



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

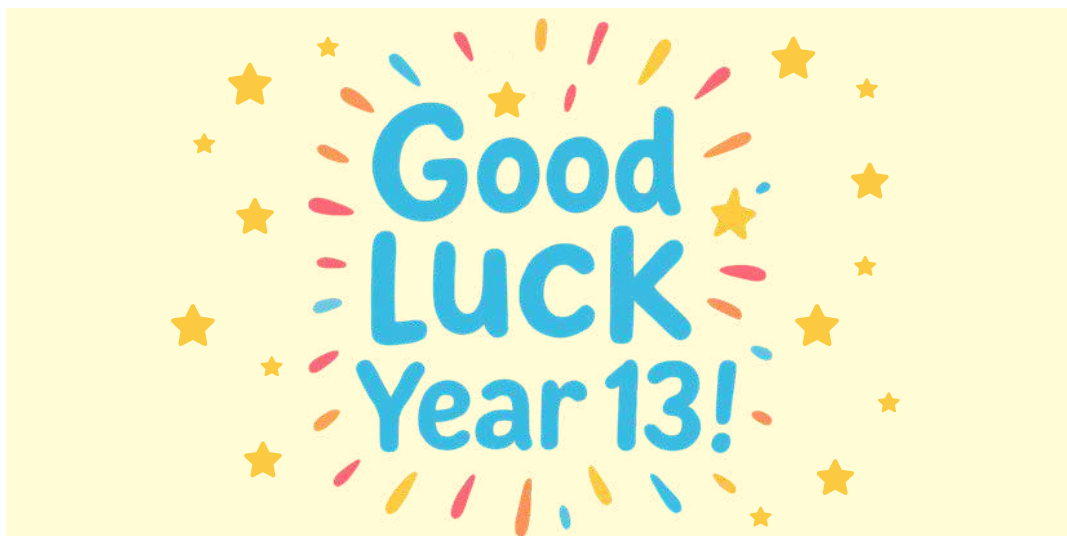
FAREWELL TO YEAR 13: A BLUE COAT LEGACY

As the Year 13 cohort of The Blue Coat School Liverpool prepares to begin their examinations and take their next steps beyond school, this is a moment to recognise a group who have contributed enormously to the life of the community. Over the past two years in particular, their commitment to academic study has been exemplary. They have approached their learning with discipline, resilience and intellectual curiosity, setting a standard that reflects both personal ambition and a genuine respect for scholarship.

Beyond the classroom, this year group has helped to define the cultural and communal life of the school. Their involvement in productions and concerts has been characterised by energy, creativity and professionalism, while their efforts in charity fundraising have demonstrated a clear sense of social responsibility. These are not incidental contributions; they speak to a cohort that understands the value of participation and the importance of giving back. Their presence has been felt across the school, not simply in achievement, but in the tone they have set for others.

As examinations begin, every success is deserved. The preparation, perseverance and maturity shown throughout their studies place them in a strong position, and there is confidence that they will approach the weeks ahead with the same focus they have demonstrated so consistently. Whatever paths they choose next—university, apprenticeships or other opportunities—they leave well equipped, both academically and personally.

Most importantly, they leave as Blue Coat pupils. That identity carries with it an expectation: to act not only for personal success, but for the wider good. The values of service, integrity and community do not end at the school gates; they are the foundation for what comes next. This is not simply a farewell, but a recognition of what has been achieved and what is yet to come. Every good wish goes with them for the future.



RASPBERRY PI COMPETITION

On Wednesday, students from Liverpool Blue Coat School travelled to London to take part in the PA Raspberry Pi Awards 2026 as part of Team MediPi.

Hosted at the Google London offices, the event brought together some of the most innovative young minds from across the country to showcase creative computing projects and celebrate excellence in digital innovation.

Team MediPi proudly represented the school as they presented their Raspberry Pi project alongside other inspiring student teams. Throughout the event, they demonstrated outstanding teamwork, creativity, and professionalism, making a strong impression on judges and fellow participants alike.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement.



STUDENTS ATTEND VICE CHANCELLOR INAUGURATION AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday afternoon, our Heads of School and Head of Student Council had the privilege of attending the inauguration ceremony for the new Vice Chancellor of Liverpool Hope University.

The event brought together guests from across the education sector and provided an inspiring opportunity for our students to represent the school at an important occasion within the local academic community. Throughout the ceremony, students heard reflections on leadership, education, and the importance of creating opportunities for young people to thrive.

Our students conducted themselves exceptionally well and were excellent ambassadors for the school. We are grateful to Liverpool Hope University for the invitation and look forward to continuing to strengthen our links with the university in the future.



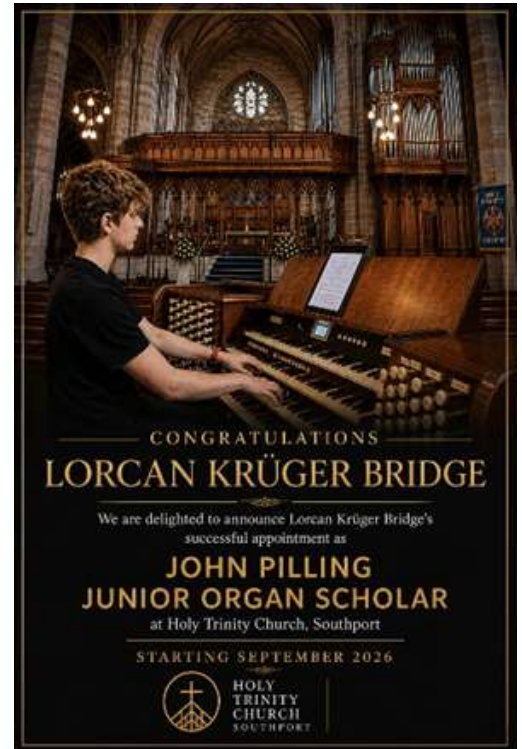
YEAR 9 STUDENT LORCAN KRÜGER BRIDGE APPOINTED PRESTIGIOUS JUNIOR ORGAN SCHOLAR AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The school is pleased to announce that Lorcan K Bridge (Year 9) has been appointed as the John Pilling Junior Organ Scholar at Holy Trinity Church, following a formal audition and interview. This prestigious scholarship, funded by the Pilling Trust, will run from September 2026 to July 2027 and is open to talented young organists from across the region. Securing such an appointment at this stage reflects both musical ability and strong potential.

Holy Trinity is home to one of the most impressive instruments in the area: a four-manual digital organ with 74 speaking stops, comparable in scale to many cathedral instruments. The church maintains a well-established choral tradition, with regular Wednesday evening and Sunday morning services. It also has an excellent track record of former scholars progressing to leading conservatoires and universities across the UK.

In his role as Junior Organ Scholar, Lorcan will play voluntaries for services including Sunday Eucharist and Wednesday Evensong, gradually taking on accompanying responsibilities as his experience develops. He will work closely with Director of Music Daniel Mansfield and will have opportunities to perform a solo lunchtime recital and participate in the choir's annual cathedral visit. These experiences will provide valuable exposure to high-level liturgical and choral music-making.

This scholarship represents a significant step in Lorcan's musical development, offering sustained, practical experience in organ performance and choral accompaniment. Alongside his work as an organist, he is also an accomplished pianist and singer, bringing a quiet commitment and enthusiasm to all he undertakes. This is a well-earned achievement, and there is every expectation that he will make the most of this opportunity.



100 PUSH-UPS-A-DAY CHALLENGE IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

In the spirit of our school motto, "*Not for oneself but for all,*" the Blue Coat community has once again demonstrated the power of collective action and compassion.

Throughout April, staff and students came together to support a 100 push-ups-a-day challenge in aid of **Cancer Research UK**. This cause resonates deeply with many in our community, as cancer affects countless families, friends, and loved ones. Supporting vital research not only helps to improve treatments and survival rates, but also brings hope for a future where cancer can be more effectively prevented and cured.

The challenge required consistency, resilience, and determination, and it was inspiring to see so many members of the school rise to it—whether by taking part physically, offering encouragement, or contributing through donations. Thanks to this collective effort, an impressive **£621.50** was raised.

Sincere thanks are extended to **Mr Bygroves** for organising the initiative so effectively, and to everyone who supported it in any way. Your generosity and commitment reflect the very best of our school community and embody our guiding principle of thinking beyond ourselves.

Thank you once again for your support and for making a meaningful difference.



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



FRENCH EXCHANGE VISIT TO BORDEAUX



Students have travelled this week for an exciting and enriching visit to Bordeaux as part of this year's French exchange programme. Following the successful visit of our partner school to The Blue Coat School earlier in the year, our students are now reuniting with their French partners, their families, and school staff. This return visit is always a highlight of the exchange, offering the opportunity to strengthen friendships and experience everyday life in a different cultural setting.

French exchange programmes provide a unique educational experience that extends far beyond the classroom. Students are fully immersed in the language, developing their confidence in speaking and listening through real-life interaction. Living with host families allows them to gain a genuine insight into French culture, routines, and traditions, helping to build independence, adaptability, and global awareness.

During their time in Bordeaux, students will take part in a range of activities designed to showcase both the historical and cultural richness of the region. Bordeaux, renowned for its elegant architecture and status as a UNESCO World Heritage site, offers opportunities to explore landmarks such as the Place de la Bourse and the Garonne riverfront. Students are also likely to visit local markets, experience regional cuisine, and take part in excursions organised by the partner school.

In addition to cultural visits, students will spend time in lessons with their exchange partners, experiencing the French education system first-hand. This aspect of the exchange provides valuable perspective and encourages students to reflect on their own learning. Overall, the visit promises to be a rewarding and memorable experience, reinforcing the importance of language learning and international connection.



NEW YEAR GROUP TIES YEARS 7-11 (FROM SEPTEMBER 2026)

Following pupil consultation, we will be introducing distinctive year group ties for all students from September. These will replace student lanyards, helping staff to identify pupils more easily around the school site and further supporting safeguarding.

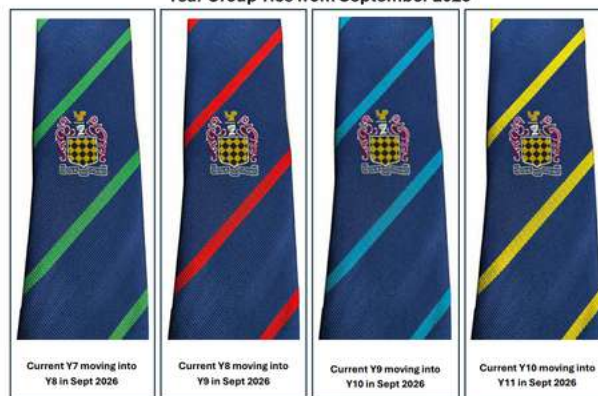
This change will simplify our uniform expectations, reduce costs for families by removing the need for regular lanyard replacements, and promote a consistently smart standard of dress. Students will continue to use their ID cards for access to catering services.

The introduction of year group ties also reflects our wider focus on belonging at Blue Coat, supporting a shared sense of identity, pride and unity across the school community.

Each student's first tie will be provided free of charge by the school. Replacement ties will be available from our approved suppliers at a cost of £8.

Further details on distribution will be shared closer to the end of term.

Year Group Ties from September 2026



NEW SIXTH FORM BLAZER AND TIE (FROM SEPTEMBER 2026)

From the start of the new academic year, we will be introducing a new Sixth Form tie as part of a refreshed Sixth Form identity. The tie will be available to purchase from our approved uniform suppliers from early July.

Alongside this, a new Sixth Form blazer will also be introduced:

- **Year 12** students will be required to wear the new blazer from September 2026
- **Year 13** students may continue wearing their current blazer or choose to purchase the new version



These changes are intended to strengthen a smart, professional Sixth Form identity, reflecting students' transition towards young adulthood and supporting high standards of presentation. They also align with our wider focus on belonging, ensuring students feel part of the community while representing the school with confidence and pride. We look forward to seeing our Year 12 students in their new blazer and tie from September, please see the image below for a preview of the new look.



DOFE SILVER ASSESSED EXPEDITION – YEAR 10

This weekend, our Year 10 students will be heading to the stunning Peak District for their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver practice expedition. Based around the beautiful areas of Hathersage, Hope Valley and Edale, students will put their training into action as they navigate routes, carry their equipment, and work together as a team.

The expedition is an important milestone in the Silver Award, helping students to develop resilience, independence and problem-solving skills, all while experiencing the challenges and rewards of the great outdoors. We wish all participants the very best of luck and look forward to hearing about their achievements on their return.



STUDENT VOICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE: NATIONAL SURVEY OPPORTUNITY

The Geography Department is supporting an important national initiative led by the UCL Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Education. Students in Years 10–13 are invited to take part in a UK-wide survey exploring young people's perspectives on climate change and sustainability.

This research builds on previous work with younger students and aims to deepen understanding of how young people feel about climate issues, as well as the education they receive in schools. The findings will help shape future approaches to climate education across the country.

Students can complete the survey either at home or in school. Staff may also choose to share and facilitate participation during lesson or form time, with guidance available to support delivery.

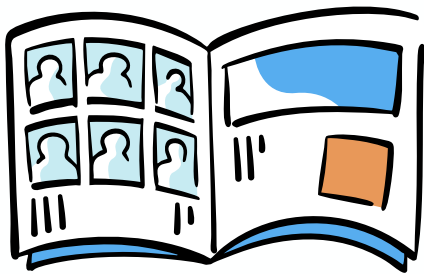
Further details, including survey access and teacher guidance, will be shared directly by the Geography Department.

Students can access the survey here: https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_bxAh4aQnQK5cYJg.

This is a valuable opportunity for students to contribute their views to a national conversation on one of the most pressing issues of our time.



YEAR 7 TRANSITION AT THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL



Planning for the transition to Year 7 is already well underway, with a clear focus on ensuring that all new students feel confident, supported, and ready to begin their journey at The Blue Coat School. Mr Haslem, Head of Year 7 is currently working with Mr Sexton and Curriculum leaders to develop this year's transition booklet, which will provide key information to help students and families prepare for the move to secondary school. This will be shared with Heads of Department before being distributed to parents.

Alongside this, a curriculum transition booklet is being created, with each department setting introductory tasks in their subject areas. These activities are designed to engage students, build confidence, and ensure that every pupil begins with a strong foundation. The aim is that students arrive ready to learn, prepared to be respectful, and able to take responsibility for their own learning from the very start.

In addition, a dedicated SEND transition booklet is being produced to ensure that students with additional needs and their families receive tailored guidance and reassurance. This reflects the school's commitment to inclusivity and to meeting the needs of every learner from the outset.

A key part of the transition process will be individual interviews with all incoming Year 7 students and their parents. These meetings are designed to get to know each student as an individual, understand their interests and any concerns, and begin building positive relationships early on with them and their families. We are genuinely looking forward to meeting the new cohort and welcoming them into the Blue Coat community.

The overarching aim of the transition programme is to establish strong, supportive connections between the school, students, and their families. By investing time and care at this stage, we want every student to feel confident, valued, and excited about what lies ahead, ensuring they are able to get the very most out of their time at Blue Coat, both academically and personally.



EFFECTIVE MIND MAPS FOR REVISION

Mind maps are a high-impact revision strategy because they align closely with how the brain organises information—through association, hierarchy and pattern. When used properly, they move revision away from passive rereading and towards active processing, which is far more effective for long-term retention.

Start with structure, not detail

Begin with a clear central idea (e.g. a topic or exam question) and build outward using main branches for key themes. Avoid the common mistake of writing everything you know. A mind map should distil, not duplicate, your notes. If it looks like a page of writing, it has already lost its purpose.

Use keywords and compression

Each branch should contain single words or short phrases, not sentences. This forces cognitive effort—what's known in learning science as retrieval and encoding. The act of deciding what the key word is matters more than the final product.

Make connections explicit

Strong mind maps show relationships between ideas. Add sub-branches, arrows, or links between different sections (for example, connecting causes and consequences, or themes across texts). This is where deeper understanding develops, rather than surface memorisation.

Use visual coding deliberately

Colour, symbols and spacing are not decorative—they are functional. Assign colours to categories (e.g. themes, case studies, formulas) and use consistent visual cues. This improves recall by creating multiple retrieval pathways.

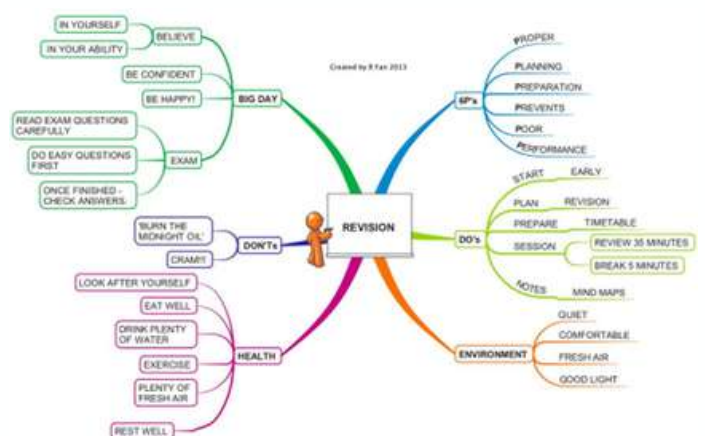
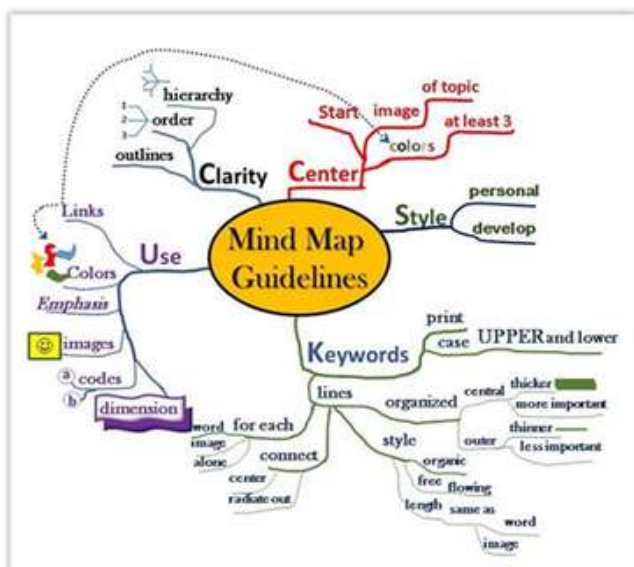
Build from memory, not notes

The most effective technique is to create mind maps without looking at your textbook, then check and fill gaps. This turns the activity into retrieval practice, one of the most evidence-based revision strategies.

Revisit and refine

A mind map is not a one-off task. Return to it, add detail, simplify branches, and test yourself on it. Over time, it should become clearer and more concise, reflecting improved understanding.

Used properly, mind maps are not just a way of organising notes—they are a tool for thinking. If they feel effortful to create, that's a good sign: it means the revision is working.



SPORTS ROUND-UP

It has been an impressive week of sport at The Blue Coat School, with strong performances across cricket, basketball, football, and handball highlighting the depth of talent throughout the school.

The cricket season has started positively. The 1st XI secured an 8-wicket victory over St Mary's in their opening fixture, with Tom G retiring on 30 and Harris J producing a standout moment by taking a hat-trick. The U12 team also delivered an excellent performance, beating Birkdale by 53 runs after posting 147 from 20 overs.

Walter was the highlight, retiring on 50 not out in his first school game.

In basketball, the Year 7 team continued their promising run in the Junior NBA competition with a convincing 30-10 win against Gateacre. A strong defensive effort and good teamwork ensured a comfortable result.

The 1st XI football team reached the Merseyside Cup Final, finishing as runners-up after a 4-1 defeat to Marine U19s. Despite the result, reaching the final is a significant achievement, and thanks go to the staff who came along to support the team.

Finally, there was outstanding success in handball. Both the U13 and U15 boys' teams have been crowned North West champions, achieving a double regional title. They now progress to the National School Finals in Nottingham, marking an excellent accomplishment for the programme.



KEY DATES

| Date | Event |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 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 | Junior maths Kangaroo / Olympiad |
| Tuesday 9th June 2026 | Y10 Parents' Evening |
| Thursday 11th June 2026 | Y10 Geography Trip |
| Thursday 11th June 2026 | Y12 Liverpool University visit |



NATHAN (8SE)



KHALED (8SE)



SHEETHAL (8TU)



YADAIL (7FR)



TIAN (10FR)



ROSALIA (7RO)



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

Phishing attacks

Dealing with suspicious emails

Phishing emails try to convince users to click on links to dodgy websites or attachments, or to give sensitive information away (such as bank details). This advice includes tips about how to spot the most obvious signs of phishing, and what to do if you think you've clicked a bad link. For more information, please visit www.ncsc.gov.uk/phishing.



What is phishing?

Phishing is when criminals attempt to trick people into doing 'the wrong thing', such as clicking a link to a dodgy website.

Phishing can be conducted via a text message, social media, or by phone, but the term 'phishing' is mainly used to describe attacks that arrive by email.

Criminals send phishing emails to **millions of people**, asking for sensitive information (like bank details), or containing links to bad websites. Some phishing emails may contain viruses disguised as harmless attachments, which are activated when opened.

Make yourself a harder target

Information from your website or social media accounts leaves a 'digital footprint' that can be exploited by criminals. You can make yourself less likely to be phished by doing the following:



Criminals use publicly available information about you to make their phishing emails appear convincing. **Review your privacy settings**, and think about what you post.



Be aware what your friends, family and colleagues say about you online, as this can also reveal information that can be used to target you.



If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, **forward it to the NCSC's suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk**

What to do if you've already clicked?

The most important thing to do is not to panic. There are number of practical steps you can take:



Open your antivirus (AV) software, and **run a full scan**. Follow any instructions given.



If you've been tricked into providing your password, you should **change your passwords on all your other accounts**.



If you have lost money, you need to report it as a crime to Report Fraud. You can do this by visiting www.reportfraud.police.uk.

Tell tale signs of phishing

Spotting a phishing email is becoming increasingly difficult, and even the most careful user can be tricked. Here are some tell tale signs that could indicate a phishing attempt.



Is the email addressed to you by name, or does it refer to 'valued customer', or 'friend' or 'colleague'? This can be a sign that the sender does not actually know you, and that it is part of a phishing scam.



Others will try and create official-looking emails by including logos and graphics. Is the design (and quality) what you'd expect?



Does the email contain a veiled threat that asks you to act urgently? Be suspicious of words like 'send these details within 24 hours' or 'you have been a victim of crime, click here immediately'.



Look at the sender's name and email address. Does it sound legitimate, or is it trying to mimic someone you know?



Your bank (or any other official source) should never ask you to supply personal information in an email. **If you need to check, call them directly.**



If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It's most unlikely that someone will offer you designer trainers for £10, or codes to access films for free.