect on actions, values, and faith.

Lent itself is a season of preparation. While Easter is a celebration of hope and resurrection, the weeks beforehand are intentionally quieter and more thoughtful. Christians are encouraged to use this time to grow spiritually through prayer, acts of service, and self-discipline.

One of the most widely recognised Lenten practices is "**giving something up.**" People often choose to fast from particular luxuries such as chocolate, social media, fizzy drinks, or gaming. This is not simply about self-denial; it is intended to develop self-control, create space for reflection, and help individuals refocus on what they value most. For many, it is also an act of solidarity, remembering those who live with less.

Alongside giving things up, some people choose to **take positive actions** during Lent. This might include volunteering, donating to charity, spending more time in prayer or reflection, or making conscious efforts to show kindness and compassion in daily life.

Whether through fasting, giving, or serving others, Lent represents a journey that encourages reflection, growth, and preparation for the celebration of Easter. It remains one of the most meaningful and symbolic seasons in the Christian year.

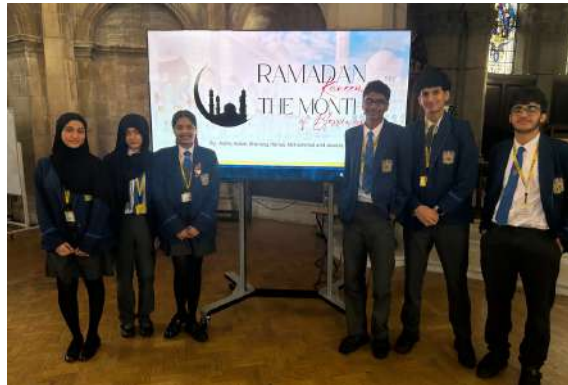


YEAR 10 ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS RAMADAN AWARENESS

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, a group of our Year 10 students delivered a thoughtful and engaging assembly focused on understanding this important time for many in our school community. They shared information about fasting, reflection, and the significance of Ramadan, while offering practical advice on how we can support our Muslim friends both inside and outside of school.

The assembly encouraged empathy, respect, and inclusivity, reminding us of the value of learning from one another's traditions. To celebrate this spirit of community, students invited their year group to join them for a community Iftar at school on Thursday 5th March 2026. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together, learn more, and share in the experience.

We hope to see many students there for this special occasion.



GOOD LUCK TO OUR YEAR 8 FOOTBALLERS

We are delighted to share some exciting news about two of our Year 8 students, who have been selected to represent the Liverpool Schools FA under-13 football team on a prestigious international tour to Dubai this half term.

William and Nico will travel to Dubai, where they will have the opportunity to compete, develop their skills, and experience football on an international stage. This life-enhancing trip reflects their hard work, commitment, and talent, both on and off the pitch.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and wish them the very best of luck. We look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return!



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Blue Coat students have enjoyed another excellent week of sporting competition, with impressive results across netball, football, handball, basketball, and table tennis.

Netball

Our U13 netball teams delivered dominant performances against SFA. The A team secured a commanding 14–0 victory, closely followed by the B team with an equally impressive 12–0 win! a fantastic display of teamwork and control.

Football

In football, the U18 A team earned a hard-fought 1–0 win over SMA in a tightly contested fixture. The U18 B team faced a challenging match, ending 0–4, but showed resilience and determination throughout.

Handball

There were strong results in handball against Liverpool College. The U15 team triumphed 19–11 in an exciting encounter, while the U13 side produced a convincing 20–8 victory, highlighting the growing confidence and skill within the squads.

Basketball

At the LSSP basketball tournament, the U15 team finished in a respectable 4th place overall. The U14 team had a standout competition, finishing runners-up and notably defeating the U15 team in the semi-finals - a great example of the strength and depth of talent across year groups.

Table Tennis

It was also a successful weekend for table tennis at the North West area finals. The U13 boys team - Charlie B, Harry V, Soniru M, and Walter E - finished an excellent 3rd place. The U16 boys - Ranveer C, Reece H, Keshav H, and Ollie Y - were crowned North West champions and now progress to the National Finals in April - a superb achievement. The U19 boys squad - Adwin G, Aldrin G, Darsh G, Shamal H, and Edward T - ended the day unbeaten, securing 3rd place in a highly competitive field.

Congratulations to all students involved for representing Blue Coat with pride, commitment, and sportsmanship.





JAMES (7RO)



DANIEL (7TU)



CAMPBELL (8CU)



IVAN (8TU)



LEW (9TU)



ENRICO (7CU)



KEY DATES

Date	Event
Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term / Ski Trip
Monday 23rd February 2026	Students Return
Tuesday 24th February 2026	Y13 UCAS Next Steps Evening
Thursday 26th February 2026	Chinese New Year Celebration Event - 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 3rd March 2026	Y13 Parents' Evening - 4:15pm
Thursday 5th March 2026	Community Iftar - 5:00-7:30pm
Friday 6th March 2026	Careers Fair
Tuesday 10th March 2026	Y12 Next Steps Evening
Thursday 12th March 2026	Y11 options deadline
Monday 16th March 2026	Y8 Careers Day
Friday 20th March 2026 - Saturday 21st March 2026	Y9 DofE Bronze practice expedition
Thursday 26th March 2026	Open Day
Thursday 26th March 2026	Term ends at 3:30pm
Friday 27th March 2026 - Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Break





YOU ARE INVITED

Blue Coat Community Iftar

Thursday 5th March 2026
5-7:30 PM
Shirley Hall

Tickets available via Parentmail
Students - £8
Parents/Carers - £12

This is a ticket only event and the price includes food and drink as well as talks from members of our local community and students, and a fun quiz. Students, Parents and Carers observing Ramadan will be able to pray after breaking their fast.



RAMADAN Iftar Menu

STARTERS

Dates & Fruit
Vegetable Samosas
Lamb Samosas
Seekh Kebabs
Chicken Tikka

MAINS

Chicken Pilau Rice
Lamb Curry
Butter Chicken

VEGETARIAN MAINS

Plain Pilau Rice
Dal Makhani
Vegetable Curry




Chinese New Year

Join us for a fun and cultural Chinese New Year celebration featuring an introduction to Chinese New Year and an interactive quiz, a raffle, traditional Chinese games, hands-on crafts, and a Chinese tea tasting experience.

**Thursday 26th February 2026
3:30-5:30**

Chapel, 6th Form Area and Bistro

Dress Code: Wear Red for Good Luck

**Tickets: £3
Including Food, Raffle Ticket and Activities
Available on Parentmail**



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 for more information



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



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/snapchat>

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