

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CAREERS FAIR

As part of National Careers Week, The Blue Coat School hosted a major Careers Fair, welcoming over 60 employers, universities and educational organisations to engage with our students.

The event reflects both the ambition of our students and the school's commitment to high-quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). Representatives from sectors including law, medicine, engineering, finance, technology, the creative industries, the armed forces, higher education institutions and apprenticeship providers shared insights into career pathways, qualifications and industry expectations.

Students had the opportunity to speak with professionals, explore apprenticeship and degree routes, understand labour market trends, ask questions about subject choices and career progression, and develop confidence in professional communication.

The Careers Fair is part of Blue Coat's wider CEIAG programme, which includes a planned careers curriculum, employer engagement and workplace encounters, alumni networking, guidance interviews, and support with post-16 and post-18 decision-making.

By providing early exposure to diverse sectors, the event helps students reflect on their strengths, interests and long-term goals, while recognising the range of routes available, whether through university, higher apprenticeships or direct employment.

We extend our sincere thanks to the 60+ organisations who shared their expertise, reinforcing the strength of Blue Coat's partnerships beyond the school gates.



COMMUNITY IFTAR

On Thursday 5th March, The Blue Coat School hosted a special Community Iftar, organised collaboratively by our School Leaders, Senior Prefects, and parent volunteers. The event brought together students, families, and staff in a shared moment of reflection, hospitality, and unity during the month of Ramadan.

The Iftar, the meal that breaks the daily fast, is a central and symbolic moment in the Islamic calendar. It marks not only the end of the day's fast at sunset, but also reinforces themes of gratitude, generosity, discipline, and community. By opening this event to the wider school community, Blue Coat created an opportunity for learning, dialogue, and celebration across faiths and backgrounds.

A defining feature of the evening was the role played by pupils and their parents. From initial planning and logistics to welcoming guests and coordinating the programme, Senior Prefects demonstrated maturity, organisation, and a strong commitment to inclusion.

This level of pupil and parent ownership reflects the school's wider emphasis on service, leadership, and community responsibility.

The evening began with a short introduction outlining the meaning of Ramadan and the significance of fasting as a spiritual discipline. For many attendees, this provided valuable insight into the practices observed by Muslim members of our community.

We were honoured to welcome Tahir Khan from Liverpool Muslim Outreach, who addressed students, parents, and staff before the breaking of the fast.

Tahir spoke about the deeper spiritual significance of Ramadan, emphasising that fasting is not solely about abstaining from food and drink, but about cultivating empathy, patience, and moral awareness. He highlighted how Ramadan encourages reflection on gratitude and social responsibility, reminding us of those facing hardship both locally and globally.

His address reinforced the importance of mutual respect and understanding within a diverse community. By explaining key elements of Islamic practice in an accessible and thoughtful way, he helped ensure that all attendees, regardless of faith background, could engage meaningfully with the evening.

As the call to break the fast approached, the atmosphere in the hall was one of quiet anticipation. Dates and water were shared first, following tradition, before families and students enjoyed a meal together. Conversations flowed easily across year groups and between families who may not ordinarily meet in the course of the school day.

The presence and support of parents were instrumental. Many contributed food, assisted with preparation, and helped ensure the event ran smoothly. Their involvement reinforced the strength of the partnership between home and school.

The Community Iftar was more than a social gathering; it embodied several core values central to life at Blue Coat, including respect and understanding across cultures and faiths, active inclusion, student leadership and service, and the strengthening of community ties. In an increasingly diverse society, events like this provide structured opportunities for shared experiences, helping students move beyond awareness to genuine empathy and mutual understanding.



UNITED KINGDOM MATHEMATICS TRUST (UKMT) TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE



Students from Years 8 and 9 at The Blue Coat School recently represented the school in the regional heat of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust UKMT Team Maths Challenge, competing against leading schools from across the North West.

In an outstanding achievement, the Blue Coat team, made up of Matthew R, Aarooth A, Mia F, and Jack K, secured first place, demonstrating exceptional mathematical reasoning, teamwork and composure under pressure. Their victory means they have qualified for the National Finals, which will take place in Manchester this June, where they will compete against the top schools from across the country.

The Team Maths Challenge is a prestigious national competition designed to stretch and challenge high-attaining Key Stage 3 mathematicians. Working in teams of four, pupils take part in four demanding rounds: the Group Round, Crossnumber Round, Shuttle Round, and Relay Round. Each round tests a different set of mathematical skills, including problem-solving, logical reasoning, precision and speed.

Unlike individual mathematics competitions, the challenge places a strong emphasis on collaboration and communication. Students must divide tasks effectively, explain their reasoning clearly and work together to solve unfamiliar problems within strict time limits. The event encourages pupils to think creatively, apply mathematical concepts in new contexts and develop resilience when tackling complex problems.

The competition forms part of the enrichment opportunities offered through the school's mathematics programme, helping students to deepen their understanding beyond the classroom while building confidence in their abilities.

Winning the regional heat is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the students' enthusiasm for mathematics, their commitment to challenge and their ability to work effectively as a team. We wish Matthew, Aarooth, Mia, and Jack the very best of luck as they go on to represent

The Blue Coat School at the National Finals in Manchester this June.



MRS BRINDLE-MCDOWELL COMPLETES THE CHESTER ULTRA MARATHON

Last weekend, Mrs Brindle-McDowell took on an extraordinary challenge as she competed in the Chester Ultra Marathon, raising funds for The Whitechapel Centre.

Ultra marathons push runners far beyond the traditional 26.2-mile distance, demanding exceptional endurance, resilience and determination. After months of dedicated preparation and training, Mrs Brindle-McDowell tackled the long and demanding course with impressive perseverance, successfully crossing the finish line in what was a truly remarkable achievement.

Her efforts were in support of The Whitechapel Centre, a Liverpool-based charity committed to preventing homelessness and supporting people who are sleeping rough or facing a housing crisis. The funds raised will help the organisation continue its vital work, providing accommodation, outreach services and practical support to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Supporting Local Causes

Mrs Brindle-McDowell's accomplishment reflects the wider commitment of staff to supporting charitable causes and giving back to the local community. Throughout the year, colleagues organise and participate in a range of fundraising initiatives for organisations that make a real difference locally.

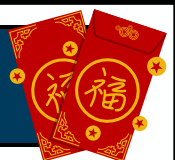
From sponsored runs and personal challenges to bake sales and community events, staff consistently give their time and energy to raise money for important causes. These collective efforts demonstrate a shared dedication to helping those in need and strengthening the communities around us.

Mrs Brindle-McDowell's ultra marathon is a powerful example of this spirit in action. Completing such a demanding event while raising funds for a charity that supports vulnerable people is an achievement the whole community can be proud of.

Congratulations to Mrs Brindle-McDowell on completing the Chester Ultra Marathon and for helping to raise funds for such an important cause. Donations in support of her fundraising for The Whitechapel Centre are still warmly welcomed.



CHINESE NEW YEAR



This week, Year 10 continued their Chinese New Year celebrations by learning more about the traditions and meanings behind this important cultural festival. During form time, students explored the significance of red envelopes, a long-standing tradition associated with wishing others good fortune, happiness and prosperity for the year ahead.

As part of the activity, each student was given a red envelope to fill with a small gift such as sweets, a thoughtful message, an inspirational quote or a short poem. The envelopes were then collected and mixed together before students drew one at random, creating a surprise gift exchange within the form. This simple but meaningful activity encouraged kindness, generosity and reflection, while also helping students appreciate how cultural traditions can bring people together.

Activities like this not only celebrate cultural traditions but also help to strengthen the sense of community within the year group, reminding students of the importance of kindness and connection.

We wish all members of our school community a very happy and prosperous New Year! 💎🌟

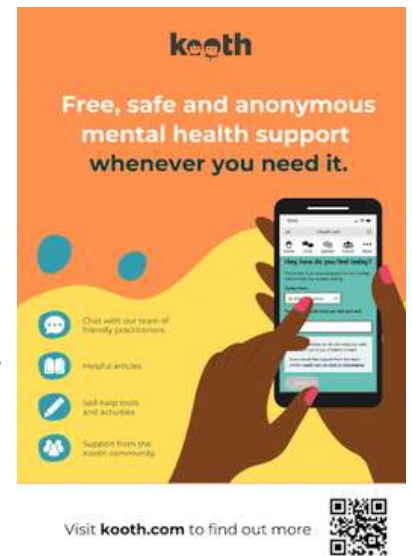
YEAR 9 & 10 KOOTH ASSEMBLY: MANAGING EXAM STRESS

Kooth, the mental health charity, led an important assembly for our Year 9 and Year 10 students on managing exam stress. The session focused on practical strategies to cope with the pressures of school life and upcoming assessments. Students were encouraged to prioritise self-care, ensuring they balance their studies with time to have fun, socialise, and recharge.

As Year 9 and Year 10 approach the Easter holidays, many students will begin organising their revision timetables and preparing for their end-of-year assessments in June. While revision and planning are important, it was emphasised that mental well-being is equally vital during this period. Taking breaks, maintaining hobbies, and keeping connected with friends are all key parts of a healthy study routine.

At The Blue Coat School, we are committed to supporting our students' mental health. We offer a broad range of pastoral support, including Form Tutors, Heads of Year, Class Teachers, SENDCO, Support Staff, Student Support, and our Senior Leadership Team. However, students were reminded that, even outside school hours on weekends or holidays, professional support is still available via the Kooth website and app, which provides access to trained counsellors and a wealth of wellbeing resources.

If you are concerned that your child may be struggling with exam stress, please contact the school. We are here to ensure that every student receives the support they need to thrive, both academically and emotionally.



Y12 AND Y13 ART TRIP

The recent Art trip to the Walker Art Gallery and the Museum of Liverpool with Year 12 and 13 students was a great success.

Students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of artworks and exhibitions, gaining inspiration and deepening their understanding of both art and local history. From classical masterpieces at the Walker Art Gallery to contemporary displays and interactive exhibits at the Museum of Liverpool, the day offered something for everyone.

Throughout the trip, students' behaviour was impeccable. They represented the school with enthusiasm, respect, and maturity in both venues, asking thoughtful questions and engaging fully with the displays. The sunny weather added to the enjoyment of the day, making the experience even more memorable.

Overall, the trip was a thoroughly enjoyable and valuable experience, providing students with new insights, creative inspiration, and a greater appreciation of Liverpool's rich cultural heritage.



CELEBRATING BLUE COAT WOMEN

On International Women's Day, we celebrate all the women and girls who have been educated at Blue Coat — and we would love the chance to reconnect with you.

This summer, we will be hosting a special event for female Blue Coat alumni. It will be an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new connections and reminisce about your time at school.

From 1989, when the first girls were admitted into Sixth Form, to 2002, when the school became fully co-educational, it marks an important journey, celebrating the moment girls were given equal access to a Blue Coat education.

As part of this celebration, we are launching the Blue Coat Women's Network, bringing together past pupils to build connections, share experiences and support future generations of Blue Coat women.

If you would like to find out more about the network and receive details of our summer social event, please contact the Foundation at foundation@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.



STUDENT SUCCESS: SHREYA SELECTED FOR MAGDALENE COLLEGE RESIDENTIAL

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Shreya has been offered a place on the prestigious residential programme at Magdalene College, part of University of Cambridge. The residential will take place from 7–10 April 2026.

Shreya secured her place following a highly competitive application process. Her application stood out thanks to her strong academic ability, intellectual curiosity and genuine enthusiasm for learning. Being selected for this residential programme is a significant achievement and reflects the dedication and commitment she has consistently demonstrated in her studies.

During the residential, Shreya will spend several days at Magdalene College taking part in an exciting programme designed to give students a taste of university life. The timetable includes academic taster sessions, visits to different university departments and colleges, and specialised sessions offering guidance on university applications. These experiences aim to broaden students' academic horizons and provide valuable insight into studying at one of the world's leading universities.

We are incredibly proud of Shreya's achievement and look forward to hearing about her experiences in Cambridge. Congratulations to Shreya on this fantastic accomplishment, and we wish her every success during the residential.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES: "TALKING TEENS" PARENT SESSION

This term, **The Blue Coat School** launched the first of four planned parent sessions in our new Talking Teens series. The opening session, held at 10am, welcomed parents and carers for a focused and practical discussion on understanding and communicating effectively with teenagers.

Adolescence is a period of significant cognitive, emotional and social development. As young people navigate increased academic expectations, peer relationships and digital influences, the role of informed and confident parenting becomes even more important. The Talking Teens programme has been designed to support families in responding to these challenges constructively.

Why We Are Organising These Events

The school's commitment to pastoral care extends beyond the classroom. Research consistently shows that strong school-home partnerships have a measurable impact on wellbeing, behaviour and academic attainment. By offering structured parent sessions, we aim to:

- Strengthen communication between home and school**
- Equip parents with evidence-informed strategies** for managing common adolescent challenges
- Promote emotional wellbeing and resilience**
- Encourage consistency of expectations and boundaries**
- Provide a supportive forum** for discussion and shared experience

The first session explored practical approaches to maintaining open dialogue, managing conflict calmly and recognising the developmental changes that influence teenage behaviour. Parents were encouraged to reflect on communication patterns and consider strategies that foster independence while maintaining clear guidance.

A Whole-School Approach to Wellbeing

At Blue Coat, personal development is viewed as integral to academic success. By investing in parent engagement, we strengthen the network of support surrounding each student. These sessions are not remedial; they are proactive. They reflect our belief that partnership, clarity and shared understanding enable young people to flourish.


The remaining three sessions in the Talking Teens series will build on this foundation, addressing topics such as digital boundaries, motivation, mental health and maintaining positive relationships through the later teenage years.

We thank all parents who attended the first session and look forward to continuing these important conversations throughout the series.




READING
Sparx Super Star

1 st	HANA (8FR)
2 nd	ANDREW (9CU)
3 rd	LAITH (7TO)



MATHS
Sparx Super Star

1 st	HANNAH (8TO)
2 nd	ISAAC (10SE)
3 rd	JAMES (7RO)



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Another competitive and high-quality week of sport for students at The Blue Coat School, with notable performances across multiple year groups and disciplines.

Badminton

Our KS3 and KS4 girls' badminton teams competed at the North West Finals on Friday against strong regional opposition.

KS3 narrowly lost their final 3-2 against Altrincham Grammar, finishing as runners-up after a highly competitive match.

KS4 delivered an outstanding performance, winning the North West title and progressing to the National Finals as NW Champions.

To reach the national stage is a significant achievement and reflects the technical skill, tactical awareness and composure demonstrated throughout the competition.

Netball

Blue Coat netball teams faced Bellerive in a series of fixtures across Years 7 and 8.

7B, 8A and 8B teams all secured convincing victories.

7A battled to a well-earned draw in a closely contested match.

The results highlight both the depth of talent across year groups and the continued development of teamwork and match discipline.

Basketball

It was a dramatic week on the basketball court:

U16s narrowly lost 79-72 to Sale Grammar in the quarter-final, ending their cup run after a competitive and high-scoring contest.

U19s secured an impressive 85-79 victory over King Edward VI, progressing through to the quarter-finals.

The U19 result demonstrates attacking quality and resilience under pressure as they advance further in the competition.

Handball – U14 County League

The U14 teams competed in the County League with mixed but encouraging results:

A Team

Lost 11-13 to Sheffield in a tightly fought game

Won 19-7 against Blue Coat B

B Team

Lost 4-23 to Trafford

Won 14-7 against Kingsmead

Both squads showed determination and continued tactical development across their fixtures

 **Congratulations to Rehani (10FR) for being selected for the England U16 training camp.**



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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	Y7 Parents' Evening - 4:15pm
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29th April 2026	Y9,10,12 theatre trip 'Miss Saigon' (Liverpool Empire)



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





THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL GOLF DAY 2026 WOOLTON GOLF CLUB



FRIDAY JULY 3RD 2026

**12.30PM REGISTRATION
2.00PM TEE OFF
7.00PM DINNER & SOCIAL**



£320/team or £80/player

**INCLUDES:
LIGHT LUNCH,
ROUND OF GOLF
2 COURSE MEAL (PUB STYLE)
ENTRY TO ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONGEST DRIVE**



£25 for dinner only

REGISTER NOW!

seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Friends, family and colleagues welcome
(This is an adult only event)



All proceeds will go towards Blue Coat School Development Fund



The Liverpool Blue Coat School presents:

MUSIC FOR EASTER

**at THE PARISH CHURCH
OF OUR LADY AND ST NICHOLAS**

*With performances from
The Liverpool Blue Coat School Organ Scholars
and Chamber Choir*

**Wednesday 25th March,
7.00-8.15pm**

**Venue: The Parish Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas
Old Churchyard, Chapel Street, Liverpool, L2 8TZ**

**Tickets £7.50 and can be purchased
through Parentmail, scan this QR:
or [use this link](#)**



Email seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk for more information



www.bluecoatschool.org.uk



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and evince a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



#WakeUpWednesday

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