

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT BLUE COAT A DAY OF CULTURE, FOOD AND FESTIVITY

On Thursday 26th February 2026, Blue Coat came alive with colour, energy, and celebration as students and staff marked Chinese New Year with a vibrant programme of cultural activities after school from 3:30–5:30pm.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together to recognise and appreciate the traditions associated with this important festival.

Throughout the afternoon, pupils engaged in a range of cultural workshops designed to deepen their understanding of Chinese heritage. Activities included calligraphy, paper cutting, lantern making, themed art projects, as well as dumpling making and a traditional tea demonstration. These hands-on experiences gave students valuable insight into traditional crafts, culinary customs, and the symbolism linked to the Lunar New Year.

Food was, of course, a central part of the celebrations. Students sampled a variety of Chinese dishes, experiencing new flavours while learning about the significance of certain foods traditionally eaten during the New Year period, many symbolising luck, prosperity, and happiness for the year ahead. The dumpling-making workshop proved especially popular, with students enjoying the opportunity to prepare and taste their own creations.

The event was filled with fun, laughter, and a genuine spirit of cultural appreciation. Celebrations like this play an important role in promoting diversity, inclusion, and global awareness within our school.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who generously led the variety of activities and shared their expertise, and to the student committee who worked so hard to help organise the event, decorate the school, and support the workshops throughout the afternoon. We are proud to honour the rich cultural backgrounds of our community and look forward to continuing these traditions in the years to come.



## ORIGAMI CLUB CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR

Our our Year 7 Roscoe Origami Club took their creativity beyond the classroom through an exciting collaboration with Liverpool Central Library to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Students designed and folded a stunning collection of origami horses, which now form part of a special Chinese New Year display at the library. The project gave students a unique opportunity to engage with the local community while learning more about the cultural significance of the festival.

The finished display has been available for the public to enjoy since Monday 16th February, showcasing the dedication and artistry of our Year 7 students. On Friday 13th February, the display received a special visit from Baroness Twycross, who praised the students' creativity and commitment to celebrating cultural events in our city.

Congratulations to all members of the Origami Club for representing our school with such imagination and enthusiasm!



## NEXT STEPS EVENING

On Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, we welcomed our year 13 students and their parents to our Next Steps evening, covering the UCAS process, student finance, and alternatives to University.

Careers Lead Miss. Nock spoke about making your firm and insurance choices and the options available, should you not have any university offers. We were then joined by George Smith, from The University of Liverpool, who talked students and parents through the student finance process. Miss. Nock concluded the evening by outlining the plans for results day and some quick tips for applying for student accommodation.

The Next Steps evening is a key feature of our KS5 Careers calendar. We are committed to supporting students to achieve their best next step, and parents/guardians play a key role in this.

At the end of the evening, Miss. Nock reminded parents of the opportunity to register for a Unifrog account. Should you wish to do so, please email her at [l.nock@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:l.nock@bluecoatschool.org.uk) with your child's name.



# NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK – WHY CAREERS EDUCATION MATTERS

National Careers Week takes place next week, culminating in our annual **Careers Fair on Friday 6th March**, where over 70 employers, apprenticeship providers and universities will be in attendance. A full schedule will be shared with students today. All students should bring their careers booklet with them to the event to support engagement and reflection.

Careers education plays a vital role in preparing young people for life beyond school. High-quality careers provision enables students to:

**Make informed decisions** about GCSE, A Level, apprenticeship and university pathways.

**Understand the labour market**, including emerging industries, growth sectors and future skills demands.

**Develop employability skills** such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and professional conduct.

**Raise aspirations** by exposing them to a wide range of professions and routes they may not previously have considered.

**Build confidence and independence**, equipping them to navigate applications, interviews and workplace expectations.

Direct engagement with employers and universities is particularly impactful. Conversations with professionals help students to connect classroom learning with real-world application, understand entry requirements, and appreciate the attitudes and competencies valued in the workplace. Research consistently shows that meaningful encounters with employers reduce the likelihood of students becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and improve long-term outcomes.

Our Careers Fair is therefore not simply an event, but a structured learning opportunity designed to broaden horizons and support strategic decision-making at every key stage.



## Year 12 Work Experience – w/c 23rd March

Year 12 students will undertake their work experience placement during the week commencing 23rd March. This experience is a cornerstone of post-16 development, allowing students to apply their academic learning in professional settings, gain insight into workplace culture, and further refine their career ambitions.

We look forward to a purposeful and inspiring National Careers Week.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: HOW SCHOOLS ARE CHAMPIONING EQUALITY, REPRESENTATION, AND EMPOWERMENT

Every year in March, schools across the United Kingdom and around the world mark **Women's History Month**—a dedicated period to recognise the achievements, contributions, and historical significance of women. What began as a movement to address the marginalisation of women in historical narratives has evolved into a wide-ranging educational initiative.

Historically, curricula have often foregrounded male figures in politics, science, literature, and the arts. Women's History Month provides an intentional corrective lens. It enables schools to:

- Highlight overlooked or underrepresented contributions.
- Promote gender equality and student voice.
- Provide diverse role models.
- Encourage critical thinking about social progress and remaining inequities.

For students, particularly girls and young women, representation in the curriculum can directly influence aspiration, self-efficacy, and career ambition. For all learners, it broadens historical literacy and social awareness.

One of the most substantive ways schools support Women's History Month is through curriculum adaptation rather than stand-alone assemblies.

History and Politics departments deliver schemes of work to foreground women's roles in major events. Lessons explore:

- Suffrage movements and voting rights.
- Women's roles in wartime economies.
- Civil rights activism.
- Political leadership and reform.

English frequently centre texts by female authors or texts exploring women's experiences. Activities include:

- Comparative essays on gender representation.
- Poetry analysis from feminist perspectives.
- Creative writing inspired by women's narratives.

## STEM Subjects

Science and mathematics departments use the month to spotlight women in historically male-dominated fields. Case studies include breakthroughs in medicine, computing, engineering, and space exploration. This approach helps dismantle the "STEM is male" stereotype.

Modern observance is not purely celebratory—it is also reflective and critical. Schools facilitate age-appropriate discussions in Personal Development on:

- Gender pay gaps.
- Workplace discrimination.
- Online misogyny.
- Access to education globally.

By ensuring that women's voices are studied, heard, and celebrated, education systems help cultivate informed citizens who recognise the value of representation, fairness, and historical accuracy. The ultimate objective extends beyond awareness: it is empowerment—equipping young people of all genders to contribute to a more inclusive society.



## ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY: PROMOTING EQUALITY AND INCLUSION WORLDWIDE

Each year on 1 March, the world observes Zero Discrimination Day, a global initiative led by UNAIDS and supported by the United Nations. The day highlights the right of every individual to live with dignity, free from discrimination and prejudice.

Zero Discrimination Day serves as a reminder that discrimination—whether based on race, gender, age, disability, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status—continues to affect millions of people worldwide. It calls on governments, organisations, and individuals to take meaningful action to ensure equal access to healthcare, education, employment, and justice.

At its heart, the day promotes three key principles:

**Equality** – Every person deserves the same rights and opportunities.

**Inclusion** – Diversity strengthens communities and should be celebrated.

**Respect** – Differences should be recognised with understanding and compassion.

Since its launch in 2014, Zero Discrimination Day has encouraged global conversations about human rights and social justice. Annual themes often focus on specific issues such as access to healthcare, gender equality, or protecting vulnerable communities from stigma and exclusion.

Importantly, the message extends beyond a single day. Zero Discrimination Day is a call to sustained action—challenging harmful stereotypes, addressing systemic inequalities, and fostering environments where everyone feels valued and supported.

By recognising this day, communities reaffirm a simple but powerful commitment: that no one should be left behind, and everyone deserves to live free from discrimination.

## LSFA INTERNATIONAL TOUR

The school is immensely proud of Will and fellow pupil Nico, who recently travelled to Dubai to represent the Liverpool Schools Football Association (LSFA). Being selected to compete internationally is a significant achievement, and both students demonstrated outstanding commitment, maturity and professionalism throughout the tour.

On Matchday 1, LSFA faced TC United, a strong school team made up of 14–16-year-old academy players.

Despite having spent six hours earlier that day on the local beach and adapting to extremely hot, dry conditions very different from the UK, the team produced an excellent performance to secure a 1–1 draw. In their second fixture, LSFA played a year up against \*\*Al Nasr SC U14, the reigning UAE national academy champions. In a thrilling, end-to-end contest, LSFA earned an impressive 3–3 draw against one of the strongest youth sides in the country.

Beyond the football, the players experienced some of Dubai's most iconic landmarks. A visit to the vast Dubai Mall, so large that even Google Maps struggles to function inside, provided a memorable cultural experience, packed with local shops and restaurants. The squad also watched the spectacular light and fountain show at the Burj Khalifa, an unforgettable display set against the world's tallest building.

This tour represented an invaluable development opportunity, allowing Will and Nico to test themselves against elite academy opposition in challenging conditions. The resilience, teamwork and determination they showed reflect great credit on themselves, their families and the school. We are extremely proud of their efforts and look forward to following their continued progress in the game.



# SHARENTING: CELEBRATING OR OVERSHARING?

Sharenting has become commonplace in the digital age. From first days at school to birthday celebrations, social media provides an easy way to document milestones and remain connected with friends and extended family. For many families, this online sharing feels positive and community-building.

However, the long-term implications require careful consideration.

## 1. A Permanent Digital Footprint

Once content is uploaded online, control over that content is significantly reduced. Even if a post is later deleted, screenshots, downloads or data storage policies may mean it continues to exist elsewhere. Over time, this contributes to a child's permanent digital footprint — a record they did not choose to create.

## 2. Privacy and Identity Risks

Sharing personal information — such as full names, school uniforms, locations, dates of birth or regular routines — can increase risks. These range from identity misuse to unwanted contact or profiling. While individual posts may seem harmless, cumulative information can be revealing.

## 3. Consent and Autonomy

A further concern is consent. Young children cannot meaningfully agree to having their lives shared online. As children grow older, they may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about content posted years earlier. Involving children in decisions about what is shared helps foster digital responsibility and respect for their autonomy. To help families make informed choices, **Kids Online World** has produced a detailed Sharenting Factsheet, offering accessible, practical advice for protecting children's privacy online.

Kids Online World provides guidance that includes:

- Reviewing and strengthening privacy settings on social media accounts
- Avoiding the sharing of sensitive personal details (e.g. home address, school name, full date of birth)
- Disabling location tagging where possible
- Thinking carefully before posting images that may cause embarrassment later
- Involving older children in decisions about what is shared about them

The emphasis is not on eliminating sharing entirely, but on adopting a thoughtful and proportionate approach.

The Children's Commissioner's guide encourages parents and carers to treat digital life as an extension of everyday parenting. Open dialogue is central. Asking children how they feel about photos being shared, explaining online risks in age-appropriate ways, and modelling responsible digital behaviour all contribute to healthier digital habits.

By engaging with resources such as *'What I wish my parents or carers knew...'* and the Kids Online World factsheet, families can make informed decisions that protect children's rights while maintaining meaningful digital connections.



## SPORTS ROUND-UP

### Netball

Congratulations to our Year 10 girls who have been crowned Liverpool City Champions, a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, teamwork and commitment throughout the season.

We are also incredibly proud to share that our Year 8 team finished as runners-up in the Liverpool City Tournament, demonstrating excellent determination and team spirit throughout the competition. Well done to all the girls involved for representing the school so brilliantly.

Our Year 7–9 teams were also in action this week, hosting Bellerive at home on Thursday. The 8A, 8B, and 7B teams all secured impressive victories, while the 7A team earned a well-fought draw despite playing with one fewer player — a fantastic display of resilience and teamwork. Well done to all squads on a brilliant set of results!



### Basketball

It has been an exciting week for basketball, with two major English Schools fixtures taking place on home court and plenty to celebrate.

Our U19 team faced King Edward VI Grammar School in the Last 16 of the English Schools' Basketball Association national competition. In a thrilling and closely contested game, the boys secured an outstanding 81–75 victory. The win sees them progress to the Quarter Finals next week. A fantastic achievement at this stage of a highly competitive national campaign. The team showed composure, resilience, and quality throughout to get over the line.

Attention now turns to our U16 squad, who host Sale Grammar School in the Quarter Final on Friday, tipping off at 14:10. With a place in the Semi Finals at stake, we look forward to another strong performance as they aim to join the U19s in the next round.

Well done to all players and staff involved, and thank you to everyone who continues to support our teams.



## SKI TRIP

This year's Ski Trip was another outstanding success, providing students with a memorable week on the slopes filled with challenge, enjoyment and personal achievement.

Across the course of the trip, all students demonstrated significant progress in their skiing ability. From those who were complete beginners at the start of the week to our more experienced skiers refining advanced techniques, it was fantastic to see such determination, resilience and willingness to improve. Instructors consistently praised our students for their effort, attitude and conduct during lessons.

Students from Years 10–13 represented the school superbly throughout the visit. Behaviour was exemplary at all times — both on and off the slopes — and they were a credit to the school in the way they supported one another, followed instructions and embraced every aspect of the experience.

Beyond skiing, the trip offered valuable opportunities for students to build confidence, independence and friendships, making it an enriching experience as well as an enjoyable one.

A selection of photos from the trip can be found in this week's newsletter, with many more available on the PE Instagram page for families to enjoy.

Finally, a sincere thank you goes to all staff who gave their time to support and supervise the trip. Their commitment, organisation and enthusiasm ensured the visit ran smoothly and made it such a positive experience for everyone involved.



**POPPY (8TO)**



**SWARA (9RO)**



**ADDIE (8TU)**



**KARLA (8SE)**



**YOUSEF (7SE)**



**OLLY (8FR)**



## KEY DATES

Date	Event
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
Wednesday 11th March 2026	Y7 'All About Futures' Careers Day
Thursday 12th March 2026	Y11 options deadline
Friday 13th March 2026	National Reading Quiz
Saturday 14th March 2026	Sixth Form Maths Quiz at LJMU
Monday 16th March 2026	Y8 Careers Day
Tuesday 17th March 2026	Mentors in Violence Prevention Graduation at St George's Hall
Thursday 19th March 2026	Gymnastics Trip to M&S Bank Arena
Friday 20th March 2026 - Saturday 21st March 2026	Y9 DofE Bronze practice expedition
Monday 23rd March 2026	Y12 Work Experience Week and Liverpool Good Food Schools Awards
Wednesday 25th March 2026	Easter Music Concert 7pm at St Nicholas' Church
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
Monday 13th April 2026	Students Return
Tuesday 14th April 2026	Y9 Parents Evening - 4:15pm
Thursday 16th April 2026	DofE Insight visit
Tuesday 21st April 2026	A level recital and exam recording - 6.30pm
Thursday 23rd April 2026	Classical Association Lecture 6.30pm - 8.15pm
Friday 24th April 2026 - Saturday 25th April 2026	Y9 DofE Bronze Assessed Expedition (Chorley)
Tuesday 28th April 2026	7 Parents' Evening - 4:15pm
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Y9,10,12 theatre trip 'Miss Saigon' (Liverpool Empire)





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

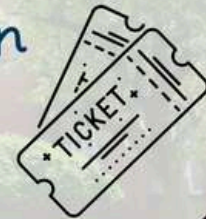
Chicken Pilau Rice  
Lamb Curry  
Butter Chicken

### VEGETARIAN MAINS

Plain Pilau Rice  
Dal Makhani  
Vegetable Curry



Registration for our 2026  
Open Day is now open



## 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.



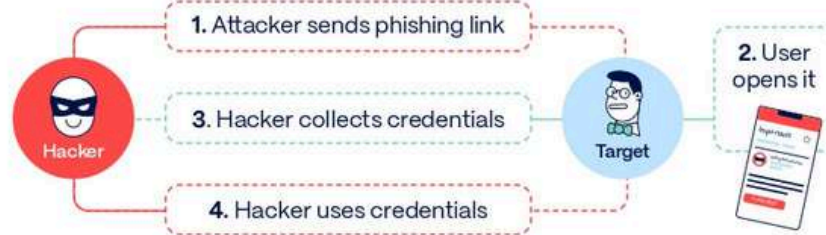
Email: [foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk) for more information



# Common types of cyber threats

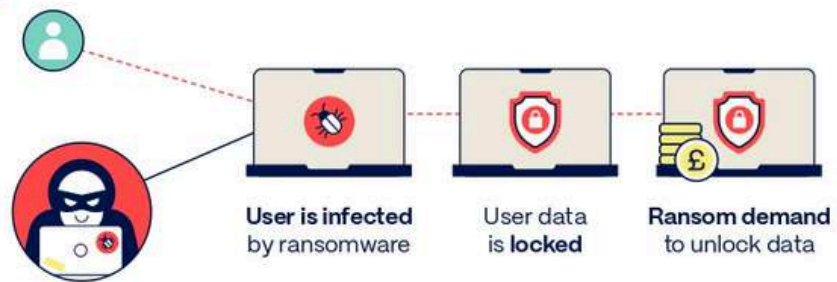
## Phishing Attack

The use of deceptive QR codes, emails, texts, or websites to gain sensitive information.



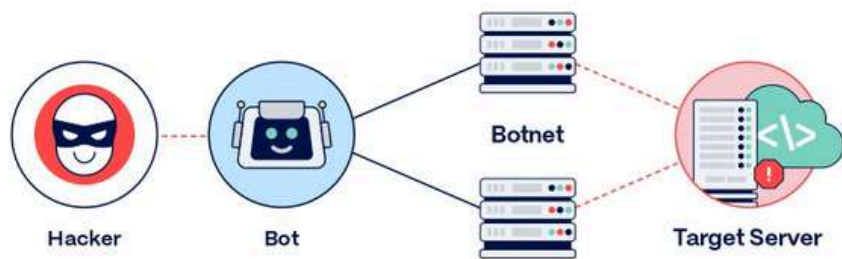
## Ransomware

Malware that encrypts your data and requires a payment to decrypt.



## Denial-of-Service (DoS)

Overloading a machine or network so that it stops working normally.



## Zero-Day Exploits

Attacks take advantage of unknown vulnerabilities before programmers can fix them.

