

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

YEAR 8 INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING GROUP – CAREERS DAY

Year 8 students in the Inspirational Learning Group recently took part in a focused **Careers Day centred on British Airways**, providing a valuable insight into the wide range of opportunities within the aviation industry.

The session explored the diverse careers available at British Airways, from pilots and cabin crew to engineering, customer service, and business operations. Students gained an understanding of the skills, qualifications, and pathways required for different roles, as well as the importance of teamwork, communication, and problem-solving within a global organisation.

The day encouraged students to think more broadly about future career possibilities and to make connections between their current learning and real-world applications. Through discussion and activities, pupils developed a greater awareness of how subjects studied in school link to careers in aviation and beyond.

This event forms part of the school's wider commitment to careers education and enrichment. At Blue Coat, we are working to ensure that every pupil completes **a minimum of 10 days of meaningful work experience before the end of Key Stage 4**, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and insight needed for future education and employment pathways.

Student feedback from the day was extremely positive. **90% of students rated the activity as good**, while **97% reported a stronger understanding of the skills employers are looking for**. In addition, **97% stated that the challenge helped them understand the skills required for the workplace**, and **83% felt it helped them recognise their own talents and strengths**.

Overall, this was an engaging and impactful experience, helping to inspire ambition and raise aspirations among Year 8 students as they begin to consider their future pathways.





SUCCESS AT THE MATHS COMPETITION

Students from our school had an excellent day at the Maths Competition, competing against a strong field of around 44 teams in person, with additional teams taking part online — bringing the total to just over 50 teams.

One of our teams achieved an outstanding result, taking **first place**. Congratulations to **Aadi M, Ben C, Prakash B and Harry W**, who delivered a superb performance and impressively scored full marks in the competition. This is a remarkable achievement given the high standard of teams involved.

All of the students represented the school brilliantly. They worked extremely hard throughout the day and clearly enjoyed the challenge and atmosphere of the event.

The day was made even more memorable as it coincided with **two students' birthdays** — including one student celebrating his **18th birthday**.

As winners, the team were awarded **£200 in vouchers**, a well-deserved reward for their exceptional effort and teamwork.

Congratulations to all of the students who took part for their dedication and enthusiasm.



YEAR 9, 10 & 11 MATHS OLYMPIAD – THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

On **Thursday 20th March**, Year 9 students at The Blue Coat School took part in the **Maths Olympiad**, with an impressive **60 pupils participating** in this challenging and prestigious competition.

The Maths Olympiad is designed to stretch and challenge students beyond the standard curriculum, focusing on problem-solving, logical reasoning, and mathematical thinking at a high level. Rather than routine questions, students are required to apply their knowledge creatively, tackling unfamiliar problems that demand perseverance and analytical skill.

This provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience mathematics in a different context—one that promotes curiosity, resilience, and intellectual risk-taking. Participation helps to develop key skills such as critical thinking, pattern recognition, and structured reasoning, all of which are essential for success in higher-level mathematics and beyond.

The strong level of engagement from Year 9 reflects the school's commitment to academic enrichment and providing opportunities for students to challenge themselves. Events such as the Maths Olympiad play an important role in fostering a culture of aspiration and excellence, and we are very proud of all students who took part.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE VISIT FROM GEORGE FRANCIS

On Friday 13th March, George Francis—a Wavertree native and the current Musical Director of Hadestown in the West End—visited the school to speak with students about his experiences in the musical theatre industry. During an engaging session lasting over an hour and a half, he shared insights into his career and the wider world of theatre, and also took time to ask students thoughtful questions about their own production, creating a highly interactive and inspiring discussion.

Students were especially inspired by George's personal journey. They learned that entering the musical theatre industry does not always require formal music training and that building connections and networking are key to success. His emphasis on gaining hands-on experience—no matter how small the opportunity—left a strong impression.

The talk also sparked personal ambition among students, with some expressing interest in developing new skills, such as starting piano lessons.

A number of students commented on how friendly and approachable George was, and how much they appreciated hearing about his real-life experiences. His insights into working on Hadestown were particularly valuable, allowing students to make meaningful connections to their own production work. His positive reaction to the students' performance reinforced the idea of theatre as a supportive and collaborative community.

Overall, the visit was described as inspiring, informative, and enjoyable, leaving students with a deeper understanding of the industry and enthusiasm for their own creative journeys.



YEAR 12 'PRIMA FACIE' WORKSHOP – LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE

Year 12 students recently attended a powerful and thought-provoking workshop based on **Prima Facie** at the **Liverpool Playhouse**. The workshop was delivered by the Playhouse's education and outreach team, who specialise in working with schools to deepen students' engagement with live theatre and its wider social context.

The session provided students with the opportunity to explore the themes of the play in greater depth, particularly issues surrounding the legal system, justice, consent, and social responsibility. Through a combination of guided discussion, practical activities, and analysis of key moments from the production, students were encouraged to engage critically with the material and consider multiple perspectives.

Students responded with maturity and insight, contributing thoughtfully to discussions and demonstrating a strong willingness to engage with challenging subject matter. The workshop also supported their academic development, particularly for those studying English, Drama, and Law, by strengthening their analytical skills and understanding of contemporary texts.

Workshops of this kind form an important part of the school's wider enrichment programme, enabling students to experience high-quality cultural education while developing critical thinking and empathy.

LIVERPOOL
EVERYMAN &
PLAYHOUSE



MENTORS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AT THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

The Blue Coat School is proud to champion its **Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)** programme, an important strand of our wider commitment to student leadership, safeguarding, and a culture of respect.

MVP is a peer-led initiative that empowers students—particularly those in senior year groups—to take an active role in promoting positive behaviours and challenging harmful attitudes. Through structured training, student mentors develop the confidence and skills to lead discussions with younger pupils around issues such as bullying, gender-based violence, online behaviour, and bystander intervention. The programme focuses on equipping students to recognise situations, think critically, and act safely and responsibly.

At Blue Coat, MVP is embedded as a leadership opportunity that encourages students to become role models within the school community. Mentors facilitate sessions, guide conversations, and support their peers in understanding how to make respectful and informed choices. This not only strengthens the school's safeguarding culture but also develops students' communication, empathy, and leadership skills.

We are incredibly proud of the students who have committed to the programme and the impact they continue to make across the school.

This commitment was formally recognised at the **MVP Graduation**, which took place on **Tuesday 17th March at St George's Hall**. The prestigious event celebrated the dedication, maturity, and leadership shown by our MVP mentors and marked a significant milestone in their journey.

At Blue Coat, the MVP programme reflects our belief that students play a vital role in shaping a safe, inclusive, and respectful school environment.



UPDATE ON LIFE IN CAMBRIDGE - ERIN O'CONNELL

When Erin O'Connell applied for the role of Head of School in early 2023, her application centred around giving back to the school and inclusion. The very meaning of our school motto: 'not for oneself, but for all', in her role as Head of School, Erin championed a range of causes, ensuring all voices were heard and our diverse community was celebrated.

We are thrilled to learn that Erin has taken this passion with her to the University of Cambridge. Demonstrating her commitment to gender equality, accessing educational opportunities, and policy change, Erin is a mentor for the Apply-Cambridge programme, an intensive online programme with weekly activities, including admissions interview, and test practice.

How student Erin O'Connell advocates for inclusive opportunities at Cambridge

Apply: Cambridge offers information, advice and guidance to help navigate the admissions process and prepare a competitive Cambridge application.

We are incredibly proud of Erin and can't wait to see what the future holds for her!



BLUE COAT STUDENTS SHINE AT PRESTIGIOUS ORGAN CONCERT

Students from The Blue Coat School delivered an outstanding performance at the **Royal College of Organists Young Performers Concert**, held at **Leeds Cathedral** on **Monday 16 March** as part of the **Leeds Lunchtime Organ Music Series 2025/26**.

The concert, which featured a diverse and demanding programme, showcased the exceptional musical talent of four Blue Coat students, each of whom performed with confidence, musicality, and technical precision in a highly prestigious setting.

The programme opened with Lorcan, representing the Junior Royal Northern College of Music, who performed Henri Mulet's vibrant *Carillon-Sortie*. His assured and expressive playing set the tone for the afternoon, earning warm appreciation from the audience.

Lucas Hsu followed with a compelling rendition of Olivier Messiaen's *Joie et Clarté*, bringing clarity and sensitivity to the composer's distinctive style. Jessica Ke then performed Noel Rawsthorne's *Berceuse*, delivering a poised and lyrical interpretation that demonstrated both control and musical maturity.

The concert concluded with a lively and memorable finale, as Amelia Yu and Jessica Ke performed Andreas Willscher's *Toccata alla Rumba* as a four-handed duet. Their energetic and coordinated performance provided a fitting and exuberant close to the programme, and was a clear highlight of the event.

Compered by Tom Bell, the concert celebrated young musical talent at a high level, and it was a particular source of pride that Blue Coat students were so strongly represented. Performing in such a distinguished venue and as part of a respected concert series marks a significant achievement for all involved.

The event was a proud moment for the school community, with students demonstrating not only their musical excellence but also their dedication and commitment to their craft.



YEAR 12 SAN SEBASTIÁN EXCHANGE – THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Year 12 students from The Blue Coat School will depart on **Saturday 21st March** for the **San Sebastián Exchange**, a key component of the school's modern languages programme and a valuable opportunity for immersive learning.

The exchange provides students with the chance to experience life in Spain first-hand, engaging with native speakers in authentic contexts. By living with host families and attending lessons, students are required to use Spanish in real, everyday situations, significantly developing their confidence and fluency in speaking. This level of immersion accelerates language acquisition in a way that cannot be replicated in the classroom.

In addition to speaking skills, the exchange also strengthens students' translation and comprehension abilities. Exposure to natural spoken and written Spanish helps students to better understand nuance, idiomatic language, and cultural context—key components of success at A Level. Students are able to apply their classroom learning in meaningful ways, refining their ability to interpret and respond accurately.

Beyond language development, the exchange fosters independence, adaptability, and cultural awareness. Students gain a deeper understanding of Spanish culture, education, and daily life, broadening their global perspective and preparing them for further study or future careers in an increasingly interconnected world.

At Blue Coat, opportunities such as the San Sebastián Exchange are an essential part of developing confident, articulate, and culturally aware linguists. We wish all students a safe journey and look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return.

BLUE COAT STUDENTS ATTEND GYMNASTICS EVENT AT THE M&S BANK ARENA

Students from The Blue Coat School recently attended an exciting gymnastics event at the M&S Bank Arena Liverpool on Thursday 19th March, as part of the school's wider commitment to enrichment and sporting excellence.

The event brought together elite gymnasts competing at a high level, showcasing a range of disciplines including floor, vault, bars, and beam. Students had the opportunity to watch live performances from top athletes, gaining insight into the technical skill, precision, and dedication required to succeed in gymnastics at a competitive level.

The trip was designed to inspire students by exposing them to high-quality sport and to deepen their understanding of physical performance, training, and resilience. For those studying PE, the event provided a valuable real-world context to support their learning, particularly in areas such as movement analysis, strength, flexibility, and performance under pressure.

Beyond the academic benefits, the visit also aimed to broaden students' cultural and sporting experiences, encouraging them to engage with live events and consider participation in sport as both a recreational and aspirational pursuit.

Students represented the school excellently throughout the visit and returned with a greater appreciation of the discipline, focus, and determination required in elite sport.



YEAR 9 DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE EXPEDITION – DELAMERE FOREST

Year 9 students from The Blue Coat School will be setting off this weekend for their **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition** in Delamere Forest, with an impressive **162 pupils taking part**. The group will depart on Saturday as they begin this exciting and challenging experience.

The expedition is a key component of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, designed to develop resilience, independence, and teamwork. Over the course of the weekend, students will navigate planned routes, manage their own equipment, and work collaboratively in groups to complete the challenge. This will require them to demonstrate organisation, communication, and problem-solving skills in a real-world environment.

At Blue Coat, we place significant value on experiences such as this, as they extend learning beyond the classroom and support the development of the whole student. The expedition encourages pupils to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence, and take responsibility for their own progress. It also promotes perseverance and adaptability—qualities that are essential not only for academic success but for life beyond school.

The benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh Award are long-lasting. Students develop transferable skills that are highly valued by employers and universities, including leadership, initiative, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team. The experience also fosters a sense of achievement and self-belief, as students overcome challenges and reflect on what they are capable of accomplishing.

We wish all students the very best for the weekend and look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

It has been another successful and busy period for sport at The Blue Coat School, with strong performances across a range of disciplines.

Handball

In **handball**, the **U13 Boys** delivered an outstanding performance to become **Merseyside Champions**, securing their place in the North West Regional competition. The **U13 Girls** also performed exceptionally well, finishing as **runners-up in Merseyside**, narrowly losing 7-5 in a closely contested final.

Netball

In **netball**, fixtures against St Hilda's saw mixed results. The **Year 7 A and B teams** battled well but were defeated, while the **Year 8 and Year 9 A and B teams** enjoyed success, securing convincing wins.

Basketball

In **basketball**, the **Year 7 team** produced an impressive performance in the Junior NBA competition, defeating Wirral Grammar **33-11**, demonstrating strong teamwork and attacking play.

Football

Football also saw notable success, with **Year 9 and Year 10 boys** competing in the LSSP Liverpool 7-a-side tournament at Simpsons. Congratulations go to the **Year 10 team**, who were crowned **Liverpool Champions** after winning the competition.

These results reflect the commitment, effort, and enthusiasm of students across all year groups. We are very proud of their achievements and the way they continue to represent the school.



SIR ALAN TOD TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

We are delighted to share details of the **Sir Alan Tod Travel Scholarships 2026**, an exciting opportunity available exclusively to **Year 12 students** at The Blue Coat School. The scholarship, established through the generosity of the Tod Trust, aims to support students in broadening their horizons through meaningful educational travel.

The scholarship honours **Sir Alan Tod**, Treasurer of The Blue Coat School from **1955–1968** and founder of the Tod Trust. In **1980**, the Trustees made a substantial donation to the school to ensure that future generations could benefit from enriching cultural and educational experiences abroad.

What is the purpose of the scholarship?

The Tod Travel Scholarship is designed to help students:

- Expand their cultural awareness
- Support and enhance current academic studies
- Prepare for future educational or career pathways
- Challenge themselves and gain independence
- Find inspiration through real-world experiences

What should applications include?

Students applying for the scholarship must provide:

- Details of their intended travel destination(s)
- The purpose and educational value of the trip
- Total estimated costs, proposed travel dates, and duration
- Full name, form, and email address for each applicant
- Travel must take place during the 2026–27 academic year.

Key Dates

- **Application deadline: 12.30pm, Monday 23rd March 2026**
- Where to send applications:
Email written applications to Mr Sexton and Caroline Tod-Richardson at office@bluecoatschool.org.uk
- **Interview invitations sent by:** Monday 13th April 2026
- **Interview date:** 3.30pm, Wednesday 15th April 2026
- **Confirm interview attendance by:** Friday 24th April 2026
- All applications will be carefully reviewed by Mr Sexton and Caroline Tod-Richardson. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a brief interview to discuss their proposed travel plans.

This is a unique chance for students to design a personalised educational experience, explore the world, and enrich their learning far beyond the classroom. We strongly encourage all interested Year 12 students to apply and make the most of this remarkable opportunity.



JADEN E (7FR)



POPPY W (8TO)



ROSALIA V (7RO)



ENRICO L (7CU)



GIRIJA S (9RO)



NADIA W (7TU)



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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)
Monday 4th May 2026 - Monday 11th May 2026	French Exchange
Monday 4th May 2026	May Bank Holiday (May Day)
Wednesday 6th May 2026	Y12 Parents' Evening (Online)
Thursday 7th May 2026	Y11 Leavers' Day Celebration
Friday 8th May 2026 - Sunday 10th May 2026	Y10 DofE Silver Practice Expedition (Dark Peak)
Thursday 14th May 2026	Y13 Leavers' Day Celebration
Wednesday 20th May 2026 - Sunday 24th May 2026	Spanish Trip to Madrid
Thursday 21st May 2026	Y12 Geography Trip to Baltic Triangle
Friday 22nd May 2026	Term ends at 3:30pm

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



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

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