



THE BLUE COAT
SCHOOL LIVERPOOL



2026/27

YEAR 7 PARENT HANDBOOK

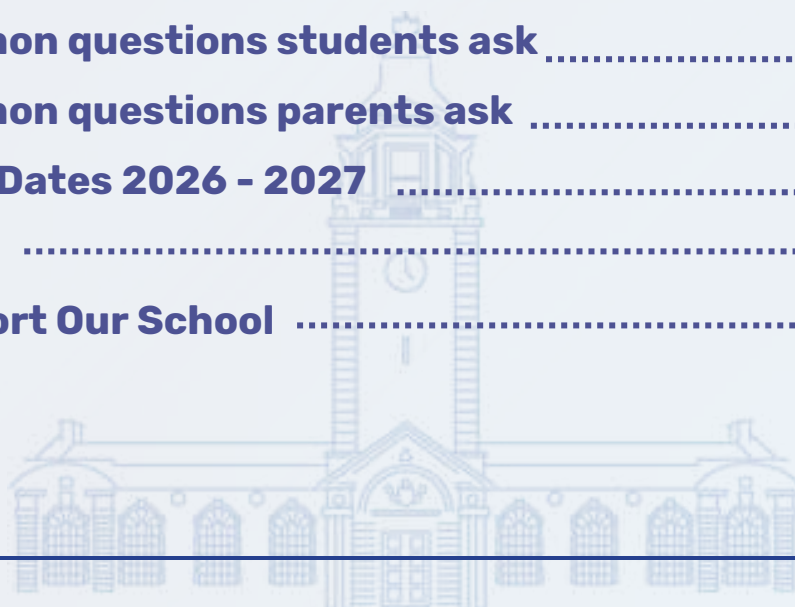
For the Blue Coat School Liverpool

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SCHOOL LIVERPOOL

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THE VISION

*“Non Sibi Sed
Omnibus”*

Not for oneself, but for all



The Blue Coat School

A Brief History and Introduction



Bryan Blundell's original account book listing the School's founding subscribers, including famous family names such as Blackburne, Clayton, Norris and Tarlton.



The Blue Coat Band sets out from the old School on St George's Day, 21 April, 1843, by Henry Travis

As Liverpool expanded during the 18th and 19th centuries, the school continued to develop. By the late 1800s, however, the original city centre site had become overcrowded and affected by industrial pollution. This led to the decision to relocate. In 1906, the school moved to its current site in Wavertree, where the impressive buildings—still in use today—were constructed. These include the iconic Clock Tower, Chapel and Shirley Hall, all of which remain central to school life.



The Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital, Wavertree

The Blue Coat School in Liverpool is one of the oldest and most distinguished schools in the country, with a history stretching back over 300 years. Founded in 1708, the school was established by Bryan Blundell, a successful Liverpool merchant and former sea captain, together with Reverend Robert Styth. Their aim was to provide education and care for orphaned and disadvantaged children in a rapidly growing port city where many families faced hardship.

Originally known as the "Blue Coat Hospital," the school began as a charity institution. At a time when education was not widely accessible, Blundell and his supporters believed strongly in giving children the opportunity to learn skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as moral and religious values. The school quickly grew, and by 1717 it had moved into a purpose-built site in Liverpool city centre, where pupils were housed, clothed and educated.



Blue Coat pupils pictured in traditional Georgian uniform



Boys' Drill Squad, The Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital

Throughout its history, Blue Coat has evolved while remaining true to its core values. Originally a boarding school for both boys and girls, it became a boys-only school in 1949 after joining the state education system. This change, following the 1944 Education Act, led to its reorganisation as a voluntary aided secondary school for boys, while the girls moved to another school, reflecting wider national changes in education at the time.

The Second World War brought further change. During the Blitz, the school was evacuated to Anglesey in North Wales to keep pupils safe. After returning to Liverpool in 1946, the school entered a new phase of development. In 1949, it joined the state education system, ensuring that it could continue to provide high-quality education to young people regardless of background.

The second half of the 20th century saw significant transformation. The school modernised its teaching, expanded its academic opportunities and became increasingly successful. It introduced new facilities, broadened extracurricular activities and strengthened its academic reputation. In 1989, Blue Coat returned to being co-educational, initially in the Sixth Form, before welcoming girls into Year 7 from 2002 onwards.

Today, The Blue Coat School is a selective, co-educational academy grammar school with around 1,200 students and a large, vibrant Sixth Form. It remains one of the highest-performing state schools in the UK, consistently achieving excellent GCSE and A-level results and regularly ranking among the top schools nationally.



First Blue Coat Girls 1989

While the school is steeped in history, it is also forward-looking and modern. It offers a broad and challenging curriculum designed to develop intellectual curiosity, creativity and a love of learning. Subjects include English, mathematics, science, languages, humanities, the arts and physical education, alongside opportunities in technology, media and social sciences.



Senior Girls before move to Wolverhampton



Chemistry lesson in 1930s



End of term during the 1930s



Photograph of Blue Coat students from the 1930s, featuring Alfred Lennon, father of John Lennon.

Vision & Values

Our Aims

We believe that The Blue Coat School is a learning community committed to academic excellence and guided by principles of justice and compassion. We aim to foster intellectual, physical, moral, cultural and spiritual development. We expect everyone to demonstrate qualities of courtesy, honesty, diligence and enterprise. We believe education to be an undertaking of supreme importance, enabling all to become responsible citizens and active participants and leaders in the wider community.

Our School motto therefore holds true: **'Not for oneself, but for all.'** Over the past year, The Blue Coat School Liverpool has undertaken a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process to refresh and formalise the school's Vision, Vision Headlines, and Values. This work has been central to ensuring that our strategic direction reflects the aspirations, experiences, and priorities of the whole school community.

The revision of the school's Vision and Values was initiated to ensure that our guiding statements:

- Reflect our ambition to be an inclusive, forward-thinking, and high-performing school.
- Align with our ethos of Non Sibi Sed Omnibus — not for oneself but for all.
- Capture the lived reality of students, staff, parents, and trustees.
- Position the school confidently for the next phase of its development.
- Address the need to be explicit about inclusion, belonging, and diversity.
- Acknowledge our long and complex history while setting a modern, future-focused direction.

The resulting statements - **Belong, Flourish, Thrive – Inspired by Our Future** - now articulate a clear vision for excellence, compassion, ambition, and community

Vision

At The Blue Coat School, Liverpool, every student belongs, is valued, and is empowered to thrive. Guided by Non Sibi Sed Omnibus - not for oneself but for all - we honour our story with honesty while forging a modern, inclusive future.

We celebrate individuality and champion diversity, inspiring students to flourish in their own way with confidence, curiosity, resilience, and kindness.

Our vision is to ignite ambition and nurture integrity and compassion, preparing young people to shape a fairer, brighter world - in Liverpool and beyond.



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a privilege to welcome you as Headteacher of The Blue Coat School.

I am incredibly proud of what our students and staff achieve each day, creating a community that is both welcoming and firmly focused on learning. For over 300 years, the school has held a distinctive place in Liverpool, with a consistent commitment to educational excellence for all. Our motto, “Not for oneself, but for all” reflects our ambition for every student to flourish academically and personally.



This evening marks an important milestone as your child begins their journey with us. It is also the start of a strong partnership between school and home, built on trust, communication and shared ambition. You will have the opportunity to meet key staff and begin forming the relationships that will support your child throughout their time here.

At The Blue Coat School, our vision is to ignite ambition and nurture integrity and compassion. We are proud of our heritage, ambitious for our future, and committed to ensuring that every student—regardless of background, ability or belief—is known, valued and supported to succeed.

We are an outward-facing school, working in partnership locally, regionally and nationally to enhance opportunities for our students. Equally, service is central to our ethos. Our students lead and participate in significant charitable work, raising funds for a wide range of causes and demonstrating empathy, leadership and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Our diverse community is a real strength, and we celebrate this through events such as Iftar, Diwali and Chinese New Year events. These occasions reflect our commitment to inclusion, respect and understanding, and help foster a strong sense of belonging for all.

We are proud of our students’ achievements across many areas. Alongside academic success and national competition outcomes, our school productions and concerts are of an exceptionally high standard. The school continues to receive regional and national recognition, reflecting both the quality of our provision and the character of our students.

Our broad curriculum and extensive co-curricular offer ensure that students are challenged, supported and inspired. With high standards, strong pastoral care and a clear set of values underpinning all that we do, we are committed to helping every young person grow, succeed and truly experience “Not for oneself, but for all”.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Sexton', written over a faint background image of the school building.

Mr K Sexton
Headteacher



Pastoral & Wellbeing Team

Mr Haslem Head of Year 7

My name is Mr Haslem and I am delighted to introduce myself as Head of Year 7. The 2026-2027 academic year will be my fourth year as a Head of Year at The Blue Coat. Over the past few years, I have focused on making the transition experience as supportive, inclusive and engaging as possible. Our aim is to provide every student with the opportunity to thrive in a nurturing and high-achieving environment. It is a genuine privilege to play a part in this important stage of their education, and I hope this book is a helpful resource over the coming months.



In my role, I work closely with our dedicated team of form tutors and mentors to deliver a varied programme of activities and experiences for our students. Together, we uphold the high standards that define our school community while supporting each student's holistic development alongside their academic progress. My favourite part of my role is recognising and celebrating student achievement, which we take great pride in doing throughout the year, but we are here to support every child through more challenging moments too, helping them to reflect and move forward with confidence and care.

Thank you for choosing our school for the next stage of your child's education. I look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

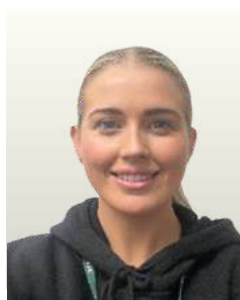
Year 7 Form Tutors

At The Blue Coat School Liverpool, form tutors serve as the primary cornerstone of day-to-day care. They act as the vital first point of contact for both students and families. Meeting with their groups every morning during registration, tutors help students settle into one of the school's six historic Form Houses (Curie, Franklin, Roscoe, Seacole, Tod, and Turing). During this dedicated morning time, form tutors actively oversee the daily wellbeing and academic progress of their pupils. They also deliver a structured pastoral curriculum focused on critical thinking, organisation, and communication. By working in close partnership with Heads of Year and families, form tutors ensure that every individual feels safe, supported, and fully equipped to reach their potential within the wider school community.



Mr Murray
07CU Form Tutor
Teacher of History

"History is my passion, and I'm excited to join Blue Coat and start this new journey with you in September."



Miss E Ellis
07FR Form Tutor
Teacher of Physical Education

"I'm excited to be your form tutor this year and look forward to getting to know you and helping you settle into life at Blue Coat."



Mr T Abrams
07RO Form Tutor
Teacher of Chemistry

"I'm excited to be joining The Blue Coat School as a Chemistry teacher this year and look forward to meeting and supporting you all."



Miss S Bermejo Albinana
07SE Form Tutor
Teacher of Languages

"I'm really excited to be your form tutor this year and to work with you on creative projects and charity fundraisers."



Miss A Cave
07TO Form Tutor
Teacher of English

"I'm delighted to be your form tutor this year at Blue Coat, and as it's our first year here together, I look forward to helping each other settle in and sharing our favourite books and recommendations."



Mrs L Graham
07TU Form Tutor
Teacher of Food Technology

"I've been teaching at Blue Coat for three years and love cooking with students, trying new recipes at home, and relaxing with my cat Malcolm and a good book."

School House System

When joining the Blue Coat School, students will become part of one of six houses, each forming a close-knit form group. These same six houses exist across every year group, meaning you're also part of a wider, supportive community from day one. Throughout the year, students will take part in exciting house competitions designed to showcase their talents and teamwork as we find out which house comes out on top. Every few months, the houses will come together in a house assembly to celebrate your achievements.

Our houses are named after some of the most inspiring individuals our students could find; people known not just for their remarkable accomplishments, but also for their integrity, resilience, and commitment to helping others.



CURIE

Curie is named after Marie Curie, a double Nobel Laureate who challenged stereotypes about the role of women in Science. She also made huge progress in our understanding of radiation and she discovered polonium and radium.



FRANKLIN

Franklin is named after Dr Rosalind Franklin, an AngloJewish woman who conducted a series of major experiments during World War II and made a significant contribution to the discovery of DNA.



ROSCOE

Roscoe is named after William Roscoe, a former MP for Liverpool. He was a historian, a patron of the arts, and he was one of the very first people in the country to denounce the trans-Atlantic slave trade.



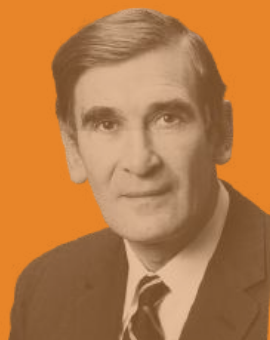
SEACOLE

Seacole is named after Mary Seacole, a British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman. She was a courageous humanitarian who rode out to the Crimean battlefield with food and medicine to care for soldiers.



TODD

Tod is named after the Tod family who are philanthropists who have supported many aspects of life at our school for over 50 years. They helped the school remain open in the 1980s and they continue to support the school by helping students enjoy educational and cultural trips among other things.



TURING

Turing is named after Alan Turing, a brilliant mathematician famous for cracking the Enigma code during World War II. In 2013 he was granted a posthumous pardon for how he was treated as a gay man in the 1950s, and his legacy paved the way for the pardoning of nearly 50,000 men through the Turing Law.





Behaviour & Rewards

We believe in recognising and celebrating success in all its forms. Our merits system recognises and rewards students across five key areas, known as SHAPE: Service, Hard Work, Ambition, Perseverance and Empathy. Merits are awarded by staff to celebrate these qualities and contribute both to individual achievement and to overall House totals, fostering personal pride as well as collective success.



Students can earn badges, certificates, awards and public recognition through assemblies and celebration events. This system promotes a culture of encouragement and aspiration, motivating students to consistently demonstrate our core values both inside and outside the classroom.

Through the combined strength of our House system and merits programme, we nurture confidence, character and a strong sense of belonging, ensuring that every student feels valued and inspired to succeed.

Being Responsible & Respectful Matters



Be **polite, respectful, kind,** and **supportive** of others



Keep the school **clean** and **litter free**



No bullying, discrimination, aggression, or violence



No hot food or drinks brought into school



Respect other's **privacy** and **property**



Maintain a **positive attitude** to learning and submit **homework on time**



No gambling on school premises



Take **care of pride** in books and school resources



Follow **instructions** from all staff

'Gate to Gate' Policy



Mobile phones, smart watches, AirPods, and earphones must remain switched off and out of sight at all times "Gate to Gate"



Do not bring valuables personal items into school



Confiscated devices will result in an after school detention and collection from the School Office at the end of the day



Store bicycles in designated bike racks

We are not to: See it or Hear it on school site at all times



School Uniform

School expects students to wear the school uniform smartly when at school and when travelling to and from school.

Year 7 - 11 Uniform

- **School Blazer** Must feature the official blue braid and blue cord.
- **White Shirt** Plain style, fully tucked in with the top button fastened.
- **Year Group Tie** Each year group is assigned a tie with a distinctive colour stripe.
- **Knitwear** Students may wear a grey v-neck jumper or cardigan if cold.
- **Trousers / Skirt** Charcoal grey regular fit trousers OR a knee-length pleated grey skirt.
- **Socks & Tights** Plain grey socks or plain grey tights must be worn.
- **Footwear** Plain black polishable or patent leather-style shoes only. No trainers, boots, heels, or platforms. High-street shoes labelled "school appropriate" must still meet these rules to be permitted.
- **Optional Badges** A maximum of 2 badges may be worn on the blazer.
- **Hijabs** Students who need to wear hijabs are permitted to do so, including sports hijabs.

PE Kit

- **PE Tops** BCS House PE shirt.
- **PE Bottoms** Royal blue shorts or skort. Navy blue tracksuit bottoms (either BCS branded or plain with absolutely no external branding).
- **Socks** Royal blue PE socks.
- **Footwear** Football boots and standard trainers (must have non-black soles).
- **Safety Gear** Protective shin pads are mandatory for contact sports.
- **Swimwear Essentials** Swimming shorts or a one-piece swimming costume (any colour), swimming hat, swimming goggles, and a towel.



For more information regarding uniform, please visit our website.

Approved Suppliers

All branded school uniform items and replacement ties can be purchased from our official local stockists:

- Trutex AMJ 48-50 London Road Liverpool L3 5NF. Tel: 0151 709 7009
- Liverpool Schoolwear, 298 St. Mary's Road, Liverpool, L19 0NQ. Tel: 0151 345 3797

You can purchase uniform in person from these stores, or alternatively you can order uniform from Liverpool Schoolwear by emailing your list of items to orders.lpool.schoolwear@gmail.com.

Please see the school website for price lists and further information on how to order.

School Uniform Standards



Full school uniform must be worn correctly at all times



Uniform items should be clearly **labelled**.



Shirts **tucked in**, top button fastened, tie worn neatly.



Skirts must be at least **knee length**.



No make-up, false eyelashes, nail polish, or false nails.



Hair must be **neat, natural in colour**, and tied back if past shoulder length.



Facial hair must be **short and tidy**.



No earrings or jewellery.



Black polished school shoes only; no trainers or boots.



School reserves the right to determine appropriate **appearance standards**.

Equipment Expectations

In preparation for September, here is the ultimate guide to secondary school equipment.

First, students will need a suitable-sized school bag to carry their books and supplies. We also recommend using a pencil case to keep smaller items organised and easy to find.

Students must have at least the following items every lesson:

- Pencil case
- Pens in (black or blue)
- Pencils and a pencil sharpener
- Mini-whiteboard pen
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Green pen
- Purple pen (provided in September)
- Glue stick
- Colouring Pencils
- Highlighter
- Maths Set (set squares, protractor and compass)
- *Scientific calculator (recommended model: Casio FX-83GTCW)



Optional extras:

- Notebook
- Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus
- Collins French Dictionary
- Collins Spanish Dictionary

**Please note that while some calculators are labelled as scientific, they may not handle the types of formulae used in secondary school effectively. Although purchasing the recommended model is not compulsory, we advise checking that any calculator you plan to buy or use offers the same level of functionality.*

Prohibited Stationary



WHY?

Because it is necessary to see where mistakes have been made in learning. A simple line through errors is quicker and still allows your teacher to see initial thinking.



WHY?

For student safety and for everyone else. Accidents can happen

Pencil cases must be placed on desks by all students upon entering the classroom for all non-practical lessons as a sign they are ready to learn.

Curriculum & Learning

From September 2026, Key Stage 3 at our school is delivered over three years and is designed to provide students with a rich, broad, and balanced educational experience. Across a 50-lesson, two-week cycle, students engage in a wide variety of subjects, allowing them to explore different disciplines, uncover new interests, and build a deep and well-rounded foundation for future learning. This carefully structured timetable ensures that every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, creatively, and personally.

Students will receive their personalised two-week timetable on their first day. We encourage students to make a spare copy for their own reference in case they misplace the original. Timetables will also be accessible via our online platforms, so students and parents can view them easily from home. The Year 7 timetabled lesson allocation is as follows:

Subject	Number of Lessons per Fortnight
Art	2
Biology	3
Chemistry	3
Computing	2
Design & Technology	2
English	6
French	2
Geography	3
History	3
Latin	2
Mathematics	6
Music	2
Personal Development	1
Physical Education	5
Physics	3
Religious Studies	2
Spanish	3

If students have questions about their subjects, such as support with revision or access to additional resources, we encourage them to speak directly with their teachers, who are always happy to help. Parents will also be informed of their child's progress once each term, either through a written report or at a parents' evening.



Daily Schedule

Time	Session
08:00	School Opens
08:40	Travel Time
08:45	Form Time
09:10	Period 1
10:10	Period 2
11:10	Break Time
11:25	Travel Time
11:30	Period 3
12:30	Lunch
13:25	Travel Time
13:30	Period 4
14:30	Period 5
15:30	End of School Day

This is the time students need to be in school for.

We offer lots of fun activities for students to join in with during lunch (see below)

Extra time to help students get around

We also offer after-school clubs, and the library remains open until 5pm Monday to Thursday

On the first day of Year 7, students should enter the building via the clock tower entrance between 08:00 and 08:40 and we will gather in Shirley Hall.

On a normal school day, students enter the building between 08:00 and 08:40 through the link corridor. Photos of this entrance can be found in the visual map later in this book. Students can access the link corridor from Church Road or Prince Alfred Road. Before registration, they are welcome to use the canteen and courtyard area to meet with friends.

At break time, Year 7 students may buy food from the canteen or spend time on the quad, which has table tennis and picnic tables. In wet weather, Key Stage 3 students go to Shirley Hall; this will be signalled by the bell ringing three times.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs at The Blue Coat School offer a rich and varied programme designed to help students develop new skills, discover interests, and build friendships beyond the classroom. Available to all Year 7 pupils from the start of term, these clubs span a wide range of activities including sports, music, drama, STEM, creative arts, and academic enrichment. Whether students choose to join a competitive team, learn a musical instrument, take part in debating, or explore coding and science projects, there is something to suit every interest and ability.

Upcoming Transition Events

Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting milestone, but we understand it can take time for students to settle in. To support this transition, we have a range of upcoming events designed to help students feel confident and comfortable within the school building and the wider community.



Summer School

Our summer school returns this year on Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st August 2026. We're planning to make it bigger and better than ever, with opportunities for teamwork with peers.

More details on how to get involved, including payment information, will be shared soon.



First Day of School

The first full day of Year 7 will be Thursday 3rd September 2026.

This year, we will have a staggered start so that only three year groups are on site, helping students find their way around and get familiar with the building.

On the first day only, students should enter via the clock tower entrance between 8:00 and 8:40am.



We will begin with a short assembly in Shirley Hall, followed by time with their form tutors to get organised for the day. If a student arrives late, they should sign in at reception so we can keep an accurate record and guide them to their form group.

Students should wear their full school uniform on their first day, but they will not need their PE kit. We recommend clearly labelling all clothing, as well as other personal items like pencil cases and water bottles, to help prevent loss.

They will receive an ID card, which can be used for the cashless catering system. The canteen will be open at break and lunch for students to purchase food or drinks if they wish.

Students will be able to exit the school either via the side door by PE, or the link corridor, which exits onto Church Road and Prince Alfred Road respectively.





After the First Day

From Thursday 3rd September 2026 you will need to use the main school entrances and exits. For students in Years 7 to 11 this means entering via the link corridor (pictured). To find this entry point, students can either enter the grounds near reception by Church Road and then turn right to make their way around the outside of the building, or they can enter via Prince Alfred Road and walk across the yard to get to the entrance.



Students will also need to exit via the link corridor where they entered, or the side door by PE. These are both marked on the map.



Conway Residential

The Conway Centre welcomes over 130,000 children annually, offering educational programmes alongside exciting indoor and outdoor activities in a safe residential setting. Pupils gain valuable educational and social benefits from the experience. To learn more about the centre's ethos, courses, and safety measures, visit www.conwaycentre.co.uk. Further details will be shared once numbers are confirmed.

The cost of this trip is £135. A £50 deposit is required by Sunday 30th August 2026. The cost includes travel by coach, accommodation, and a full programme of indoor and outdoor activities. Pupils will be required to bring a packed lunch for the first day all other meals are provided. We request that payment is made via ParentMail, which is available from Friday 3rd July.



Please note monies will be non-refundable should your child decide later not to go on the trip. If your child is ill and is unable to attend the trip a medical certificate will be required by the Insurance Company.



Form Tutor Parents' Evening

On Tuesday 15th October 2026 we have our form tutor parents' evening. This event gives you another chance to come into school and meet with your child's form tutor again. The form tutor will not be able to comment on academic progress but they can advise you on how your child has transitioned so far.



Safeguarding

We all share the responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of every student in our care. Together, we can create a safe, supportive and proactive environment for all.



Mrs Baker Designated Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Head

"Hello, I'm Mrs J Baker, the Designated Safeguarding Lead at our school. My role is to make sure that all students feel safe, supported, and listened to at all times. I work closely with all the pastoral team to ensure that any concerns you may have are taken seriously and dealt with sensitively.

Whether your child is worried about themselves, a friend, or just needs someone to talk to, I'm here to help. No problem is too small - your child's safety and well-being are our top priority, and we're always here to support."

At The Blue Coat School, we work closely with parents and carers to support their child's mental health and wellbeing. In the first instance, we ask you to inform us of any mental health needs your child is experiencing, or concerns you may have, so we can offer the right support at the right time.

We will always inform you about any concerns we may have about your child's mental health and work with you to make sure that any support explored, referrals made, or interventions implemented are in their best interest.

Where a strategy or intervention has been identified as a positive way of supporting your child, we will discuss these with you so we can work together to help improve and encourage positive mental health. This includes offering parent programmes like Talking Teens or providing guidance on navigating local mental health services and external support groups.





SEND

SEND Support

At The Blue Coat School Liverpool, we are dedicated to ensuring that students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are fully supported to achieve their full academic and personal potential. Our SENDCO and support team work closely with staff, parents, and external agencies to provide tailored provision that meets each student's individual needs, removes barriers to learning, and aligns with the Equality Act (2010) and SEND Code of Practice (2015).

Inclusion and Curriculum Access

Broad Education: We believe in an inclusive curriculum where all learners feel valued, respected, and able to access the full scope of school life alongside their peers.

Partnership with Parents: Parents are kept fully informed and actively involved as key partners at every stage of the assess-plan-do-review cycle.

High Expectations: Together, we provide the right balance of challenge and high-quality practical adjustments to help every child succeed and prepare for adulthood.

Specialised Provision & Support

Universal Needs: The school supports students across all broad categories of SEND, providing a personalised approach to learning.

Reasonable Adjustments: We implement tailored interventions, regular staff training, and specialised IT resources to meet specific learning, sensory, or physical requirements.

EAL Provision: We are committed to supporting our students who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), delivering in-class support and targeted interventions to build their confidence across the wider curriculum.

Contact Information

If you would like more information about SEND support or local offer provisions, please contact our **SENDCO** at senco@bluecoatschool.org.uk.



For more information regarding safeguarding and SEND support, please visit our website.

Why do we need to support Mental Health and Wellbeing during the Year 6 to Year 7 Transition?

The transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is a pivotal moment for children and young people, filled with excitement, anticipation and anxiety. This move from primary to secondary school involves substantial change (Beaston et al, 2023) that can have lasting effects on students' mental health and wellbeing. Understanding the emotional challenges students face during this period is crucial to creating an environment that supports their needs and promotes positive mental health outcomes.

Liverpool Learning Partnership and MYA's RAISE Mental Health Promotion Team hosted a pupil voice event around transition, and here is what young people told us:

"Transition for me is about big changes, bigger responsibilities and being allowed to go into new parts of the school. We're no longer the babies of the school."

"We can find it stressful, a lot of change at once, a lot of different emotions all at the same time – which can be very overwhelming. It's not just new school, you're in new year groups, new lunch times, new yards, classrooms, teachers, environments – it's a lot to take in."

"The work steps up, more responsibility, higher standards, seen as more mature, new friendships, discovering yourself more, different classrooms and teachers."

"You feel like you're the only one affected by it so feel too embarrassed to tell others your nervous or struggling"



Mental Health Support Teams

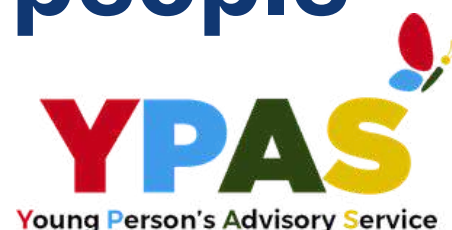
Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) are designed to help support the promotion of wellbeing and good mental health, provide early intervention to support the common mental health needs of children and young people in education settings and signpost to external specialist services. They are typically made up of senior practitioners and higher-level therapists, and Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs). If you feel any children or young people in your school would support from these interventions, please contact your MHST in your school.

If you have a secondary school and have a summer school planned, please let your school's MHST know, as they can provide bespoke workshops and sessions within school summer schools, supporting pupils with confidence-building and emotional readiness for September.

Contact: transition@ypas.org.uk

Support Available: Delivery to young people

“Shifting Gears”: Transition Workshops for Secondary School pupils - Young Person’s Advisory Service



The “Shifting Gears” workshops are delivered by MHST and are sessions designed to support pupils through different stages of transition and can be delivered across year groups. They are engaging, evidence-informed sessions designed to support young people with the emotional and social transition into secondary school. These sessions help pupils feel more confident, settled and equipped to manage the challenges of a new school environment. The sessions are available throughout the summer term and into September. **Schools can request shifting gears sessions via their MHST link worker or school mental health lead.**

Themes of the sessions include:

Building resilience
Developing positive relationships
Managing change and uncertainty

Additional support available:

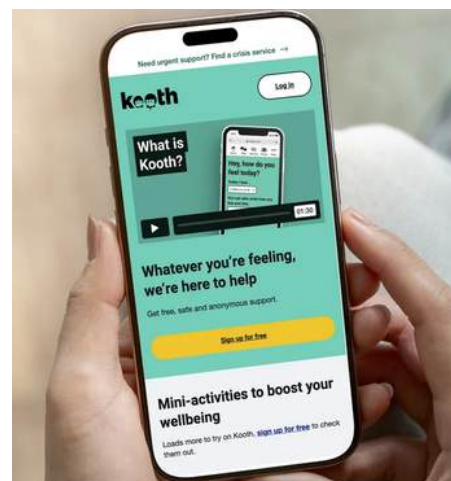
Targeted group interventions
One-to-one support for pupils requiring extra help
Exam stress workshops (e.g. Year 11)

YPAS can also offer support for young people experiencing anxiety around school, attendance difficulties, or ongoing transition challenges. To access this support schools can make a referral or support can be accessed directly through one of the YPAS hubs.

Kooth - Live Google Classroom

Kooth is hosting a series of virtual transition sessions via Google Meet for all primary schools across Liverpool. These sessions will cover:

- **Transition Wellbeing:** Managing the nerves and excitement of moving to secondary school.
- **Support Networks:** Making sure they know how to access help now and in the future.
- **Practical Tips:** Simple strategies to help them feel more prepared.
- **Kooth Walkthrough:** A quick guide on how to set up an account if they'd like to.



BOOK NOW



To book: visit <https://www.kooth.com/> or
contact kel@kooth.com for more information

Support available: For Parents and carers

Mental Health Support Teams - Transition Support

Parent workshops

Practitioners within the Liverpool Mental Health Support Teams can also deliver workshops directly to parents and carers to support with transition. These are flexible workshops designed to help parents support their child during transition, including managing anxiety and building confidence.

Coffee Mornings

Your MHST can also deliver sessions to parents and carers during parents' evenings and coffee mornings, with discussions focused on supporting transition.

To book either of the above - contact your mental health team practitioner directly.



Family Help - Parenting Team

The parenting team delivers transition workshops for parents and carers who have children who are transitioning between year 6 to 7. They cover teenage development, changing relationships and setting boundaries and routines.

The team also runs the "Peep into Schools" sessions supporting school readiness from Early Years into Reception, with a pilot starting at Kingsley Primary School on 9th June 2026. This session covers play-based learning, language and communication and emotional wellbeing and routines.

Family Hubs are providing school readiness sessions learning fine motor abilities, putting school uniform on all by ourselves, using the toilet independently and more.



For more information visit

<https://fisd.liverpool.gov.uk/kb5/liverpool/fsd/home.page>



Homework



At The Blue Coat School, we use Edulink One to provide parents and carers access to their child's homework and exam timetables. This allows you to stay informed about tasks set by teachers, deadlines, submission details, and upcoming exams.

How to Access Edulink One

Edulink One can be accessed via:

The Edulink One app (available on the **App Store** and **Google Play**)

Any web browser at www.edulinkone.com

Viewing Homework & Exam Timetables

Once logged in:

- To view homework:
 - a. Select the Homework section from the main menu.
 - b. View a list of all assigned homework, including due dates and task details.
 - c. Check submission status and any feedback provided by teachers.
- To view exam timetables:
 - d. Select the Exams section from the main menu.
 - e. View your child's personalised exam timetable, including dates, times, and locations.

What students can see...



What parents can see...



Need Help?

If you experience any issues logging in, contact the IT Team (helpdesk@bluecoatschool.org.uk)



Parent Communication & Payments

Accessing School Information via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)



At The Blue Coat School, we use MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) as an online portal where parents and carers can view important school communications and access their child's school records.

The MCAS portal provides parents access to:

- **Data Collection Forms** – Update contact details and other essential information.
- **Announcements** – Stay informed with key updates from the school.
- **Attendance** – Track your child's attendance in real time.
- **Behaviour** – View behaviour logs and rewards.
- **Detentions** – Check any assigned detentions.
- **Reports** – Access school reports and assessments.
- **Timetable** – See your child's lesson schedule.
- **Academic Calendar** – Keep up to date with term dates and key school events.
- **Letters Home** – Receive and access school correspondence digitally.

How to Access MCAS



MCAS is available to download from the App Store or Google Play or can be accessed via any web browser at www.mychildatschool.com.

Payments for Lunches, Trips & School Events via ParentMail



ParentMail

At The Blue Coat School, we use ParentMail to manage all payments for:

- School lunches
- Trips and visits
- School events and activities

How to Access ParentMail



Using ParentMail allows parents and carers to make secure, cashless payments online or via the ParentMail app, which is available for download on the App Store and Google Play.

If you are new to ParentMail, the school will send you an invitation email or text with instructions on how to register. Once registered, you can log in via: www.parentmail.co.uk or The Parentmail app

Making Payments

To pay for school lunches, trips, or events:

1. Log in to ParentMail.
2. Navigate to the Payments section.
3. Select the relevant item (e.g. lunch credit, trip payment).
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete your payment securely.

Need Help?

If you experience any issues logging in, or require further assistance, contact the school office.





Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for your child's success at The Blue Coat School. Attending school every day allows students to fully access learning, develop key skills, and build positive relationships with both staff and peers. There is a clear link between excellent attendance and strong academic achievement, as well as improved confidence, friendships and personal development.

At Blue Coat, we are proud of our high attendance standards and expect all students to aim for 100% attendance wherever possible. Parental support plays a vital role in helping students maintain strong attendance habits, and we believe that a positive partnership between home and school is key to ensuring every child reaches their full potential.

Why Attendance Matters

Good attendance helps your child to:

- Achieve their academic potential
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Develop important social skills
- Form strong friendships and feel part of the school community
- Take pride in their achievements and future aspirations

Even small amounts of absence can have a negative impact on learning and progress, so we encourage families to prioritise school attendance wherever possible.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or another unavoidable reason, it is important that you inform the school as early as possible.

We understand that students will occasionally need to miss school due to illness. We ask parents to take a balanced approach and only keep children at home when it is genuinely necessary.

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Contact the school by 9:30 am on each day of absence
- Provide a clear reason for the absence, including the nature of any illness and expected return date
- Maintain contact with the school for ongoing absences
- Provide a written explanation when your child returns to school
- Provide medical evidence if the absence lasts longer than five days

**To report an illness or absence,
contact the school office via email
or telephone:**

Email: office@bluecoatschool.org.uk
Telephone: 0151 733 1407



Food & Lunchtimes

The dining room provides a service from:

8am – 8.30am

11.10am – 11.30am

12.30 pm – 1.30pm

At The Blue Coat School Liverpool, we promote healthy eating and offer a wide variety of nutritious meals and snacks at breakfast, break, and lunchtime. With over 30 years of experience, our dedicated in-house catering team creates dishes that balance nutritional guidelines with foods students love.

We only use high-quality ingredients with assured provenance and have complete control over every meal – so we comfortably meet guidelines for minimising the use of salt, sugar and saturated fats. We use steamer and combination ovens to ensure foods retain as many nutrients as possible. This approach has the added benefit of reducing energy consumption and a more positive effect on the environment.

We have a food development team continuously working on new, innovative recipes and menus to meet the needs of the students. Our aim is to develop new dishes to ensure our students are constantly offered an exciting range of tempting, mouth-watering, freshly prepared meals, and snacks. The students have the opportunity to put ideas forward to improve the catering service through the student council.

Our daily rotating menus celebrate diverse global flavours and explicitly cater to various dietary requirements—including clearly labelled Halal options (marked with an H on our daily menus) and Vegetarian options (marked with a V). Students are encouraged to discuss any dietary requirements with staff who can help cater to their individual needs. We encourage students to eat a balanced meal at lunchtime and parents can review what has been purchased through our cashless catering system.

Students can choose to bring a packed lunch or purchase freshly prepared hot meals, wraps, jacket potatoes, and seasonal salads from the school dining room.

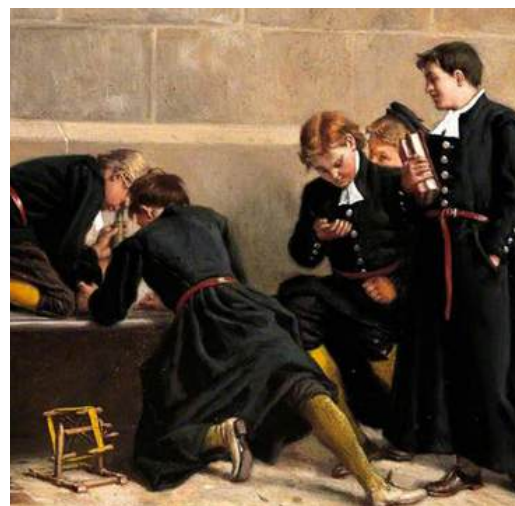


For more information regarding Food & Lunch, please visit our website.

Giving Back: A Tradition Rooted in our History

Charity and service have always been at the heart of life at The Blue Coat School, reflecting our founding purpose of helping those in need. Our school motto, *Non sibi sed omnibus* – Latin for “Not for oneself, but for all” – captures this perfectly and continues to guide students today.

While our history stretches back over 300 years, what matters most now is how we live out that vision in the present. Students are actively encouraged to take part in charitable work, supporting a wide range of local, national and international causes. Through fundraising events, awareness campaigns and volunteering opportunities, pupils learn the importance of empathy, responsibility and making a positive difference in society.



Pupils Blue Coat Hospital, a charity school founded in 1709, wearing the traditional bluecoat uniform.

Activities may include charity days, sponsored events, partnerships with local organisations and student-led initiatives. To celebrate 300 years of supporting the local community, the school has selected two local charities to support in 2025. In addition, each house will lead its own charity initiative – from food bank collections to film nights – raising money and resources for those in need.



The Whitechapel Centre is Liverpool's leading homeless charity.

They provide real solutions for people in need — offering shelter, food, clothing, showers, advice, and access to education and training.



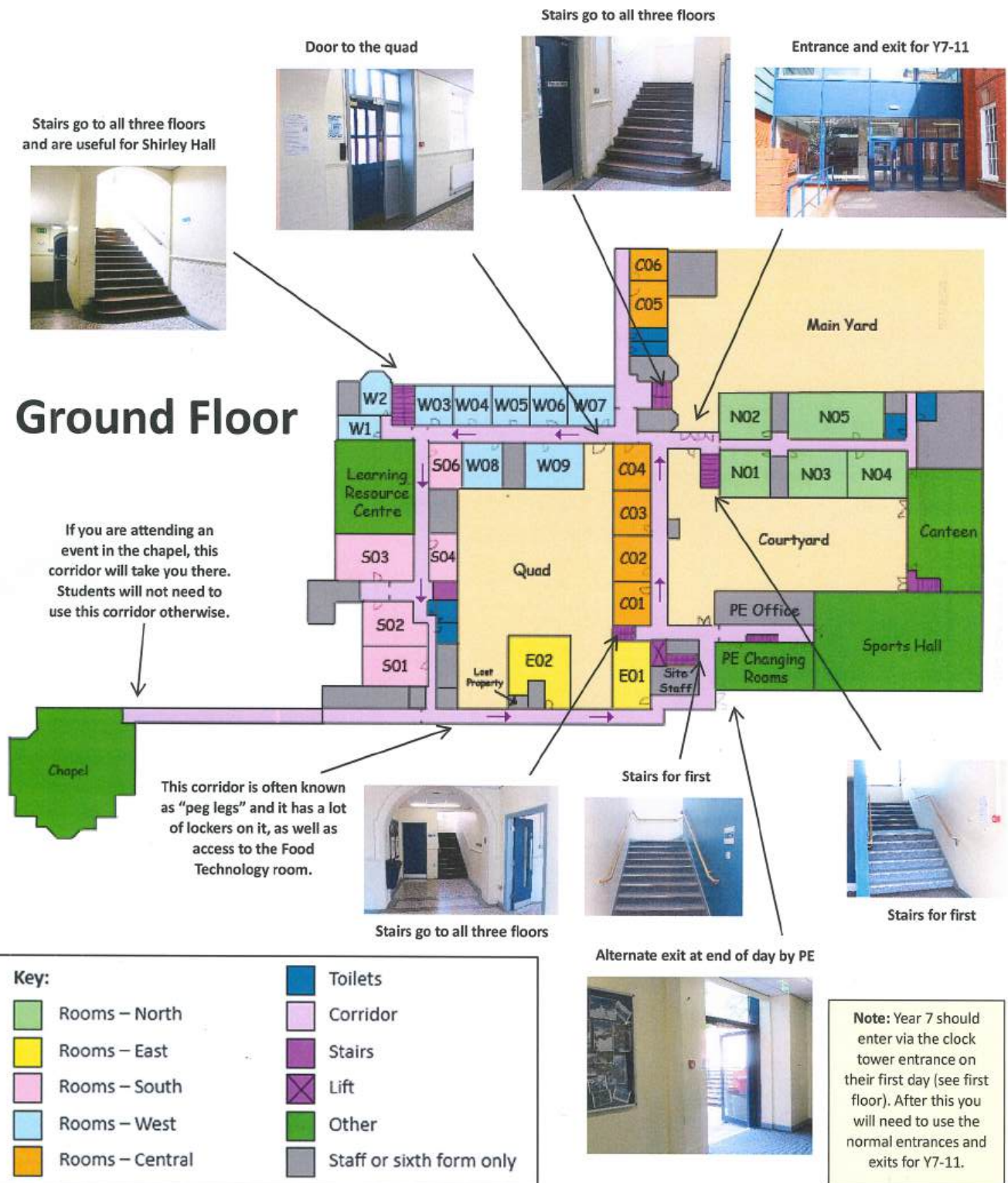
The Sunshine Group is an award-winning, volunteer-led breast cancer charity in Liverpool that provides emotional support, community meetings, and complementary therapies for women from diagnosis through recovery.

These projects aren't just about supporting others; they also offer students the chance to build teamwork and leadership skills. We love seeing students step up, whether it's by leading assemblies on chosen charities or helping to organise events. Your ideas matter, and we're here to help you bring them to life.

Your house captains may already have plans for which charity your house will support next year, but there will be many opportunities for you to get involved and make a difference. If there's an event or initiative you'd love to see during your time here, speak to your form tutor next year. We'd love to work with you to make it happen.

Student Map

It is easier than it looks to get around our school because of the numbering system. Each room name usually starts with N, E, S, W or C, and these stand for North, East, South, West, and Central. Next is usually a number to indicate which floor the room is on, so 0 is the ground floor, 1 is the first floor, and 2 is the second floor. Different subjects tend to have rooms along the same corridor.



Student Map

You may notice some corridors have arrows in them – some parts of the school have a one-way system to help with congestion. This may mean you need to use specific staircases to reach your desired room, such as when heading to N10 - N18, or C20 - C22.

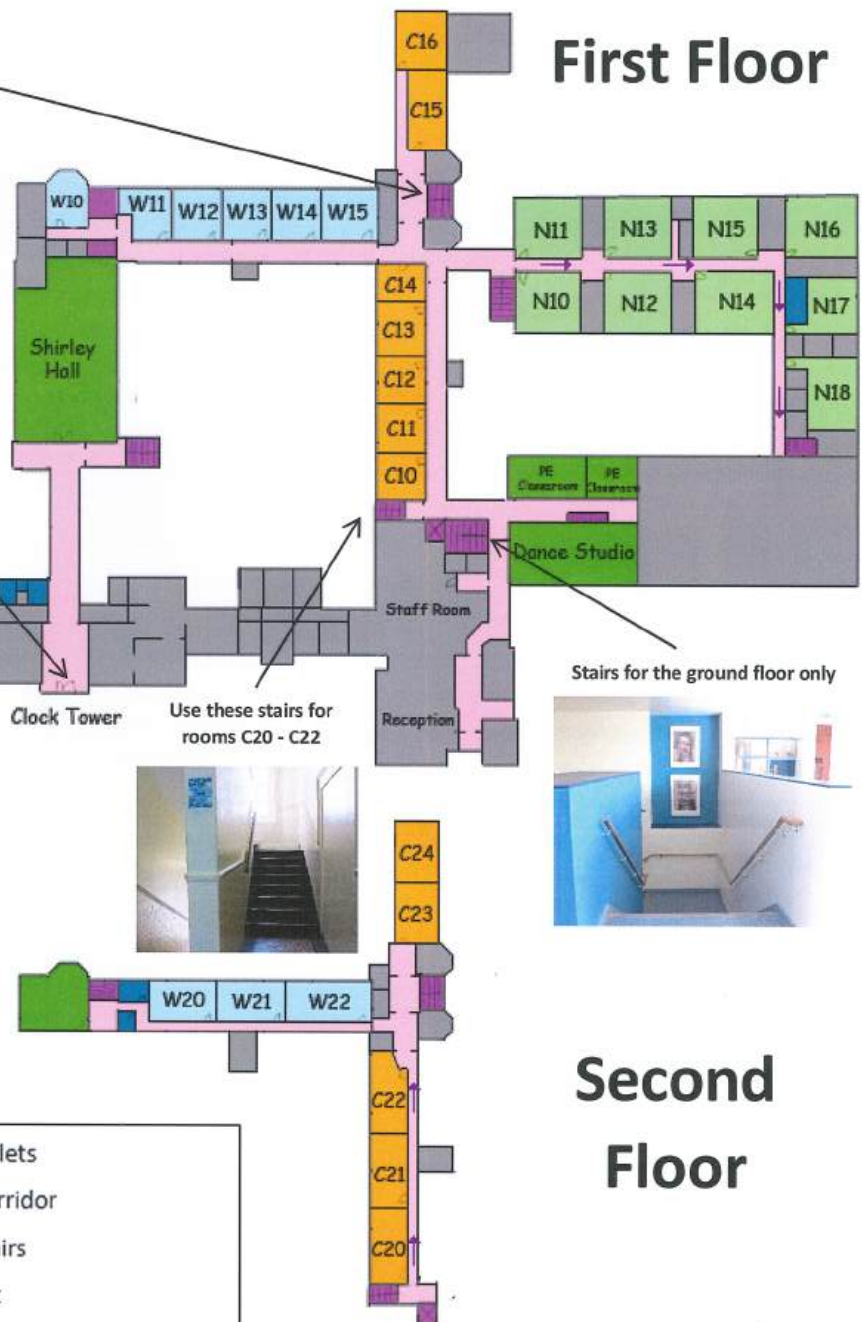
Stairs go to all three floors



Clock Tower entrance – this is the entrance point for sixth formers, and we sometimes use it for events too



We do not use the chapel often for Year 7 events. If we do, we will usually use the "peg legs" corridor on the ground floor and then there is a staircase at the end to get upstairs



Stairs for the ground floor only



Use these stairs for rooms C20 - C22

Key:

- Rooms – North
- Rooms – East
- Rooms – South
- Rooms – West
- Rooms – Central

- Toilets
- Corridor
- Stairs
- Lift
- Other
- Staff or sixth form only

Top tip: cut this page out and pack it in your child's school bag for when they arrive in September.

Classrooms



Classroom



Science Lab



Sports Hall



Music Room



Food Tech Classroom



Computer Room

Common questions students ask

Q: I am the only person joining from my primary school. Will I make friends?

A: Absolutely! Around a third of our students are the only ones joining from their primary school, so you won't be alone. In fact, this year we have students from nearly 100 different primary schools - it's a fantastic opportunity to meet new people. We also run lots of events to help you settle in, and if you're ever worried, your form tutor is always there to support you.

Q: What if I can't make friends?

A: Starting a new school can feel a bit scary, but there are lots of opportunities to make friends, especially during our transition events and early days at school. If you're finding it hard to make friends or are having issues with friendships, your form tutor is there to help.

Q: I was one of the smartest students in Year 6. Will I find secondary school challenging?

A: Yes! We're a selective school, so we bring together some of the brightest students from Liverpool and beyond. That means our curriculum is designed to be challenging but supportive for everyone. It can feel a bit strange at first if you're used to being the top of your class - suddenly, you're surrounded by lots of other bright and talented people. But remember: you were chosen for a reason and you belong here. However you are feeling, we're here to support you. Don't hesitate to ask for help or advice if you need it.

Q: What do I do if I lose something?

A: It's easy to misplace things when you're moving around the building for lessons, so make sure you always check your belongings before leaving a classroom - especially your PE kit! If you lose something, try the following:

1. Revisit any rooms or areas you were in (don't forget the quad!).
2. Check the lost property room (it's in Peg Legs corridor - ask a nearby staff member to unlock it).
3. Ask at reception.

If you still can't find it, speak to your form tutor. Please make sure your name is on everything, especially clothing and pencil cases, as this makes it much easier to return items to you.

Q: What if I forget something I need for school?

A: It happens! Many students find it helps to pack their bag the night before. Some also keep a spare pen in their blazer, just in case, or a notebook so they have paper with them. If you do forget something, go to reception or ask your form tutor to help. The office can contact home to see if someone can bring the item in. If that's not possible, teachers will usually be able to lend you what you need - just ask politely.

Q: How do lockers work?

A: Lockers are a great place to store larger items like your PE kit or your coat, so you don't have to carry them around all day. You can rent one through ParentMail PMX for £5 for the year. Lockers are allocated during the first few weeks of school.

You can access your locker before registration, at the start or end of breaks, and after school. Lockers cannot be accessed between 8:00–8:40 or during the middle of break/lunch, as the area isn't supervised.

Q: Can I go to the toilet during the school day?

A: Yes, though we encourage students to use the toilet at break and lunch to avoid missing lesson time. If you really need to go during a lesson, ask your teacher.

Q: What if I feel ill while I'm in school?

A: Tell your teacher if you feel unwell during a lesson - they'll help you and may send you to reception if needed. If you feel ill at break or lunch, go straight to reception. If you need to go home, a member of the pastoral team will contact your parents. Students should not contact home themselves, as this can cause confusion. You must get permission from a member of staff before going home unwell.

Q: Can I bring a mobile phone or device to school?

A: We don't recommend bringing valuable items to school, but we understand some students use phones for their journey. If you bring a phone, it must be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day, including at break and lunch. Sometimes, staff may allow device use for a specific learning activity, but this is rare and always supervised. Don't worry if you don't have a phone - we don't expect students to bring them and staff will put arrangements in place for students without them if they are used in a lesson.

Q: Can I wear a coat to school?

A: Yes, especially in colder months! Wear your coat to and from school, then store it in your locker once you arrive. Coats are not to be worn inside the building.

Q: How much homework will I get?

A: Each subject sets at least one piece of homework per fortnight. You'll usually get a couple of days or more to complete it. It may feel like a lot at first, but it's good preparation for GCSEs and other future work.

Many students find it helpful to do homework on the day it's set but this isn't always possible. If you ever feel overwhelmed, talk to your form tutor - they'll help you plan and manage your workload.

Q: What's different about secondary school?

A: The biggest change is moving between different classrooms and being around lots more people. You may go from being the oldest in primary to the youngest in a busy building! That's why we ask everyone to walk calmly and we do not allow running inside the building (except for PE!). We also have a one-way system in some of the corridors to help with congestion, which is marked on your map with arrows.

In secondary school you have access to teachers who specialise in what they do, for example most teachers will have a university degree in their chosen subject. This means lessons might look and feel different. For example, in Chemistry, there will be special safety rules for experiments.

Q: What is a detention?

A: A detention is given when behaviour doesn't meet expectations - for example, being late, using a phone without permission, disrupting a lesson, or wearing incorrect uniform. These usually happen at break or lunchtime on the day of the incident. Don't worry if you get a detention - mistakes happen. What's important is learning from them and making better choices next time.

Common questions parents ask

Q: What do I do if my child is going to be absent from school or becomes ill?

A: Please report any absences before 9:30am by calling or emailing the school office. If your child has a pre-arranged appointment, let us know in writing using the Request for Leave of Absence form, available on the school website. Where possible, we kindly ask that appointments are arranged outside of school hours. If that's not possible, please provide evidence of the appointment.

If your child feels unwell during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff. We will then contact you directly to collect them, and your child will need to sign out at reception. Please note students should not contact parents directly if they feel unwell - a staff member must speak with them first.

We encourage all students to aim for at least 97% attendance. If attendance drops below this, we will work with you to offer support. Please have open conversations with your child about the importance of attendance, and don't hesitate to contact us if your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend school regularly or on time.

Q: I want to drive my child to school. Where can I park or drop them off?

A: When dropping off or picking up students by car, please drive carefully and be considerate of other children, parents, and neighbours. The yellow markings near the school gates indicate a no stopping zone from 8am till 5pm. We ask that you respect these zones to ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors entering the school.

The school car park is for staff only and is not available for drop-off or pick-up. Students may enter and exit through the gates on Church Road or Prince Alfred Road. For the first day of Year 7 only, students will enter via the clock tower from Church Road, but they can use either exit at the end of the day.

Q: Does the school provide any school buses?

A: No, the school does not provide buses. However, groups of parents living in the same area sometimes organise private minibuses for their children.

Q: What is ParentMail PMX?

A: ParentMail PMX is an online platform we use to manage online payments for school events, educational visits, and cashless catering.

Q: What is MCAS?

A: MCAS stands for My Child At School and it is an app we use alongside ParentMail PMX to send communications home. MCAS lets parents view their child's behaviour record, including merits, attendance, and other information.

Q: How does the cashless catering system work?

A: Information about our cashless catering system was included in our previous information pack. If you have any further questions, please contact the school office.

Q: My child has special educational needs or suspected special educational needs. How will the school support them?

A: If you haven't already, please contact senco@bluecoatschool.org.uk so we can discuss how best to support your child.

Q: How much contact can I expect to have from my child's teachers?

A: Secondary school teachers are subject specialists and may teach many students across the school, so they cannot maintain the same level of contact that primary teachers do. However, we will provide you with progress information at least once per term, either through parents' evenings or reports, depending on the time of year.

Q: My child has a problem - should I step in, or can they speak to someone themselves?

A: We encourage students to speak directly to their form tutor or subject teacher when possible. Developing this confidence is an important life skill and often means issues can be resolved quickly.

If your child is unsure or needs extra support, you're always welcome to contact the school office. They will help direct your query to the right member of staff.

Q: I'm concerned about my child's welfare. Who should I contact?

A: Please email your concern to our safeguarding team at safeguarding@bluecoatschool.org.uk. Your message will be forwarded to the most appropriate member of staff depending on the nature of your concern.

Q: My child is classed as Pupil Premium. Will the school put any extra support in place for my child?

A: We may be able to support them with uniform from our Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please register them through the local authority. Once confirmed, we will add this information to our cashless catering system so your child can discreetly purchase food.

Q: How can I support the Development Fund?

A: Information about the Development Fund is at the back of this booklet, but if you would like to learn more then please get in touch via seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Q: I am considering getting my child a mobile phone now that they are starting secondary school. Is there anything we should do in preparation?

A: If you're thinking about getting your child a mobile phone, we recommend reading the article "Five Things to Consider When Buying Your Child Their First Mobile Phone" from the BBC Parents' Toolkit.

We advise against bringing expensive items to school, including high-end phones, but we appreciate some students may need them for their journey. Students are responsible for their belongings and they may prefer to store them in their lockers. Phones can be carried throughout the day but must be switched off and only used with staff permission while on school grounds.

If your child plans to use social media to communicate with friends, please discuss responsible use and age guidelines, as many platforms have minimum ages of 13 or 16. The school includes online safety education in the curriculum, but parents remain responsible for monitoring and guiding online activity outside school.

For further advice, visit the 'Student Support at Home' section of our website, which includes helpful links such as the BBC Bitesize Parents' Toolkit and the Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership.



Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September – Thursday 17th December

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Thursday 3rd September

Friday 4th September

Friday 23rd October

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November

Wednesday 16th December

Thursday 17th December

Staff Development Day

Staff Development Day

Y7 & Y12 Students Return

All Students Return

Term Ends

Half Term

Students Return

Term Ends for Students

A level Prizegiving Day

(2025/26 students)

Spring Term 2027

Wednesday 6th January – Thursday 25th March

Wednesday 6th January

Friday 12th February

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February

Thursday 25th March

Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April

Students Return

Term Ends

Half Term

Students Return

Term Ends

Easter Break

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12 th April – Friday 16th July

Monday 12th April

Monday 3rd May (Bank Holiday)

Friday 28th May

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June

Friday 16th July

Students Return

May Day

Term Ends

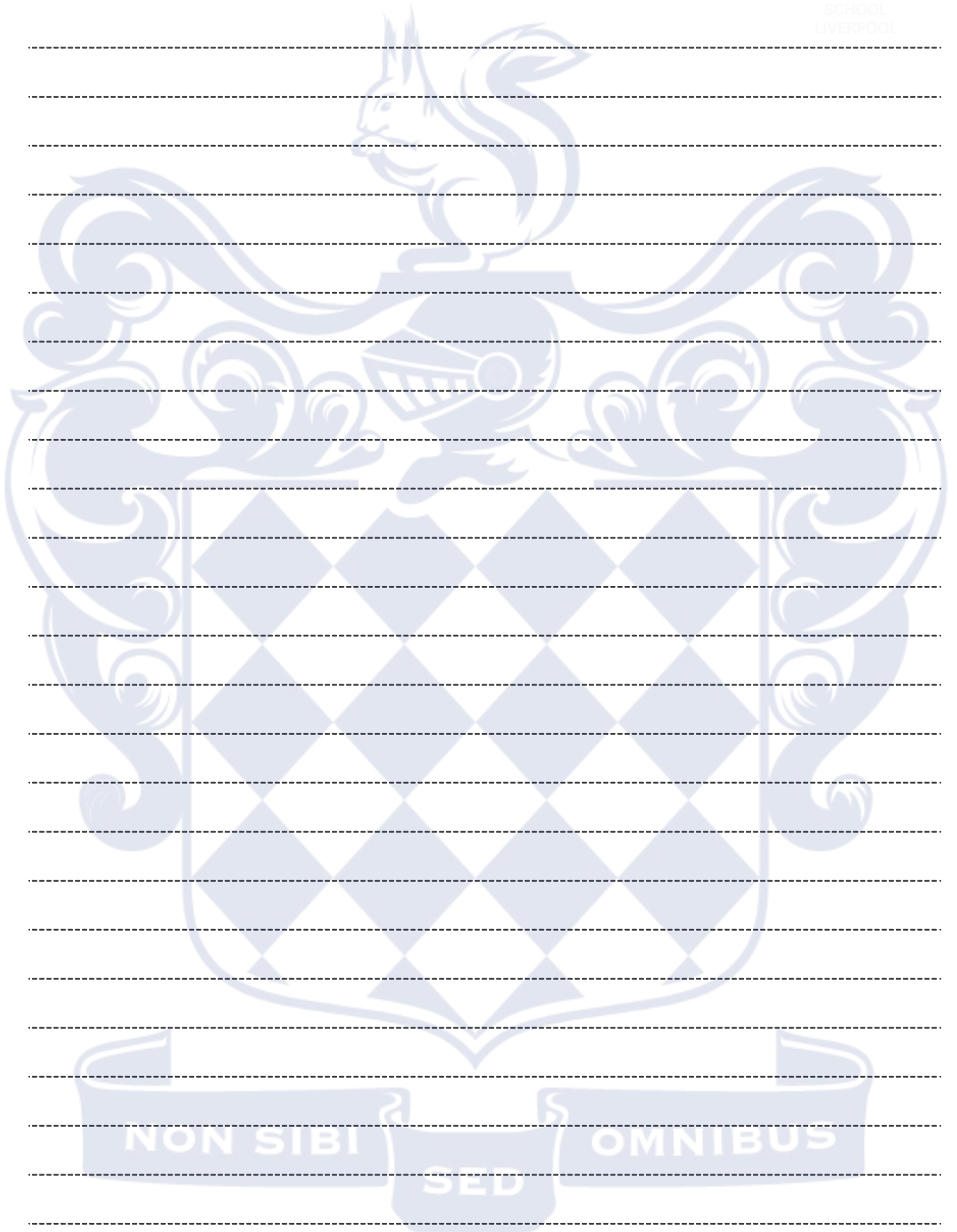
Half Term

Students Return

Term Ends

Notes...

THE BLUE COAT
SCHOOL
LIVERPOOL



Support Our School

At The Blue Coat School, we value the vital role parents play in enriching our community and supporting our students. There are many meaningful ways you can get involved:

- **Monthly Parental Draw** There is a termly request for a £10 donation and for each payment you get an entry into a monthly draw where parents can win between £50-£100.

- **Donate to the Development Fund**

Become a regular donor or make a one-off contribution to help fund initiatives that benefit every student.

- **Sponsorship and Gift Matching**

Does your company offer sponsorship or gift-matching schemes? Your involvement could double the impact of your support.

- **Share Your Expertise**

Volunteer your time and experience by supporting mock interviews, mentoring, or taking part in our annual Careers Day.

The Development Fund, supported by the generosity of parents, families, alumni, and friends of the school, plays a crucial role in providing exceptional academic and extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

In the 2025/26 academic year, over £30,000 was donated, including £17,000 from the monthly draws, funding a variety of projects including the new seated area on the main yard, the corridor artworks in Geography, Maths, PE and English and investment in ICT hardware in our English department.

Thanks to ongoing support, the Development Fund has enabled us to provide:

- New equipment and sports kit
- Access to workshops and memberships
- Competition entry and travel funding



To set up a one-off gift or regular donation, visit <https://www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk/page/?title=Development+Fund&pid=129> or scan the QR code to the left. If you want to get involved or have further questions, please contact seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Don't forget to follow the latest school news on the school's social media pages:



Instagram: [@bluecoatschoolliverpool](https://www.instagram.com/bluecoatschoolliverpool)



X: [@LiverpoolBCS](https://twitter.com/LiverpoolBCS)



Facebook: [@bluecoatschoolliverpool](https://www.facebook.com/bluecoatschoolliverpool)

