



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SENIOR PREFECT TEAM ANNOUNCED AT BLUE COAT SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL

CONGRATULATIONS

Over the past month, interviews have been conducted to appoint the new Senior Prefect Team at Blue Coat School, Liverpool. The process has been both rigorous and rewarding, with Year 12 students demonstrating exceptional commitment, professionalism, and enthusiasm throughout. Every applicant should take pride in the effort, resilience, and maturity they have shown.

By the end of today, all successful students will have received their official letters of appointment along with their prefect ties—marking the beginning of their leadership journey within the school. The school is delighted to announce the newly appointed Senior Prefect Team. These students have distinguished themselves not only through their applications but also through their conduct and dedication to the school community. They are expected to serve as exemplary role models, carrying out their responsibilities with integrity, pride, and a strong sense of service.

Heads of School

Bruno A-S & Neena O

Heads of House

Curie: Fraser F & Ruby McK

Franklin: Louis W (also Head of Student Council) & Zohal K

Roscoe: Zakarya O & Evie P

Seacole: Shahin H & Savannah S

Tod: Adwin G & Grace O

Turing: Kai M-Y & Rita X

Heads of LRC

Adn V & Zara C

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – including Social Outreach

Head: Akul Dev S

Deputy: Holly H

Assistants: Kenn A, Noor K, Annika V, Hiqma S, Rosh R, Ava S

Mentoring (Peer & Academic)

Head: Johanna J

Deputy: Pranav G

Assistants: Jayadev P, Chris Y, Harnoor N, Cian P, Sneha S, Zitong Y

General Prefects

Olivia V, Thomas G, Shubham K, Olivia L, Nidhi T, Heetansh R, Joshua B, Anisha G

Congratulations to all those appointed. The school looks forward to seeing the positive impact this team will have over the coming year. Finally, sincere thanks are extended to all staff involved in supporting and shaping the selection process.

“DRINK! EAT! INDULGE YOUR SOUL!”: FOOD AND FEASTS IN ANCIENT GREECE

Guest Lecture by Nia Morris, University of Liverpool
Thursday 23 April 2026, 7pm; Blue Coat School

Food in the ancient world was never merely about sustenance; it was a lens through which identity, status, and community were expressed. Our upcoming lecture, “Drink! Eat! Indulge your soul!”, will explore the rich culture of food and feasting in Ancient Greece, bringing this aspect of the classical world vividly to life. In Greek society, meals were deeply social and often ritualised, most notably in the symposium, a gathering that combined wine, conversation, poetry, and philosophical debate. Figures such as Plato and Socrates are famously associated with these occasions, where intellectual exchange was as central as the act of dining itself.



The lecture will examine not only the foods consumed—such as bread, olives, fish, honey, and wine—but also the broader cultural significance of eating in the ancient Greek world. Diet was shaped by geography, trade, and social hierarchy, with clear distinctions between everyday meals and elite banquets. At the same time, food was closely tied to philosophical ideas about moderation and balance, reflecting wider Greek values about the “good life.” Feasting also carried a strong religious dimension, with offerings to the gods and communal meals forming an essential part of festivals and civic identity.



This event significantly enhances our school's distinctive Latin and Classics provision by offering students an opportunity to engage with the ancient world beyond the confines of the classroom. Texts studied in Latin and Classical Civilisation frequently reference banquets, hospitality, and daily life, yet these can remain abstract without deeper contextual understanding. By exploring these themes through an expert lecture, students gain a more nuanced and tangible appreciation of the societies they study.



There was barely an empty seat in the LRC as Blue Coat hosted another public lecture by the Classical Association of Liverpool. The speaker was Nia Morris who is a past pupil of Blue Coat, having studied Latin under Dr Lawell.

She also learnt Greek in Liverpool through the Classics for All Greek Academy. Nia went on to study Classics in Clare College, Cambridge. We were immensely proud to welcome her back to Blue Coat as she spoke about Greek eating habits and dinner parties. Blue Coat students and members of the public were treated to a wide-ranging exploration of the Greek diet, annoying dinner guests, and party games in the Greek symposium. We wish Nia every success as she pursues her doctoral studies.

EXAM PREPARATION TIP OF THE WEEK: RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

One of the most effective revision strategies is retrieval practice—actively recalling information from memory rather than simply re-reading notes. This strengthens long-term retention and helps students identify what they truly know versus what only feels familiar.

A simple way to apply this is the “look, cover, write, check” method. Study a topic briefly, then cover your notes and write down everything you can remember. Afterwards, check against your notes and fill in any gaps. This process forces the brain to work harder, which is exactly what improves memory and understanding.

To maximise impact, retrieval practice should be used regularly and combined with spacing—revisiting topics over time rather than cramming. Short, frequent recall sessions are far more effective than long periods of passive revision. By building retrieval into daily study routines, students develop stronger recall, greater confidence, and improved performance in exams.



EVERY DAY COUNTS: ATTENDANCE, WELLBEING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of both academic progress and student wellbeing. Each day in school provides structured learning, social interaction, and a sense of routine that supports stability and confidence. When students attend consistently, they are able to follow the sequence of lessons as intended, build on prior knowledge, and engage fully in classroom discussion. In contrast, even occasional absence can disrupt this continuity, making it harder to retain knowledge, keep pace with the curriculum, and feel secure in one's learning.

Attendance is also closely linked to wellbeing. Being present in school allows students to maintain friendships, access pastoral support, and feel part of a wider community. These daily interactions play a crucial role in emotional development, helping students build resilience, communication skills, and a sense of belonging. Extended or repeated absence can lead to feelings of isolation or anxiety, which in turn may make returning to school more challenging. A consistent routine, by contrast, promotes positive habits that benefit both mental health and overall confidence.

From an academic perspective, the cumulative effect of attendance is significant. Learning is not confined to isolated lessons; it is a continuous process where each day builds on the last. Missing lessons often means missing key explanations, guided practice, and immediate feedback from teachers—elements that are difficult to replicate independently. Over time, these gaps can widen, leading to increased pressure and reduced attainment. Strong attendance ensures that students remain engaged, supported, and able to achieve their full potential.

Ultimately, every day in school contributes to a student's personal development and future success. Good attendance fosters discipline, responsibility, and a commitment to learning—qualities that extend far beyond the classroom. By attending regularly, students are not only improving their academic outcomes but also developing the habits and mindset needed for long-term success. Every day truly counts.

A LEVEL RECITAL EVENING SHOWCASES MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

On Tuesday 21st April, the Sixth Form Study Library was transformed into an intimate concert venue for our annual A Level Recital Evening. The event provided an opportunity for students to perform a demanding and varied programme, demonstrating both technical accomplishment and musical maturity. Supported by expert accompanists—Miss H Milne, Ms R Jackson, and Mr T Jackson—students delivered performances of a notably high standard across a wide range of repertoire.

The evening opened with Luke R (Alto Saxophone), who performed works by Jean-Baptiste Singelée, Eugène Bozza, and Rudy Wiedoeft. His programme combined lyrical expression with virtuosic flair, particularly in the stylistic contrast between the expressive Aria and the characterful Valse Vanité. Cassie McC (Piano) followed with a poised performance of works by Frederick Rosse and Friedrich Kuhlau, demonstrating clarity of articulation and a strong sense of classical style.



Anna C (Viola) offered a compelling programme, including the Prelude from Suite No.2 by Johann Sebastian Bach and works by Heitor Villa-Lobos and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Her performance showed both depth of tone and expressive control. This was followed by a series of outstanding piano performances: Charles F delivered an atmospheric interpretation of Maurice Ravel alongside the brilliance of Felix Mendelssohn, while Oscar C presented a technically demanding and stylistically varied programme featuring Franz Schubert, Claude Debussy, Carl Vine, and Francis Poulenc.

The evening concluded with a confident and engaging performance from Lana J (Violin), whose programme included works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Grażyna Bacewicz, and Johannes Brahms. Her playing combined technical precision with expressive energy, bringing the recital to a fitting close.

Overall, the evening was a celebration of dedication, discipline, and musical excellence, reflecting the strength of music within the Sixth Form and the commitment of students and staff alike.



TOD SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

The Tod Scholarship presentations this year were nothing short of exceptional. A total of 11 presentations were delivered, each showcasing the depth of research, preparation, and ambition of our pupils. The range of proposed destinations was equally impressive, with students presenting thoughtfully on trips to Berlin, Vienna, Amsterdam, Milan, Budapest, and Lisbon.

A special mention must go to Caroline Tod-Richardson, who dedicated her time to watching every single presentation. Her commitment ensured that each student's work was given the attention it deserved.

What stood out most was the confidence with which pupils communicated their ideas. The quality of research, clarity of planning, and enthusiasm for cultural exploration were evident throughout. Students demonstrated not only academic rigour but also independence and creativity in designing their proposals.

The standard this year has set a very high bar, and selecting the successful groups will be no easy task. Those chosen will be announced next week.

Well done to all pupils involved for their hard work and professionalism — a truly impressive effort.



TOP TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR GCSE SPEAKING TESTS

With GCSE speaking assessments approaching, preparation plays a crucial role in building confidence and securing strong outcomes. Most speaking exams—whether for languages or presentations—follow a clear structure, typically including a role play, a photo card discussion, and a general conversation.

Strong preparation goes beyond memorising individual words. Pupils should aim to learn full phrases and sentence structures, allowing them to speak more naturally and fluently. Regular practice out loud is essential—this might include reading answers aloud, practising with family members, or recording responses to improve pronunciation and clarity. Speaking is a skill that improves with repetition, and consistent practice will make a noticeable difference.

During the test, it is important to extend answers rather than keeping them short. Adding opinions, reasons, and examples helps to access higher marks. Pupils should also be prepared for unexpected questions by staying calm, using familiar vocabulary, and adapting what they already know. Clear pronunciation and a steady pace are key; accuracy and communication are more important than speaking quickly or trying to sound perfect.

Finally, making good use of preparation time in the exam can boost performance significantly. Planning key points, noting useful vocabulary, and thinking about different tenses can help structure stronger answers. Above all, confidence is built through preparation—mistakes are part of the process, and recovering from them calmly is a positive skill. Regular, focused practice in the lead-up to the exam will give pupils the best chance of success.

JCQ EXAM RULES: MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES



As we approach the examination period, it is essential that both pupils and parents understand the regulations set by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). These rules are strict and are designed to ensure that all exams are conducted fairly.

Why are these rules important?

Exams must be fair for every candidate. Any access to communication devices could provide an unfair advantage or raise concerns about malpractice. As a result, the rules regarding mobile phones and smart watches are non-negotiable.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must **not** be taken into the exam room under any circumstances.

- This includes phones in pockets, bags, or even switched off
- A phone does not need to be used to break the rules — simply having it on you is enough
- If a phone is found, it will be treated as a serious breach of exam regulations

Smart Watches and Other Devices

Smart watches are treated in exactly the same way as mobile phones.

- They must **not** be worn or brought into the exam room
- This includes any watch with internet access, messaging capability, or data storage
- In many cases, even standard watches are not allowed unless explicitly approved

What happens if the rules are broken?

The consequences are severe and set by the JCQ:

- The exam board may be informed
- Marks for the paper could be cancelled
- In serious cases, all exam results for that subject (or more) could be disqualified

Importantly, these penalties apply **even if there is no evidence of cheating.**

What should pupils do?

To avoid any risk:

- Leave phones and smart watches at home where possible
- If brought to school, hand them in before the exam as instructed
- Check pockets carefully before entering the exam room

Final reminder

These rules are in place to protect all students and ensure that results are valid and respected. We ask for full cooperation from both pupils and parents in reinforcing these expectations.

If you have any questions, please contact the school before the exam period begins.





BLUE COAT SCHOOL CHARITY GOLF DAY 2026 – DON'T MISS OUT!

Registration is now OPEN for one of the most enjoyable events of the year – the Blue Coat School Golf Day!

Join us on Friday 3rd July at the beautiful Woolton Golf Club for an afternoon packed with great golf, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs. Expect exciting on-course challenges, a lively atmosphere, and just the right amount of competitive spirit—whether you're playing to win or just for fun.

The day doesn't stop when you leave the course. The evening brings everyone together for an informal dinner (with non-golfers very welcome to join), along with a raffle and prize presentation—always a highlight and a great chance to celebrate the day with others.

Open to all golfers—parents, relatives, friends, and colleagues—you can sign up as a team, pair, or individual. It's a fantastic way to meet different parts of the school community, catch up with familiar faces, and make new connections in a relaxed, sociable setting.

Last year's event was a huge success, with brilliant feedback about the atmosphere, organisation, and overall experience—and we're set to make this year even better.

Most importantly, by taking part you'll be supporting something that truly matters. The funds raised play a vital role in enhancing students' experiences at Blue Coat, helping to provide the wide range of extracurricular opportunities that enrich school life and make a lasting difference.

It's set to be a fun, feel-good day with a real sense of community and purpose—so gather your team, dust off your clubs, and get involved. We'd love to see you there!





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

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Congratulations to the Year 8 girls' Netball team, who have been crowned Liverpool City Champions following an outstanding performance in the final.

The team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and determination throughout the competition, culminating in a well-deserved victory. Their defensive intensity and quick transitions proved too strong for their opponents, while their composure under pressure highlighted their growing confidence and skill.

This achievement is a testament to the players' commitment, hard work in training, and positive attitude across the season. They have represented the school with pride and set a fantastic example for younger students.

A huge well done to all involved—an excellent accomplishment and a moment to celebrate!



POPPY (8TO)



MARYAM (7TU)



SHEETHAL (8TU)



ENRICO (7CU)



SAAHAS (7TO)



HARRY (9FR)



KEY DATES

Date	Event
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	Deadline for UCAS personal statement (Draft 2)
Friday 22nd May 2026	Term ends at 3:30pm
Monday, 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026	Half term break
Monday 1st June 2026 – Friday 5th June 2026	Mock exams week
Monday 8th June 2026	UKMT National final
Tuesday 9th June 2026	Y10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 9th June 2026	Junior Maths Kangaroo / Olympiad
Thursday 11th June 2026	Y10 Geography trip - Llandudno
Thursday 11th June 2026	Y12 Liverpool University visit
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Sports Day
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Y12 UCAS Discovery Day
Thursday 18th June 2026	Y10 Geography trip - Llandudno
Friday 19th June 2026 – Sunday 21st June 2026	Y10 DofE Silver assessed & Y12 Gold practice expeditions



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



OSSME Parent Support: Sensory Processing and Strategy Support

HOW: IN PERSON

When: Friday 1st May 2026, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Where: Autism Initiatives, Sefton House, Bridle Road, Bootle, L30 4XR.

HOW: ONLINE

For those who cannot attend in the daytime on Friday:

When: Thursday 30th April 2026, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Where: Online via TEAMS

To book your place please email:

emma.tully@autisminitiatives.org

THIS
COURSE IS
FREE

PLEASE NOTE

When emailing to reserve your place, it is important to provide:

- your full name
- the age of your child
- the educational setting your child attends
- whether you wish to attend in person or via Zoom
- the date of the session you wish to attend

IMPORTANT NOTICE The events are for parents/guardians of the schools we are working in. Numbers will be limited due to our training room capacity, so first come is first served. Please note no more than TWO places per family can be booked for each training session.

10 Top Tips for ... KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM CYBER CRIME

We all want to continue being informed and inspired by the ever-expanding capabilities of the internet. But we also need to be able to safeguard ourselves against the growing amount of online hazards. Knowing what is fact, understanding what dangers exist and taking appropriate steps can go a long way towards protecting yourself and your family. National Online Safety has collaborated with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit to compile 10 pointers to help you keep your children safe from cyber crime.

1. Spot Phishing Bait

Phishing messages are untargeted mass emails asking for sensitive information (e.g. usernames, passwords, bank details) or encouraging recipients to visit a fake website. It's safest to learn the warning signs of phishing and increase your child's awareness. Too good to be true? Spelling or punctuation errors? Odd sense of urgency? These are all red flags. Don't click on links or follow demands if you're unsure, contact the official company directly online to enquire further.

3. Encourage Strong Passwords

Weak passwords make it faster and easier for someone to gain access to your online accounts or get control of your device – giving them a route to your personal information. For a strong password, national guidance recommends using three random words (e.g. *bottlegara geylans*). Consider paying for your child to access a password manager. Encourage them to have a separate password for their email account. Ensure the whole family uses two-factor authentication where possible.

5. Back up Your Data

Some cyber attacks can lead to the theft or deletion of important (and possibly sensitive) data or loss of files (like photos and videos) that can't be replaced. Backing up your data to the cloud – or to another device – will help prevent data loss if you ever become the victim of a cyber attack. Where possible, set your child's devices to back up automatically. Also encourage them to back up their data prior to installing any updates.

7. Take Care When Chatting

Criminals may look to manipulate others online and coerce them into using their talents or cyber skills for unethical means. Try to get your child to be open about who they are talking to online. Communication tools such as Discord are popular among gamers – but be cautious of the other people using them, and ensure you know who your child is chatting with.

9. Understand Their Motivations

Those being influenced online to use their skills unethically may display certain key warning signs. Sudden evidence of new-found wealth (unexplained new clothes or devices, for example), secrecy around their online behaviour or boasting of new online friendships are all causes for concern. If in doubt, refer through to your regional cyber crime team.

2. Don't Over-Share

Is your child sharing too much on social media? Do they post things about their private life, upload images of your home, or discuss their friendships and relationships online? Criminals will gather this information and may try to use it for identity theft or other offences such as fraud. To combat this, ensure your child's privacy settings mean they are only sharing information with family and close friends. Use parental controls where appropriate.

4. Stay Updated

People often put off installing updates to apps or software because they don't feel it's necessary, it can be time consuming, or could cause problems with programmes they rely on. But updates help protect users from recently discovered vulnerabilities to malware. You can usually set them to run automatically – encourage your child to select this option. Ensure updates are installed as soon as possible after you're notified they're available.

6. Be Wary of Public WiFi

Free public WiFi is commonplace – but it's often not secure and sends unencrypted data via the network. A hacker on the same network could access personal data (like financial information) without you even realising they'd done so. To avoid this, suggest to your child that they use their 3G or 4G mobile data when they're out and about, rather than free WiFi. Consider purchasing a VPN (Virtual Private Network) where possible.

8. Recognise Warning Signs

Often, budding cyber experts will relish the challenge of testing themselves or earning recognition from peers for their exploits. Even principled 'white-hat' hackers will look to test their skills online. If you think your child is interested in hacking, try to understand what their motivation is. You could encourage their participation in ethical competitions such as bug bounties.

10. Know the Consequences

Many young people may feel that hacking is essentially a light-hearted prank, and not especially serious. So make sure your child is aware of the implications of a conviction under the Computer Misuse Act – not only the possibility of a criminal record, but also lifelong travel restrictions and damage to their future career or educational prospects.

Produced in Partnership with

The Yorkshire & Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit (YHRCU) works with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other partners, in the UK and abroad, to investigate and prevent the most serious cyber crime offences.



Yorkshire & Humber
REGIONAL CYBER CRIME UNIT



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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