

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL



Y11 SIXTH FORM OPTIONS BOOKLET

16 NOVEMBER 2023

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR SIXTH FORM



Thank you for your interest in the Sixth Form at The Blue Coat School.

Our Sixth Form is one of the largest in the city, with an average 175 students taking up places each year. Our students can choose freely from 18 A level courses to achieve nearly any subject combination of their choice. They enjoy the highest quality teaching from subject specialist teachers who challenge and stretch them in an environment where everybody supports each other's learning.

Academic development is just one part of life at Blue Coat. Our curriculum includes built in opportunities for enrichment and personal development so that all of students achieve and grow into impressive young adults. Our pastoral system complements these opportunities by meeting the needs of each of our sixth formers through individually tailored care, guidance and support.

The Sixth Form at Blue Coat provides a wealth of other opportunities. Sixth Formers enjoy a wide range of trips which enhance their academic knowledge and understanding and their personal development. We provide a wealth of opportunities for Sixth Formers to lead and get involved in extra-curricular societies and fundraising projects. Students step up to the challenge of giving leadership and support to the younger year groups. They act as great role models by planning, organising and leading activities for younger members of the school community.

Our students achieve great outcomes year on year. In 2023 they achieved some of the best outcomes that A level students at Blue Coat have gained and the great majority went on to the destination of their choice. You can read more about our students' achievements and their next steps in this booklet.

We are extremely proud of our students and the ambition, commitment, initiative and creativity they show. We hope that this brief introduction to the Sixth Form at The Blue Coat School helps you shape your future to be as successful as theirs.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Yates'.

Ms S Yates
Headteacher



CHURCH ROAD
WAVERTREE
LIVERPOOL
L15 9EE

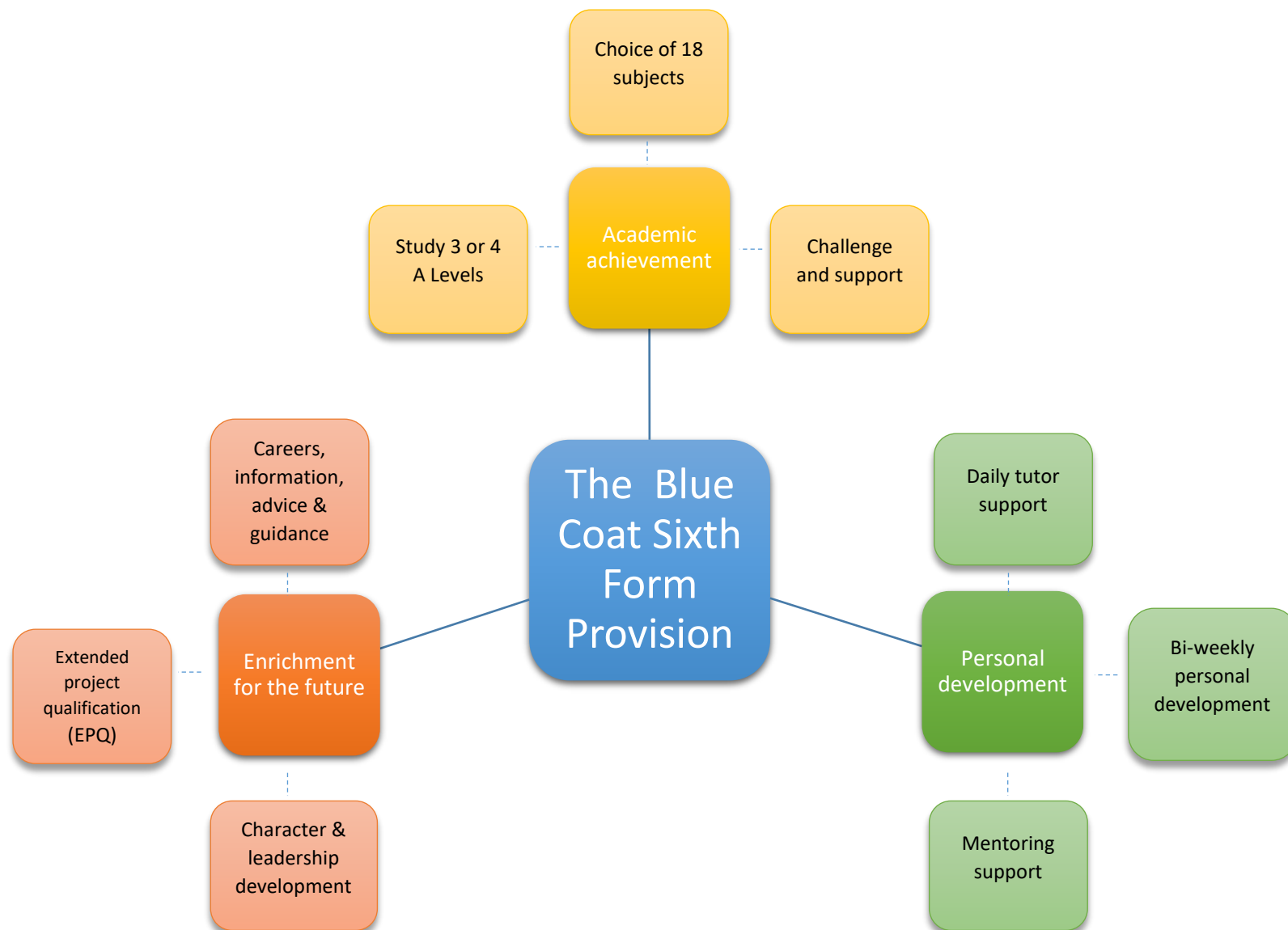
TELEPHONE: 0151 733 1407
HEADTEACHER: SCILLA YATES

WWW.BLUECOATSCOOLLIVERPOOL.ORG.UK



The Blue Coat School

Our enriching curriculum



The Blue Coat School

Choosing your pathway





THE
BLUE COAT
SCHOOL

The Blue Coat School

Our A Level courses

Art

Biology

Chemistry

Computer
Science

Economics

English
Literature

English
Language &
Literature

French

Geography

Government
& Politics

History

Latin

Mathematics

Further
Mathematics

Music

Physics

Psychology

Spanish



The Blue Coat School

Sixth Form entry requirements

The Blue Coat School offers students the opportunity to study 3 or 4 A Levels:

To study 3 A levels you must have a minimum of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 ✓ GCSE English Grade 6 ✓ 52 points from your best 8 GCSE's

To study 4 A Levels you must have a minimum of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 ✓ GCSE English Grade 6 ✓ 62 points from your best 8 GCSE's

You must also satisfy the minimum requirements for the subjects you choose to study:

Subject	GCSE minimum requirement	Or
Art	Art: Grade 7	Art BTEC: Distinction
Biology	Biology: Grade 7	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades 8 7 or 7 7
Chemistry	Chemistry: Grade 7	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades 8 7 or 7 7
Computer Science	Computer Science: Grade 7 Mathematics: Grade 7	
Economics	Mathematics: Grade 7	
English (Language & Literature)	English Language: Grade 7	
English (Literature)	English Literature: Grade 7	
French	French: Grade 7	
Further Mathematics (can only be taken as a fourth A Level)	Mathematics: Grade 8	
Geography	Geography: Grade 7	
Government & Politics	History: Grade 7	English Language or Literature: Grade 7
History	History: Grade 7	
Latin	Latin: Grade 7	
Mathematics	Mathematics: Grade 7	
Music	Music: Grade 7	ABRSM: Grade 5 Theory & Practical
Physics	Physics: Grade 7	Core/Additional/Further Science: Grades 8 7 or 7 7
Psychology	English Language or Literature: Grade 6	
Spanish	Spanish: Grade 7	



The Blue Coat School

Supporting you

Sixth Form Students at the Blue Coat School gain more than good A Level qualifications during their two years of study.

We take great pride in our commitment to provide opportunities for students to develop their life skills, character and talents. Coupled with this, we also provide an environment where students can stretch and challenge themselves outside of the academic forum in preparation for a successful transition to life beyond Blue Coat.

Personal Development

In Year 12, students have one Personal Development lesson a fortnight, increasing to one lesson a week in Year 13. Lessons are largely discussion-based, supporting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The Personal Development curriculum covers PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education), citizenship, RSE (relationship and sex education), and CIAG (career information, advice and guidance). The CIAG element becomes increasingly important as students move into Year 13 and are supported with researching and applying for post-18 options.

Personal Development lessons are delivered in conjunction with Student Development afternoons; every Monday our students receive a talk from an external speaker, covering a range of topics from applying to university to supporting their mental health. Additional opportunities to be available to our Sixth Form students include the Student Leadership Team, subject prefect opportunities, mock interviews, careers appointments and studying a project of your choice through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).



Welfare

The personal welfare of our students is paramount to us at Blue Coat.

We have two strong Key Stage Leaders who work in partnership to support both the academic progress and the personal welfare of our students. When aspiring to gain excellent A Level grades, the pressure to succeed can at times be very intense. At Blue Coat we ensure that students are supported on an individual and bespoke basis by subject teachers, form tutors and Key Stage Leaders as the need requires.





The Blue Coat School

A Level results by subject 2023

		Number of grades							
Subject	Total student entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Average Grade
A - Art (Fine Art)	7	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	A
A - Biology	76	28	23	16	6	1	2	0	A
A - Chemistry	85	26	33	18	7	0	1	0	A
A - Computing	17	2	7	5	1	1	1	0	B+
A - Economics	29	12	10	5	0	2	0	0	A
A - English Lang. & Lit.	6	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	A-
A - English Literature	17	4	7	5	1	0	0	0	A-
A - French	8	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	A-
A - Government & Politics	28	6	10	5	7	0	0	0	A-
A - Geography	15	3	9	1	0	2	0	0	A-
A - History	34	8	14	9	3	0	0	0	A-
A - Latin	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	A*
A - Mathematics	111	38	36	17	10	6	3	1	A-
A - Maths (Further)	20	8	8	1	3	0	0	0	A
A - Music	5	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	A-
A - Physics	36	9	12	9	2	2	1	1	B+
A - Psychology	33	3	13	9	3	3	2	0	B
A - Spanish	13	5	5	3	0	0	0	0	A
Summary	546	162	196	116	43	17	10	2	A-

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
%	29.3	35.5	21.8	8.1	3.1	1.8	0.4

Attainment

- 64.8% of all grades were A* - A
- 86.6% of all grades were A* - B
- 48.9% of students achieved 3 or more A* - A grades
- 76.7% of students achieved 3 or more A* - B grades

On average

- The average A Level grade achieved was an 'A'
- The average set of A Level grades achieved was 'AAB'

Did you know?

- 1 student achieved 5 A* grades
- 6 students achieved 4 A* grades
- 23 students achieved a full set of A* grades
- Every student taking Latin achieved A*/A
- Around half of all students (84) achieved 3 or more A*/A grades
- 4 in every 5 students in Geography achieved a grade A* or A
- Around 7 in every 10 students in Economics achieved a grade A* or A
- Three quarters of students studying Spanish or Further Maths achieved a grade A*/A

“We are extremely proud of this group of students. Our students achievements are exceptional and this is reflected in the wide range of opportunities that they embrace in their futures.”

Scilla Yates, Headteacher



The Blue Coat School

KS4 and KS5 Destinations 2023

Church Road, Wavertree
Liverpool, L15 9EE
T: 0151 733 1407

Key Stage 4

- 84% of our Year 11 students will progress on to study A Levels at The Blue Coat School
- We supported 6 students in their applications to study A Levels at another school
- We helped 12 students gain places to study A Levels at a Sixth Form college
- We helped 1 student gain a place on an apprenticeship

Key Stage 5

- 88% our students are going to university
- 91% of students achieved their first place University choice
- 21 students gained a place at Oxbridge Universities
- We have supported some of our students in a range of applications for sponsored degrees, apprenticeships and employment

Year on year trends	2019 (155 cohort)	2020 (160 cohort)	2021 (145 cohort)	2022 (174 cohort)
Students going to university	90%	91%	88%	88%

This year, at a glance					
Number of students	University	Gap year	Travel	Employment	Other education/ training pathways
174	137	18	5	11	3



The Blue Coat School

Summary Information

Entry into the Sixth Form

Students currently at The Blue Coat School do not need to apply for a place in the Sixth Form.

Students must meet the minimum entry requirements set out by The Blue Coat School. These include an overall entry requirement and individual subject requirements.

The minimum requirements are the same for both internal and external Sixth Form candidates.

Providing a current Year 11 student meets the minimum requirements, they are guaranteed a place in the Sixth Form at The Blue Coat School.

The options process

The options process for Year 11 students who wish to take a Sixth Form place at The Blue Coat School begins on Friday 17 November 2023.

Students must complete an A Level subject choices form.

The A Level subject choices online form must be completed and submitted by the student by Thursday 14 March 2024.

Building your curriculum

We design and build our Year 12 curriculum around your choices and consequently, it is very rare that students cannot study the subjects they wish to.

You may request changes to your choices after you have submitted your A Level subject choices form after the deadline date to Mr Shipgood, s.shipgood@bluecoatschool.org.uk. We will endeavour to accommodate any requests for changes but cannot guarantee they can always be achieved.

Your timetable gets built during May and June. Consequently, any requests to change your choices after March can only be achieved if they are compatible with the timetable model at that time.

Confirmation of place

All students must have their Sixth Form place and choice of courses confirmed on GCSE results day, which this year is on Thursday 22 August 2024.

If you are unable to attend in person on that day, to confirm your choices you should email, admissions2024@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Places are confirmed subject to you meeting the overall minimum entry requirements and the relevant individual subject minimum entry requirements. Students may not begin an A Level course until the minimum entry requirements have been met.

Alterations to subject preferences on GCSE results day will be considered. Students and parents should be aware that changes at this stage are only possible if the preferred combination is achievable within the existing timetable structure and there are places available in a class.

Appeals

Parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision. Further details will be provided to students and parents on GCSE results day if appropriate.

Further information

If you have any questions about the options process please contact,
admissions2024@bluecoatschool.org.uk



The Blue Coat School

Key dates

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 16 November 2023	6.00pm	Y11 Options Evening
Monday 29 January 2024	-	Y11 Options Afternoon
Thursday 29 February 2024	4.15 pm	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 14 March 2024	4.00pm	Option form deadline
Thursday 22 August 2024	9.15am	GCSE results day
Date to be confirmed	-	Appeals
Early September	-	Year 12 Induction

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I do if I don't know what I want to study or what I want to do as a career?

We recommend that you talk to your Careers Advisor, who can give you excellent advice and guidance. You could also start doing your own research by looking at UCAS or Unifrog taking a career aptitude test to help narrow down your choices.

I didn't study the subject at GCSE. Can I still take it at A-level?

For some subjects you can still take the A level if you didn't study it at GCSE provided you achieved certain grades on similar subject areas.

How many subjects should I choose?

We advise choosing three subjects and EPQ and fully participating in our Enrichment programme. Universities base their offers on three A-level grades. As well as studying A-levels, we want you to experience and learn other skills that will help enhance your university application.

What if I change my mind about my preferred courses before starting Sixth Form?

We ask that you email s.shipgood@bluecoatschool.org.uk with any changes that you would like to make. They will then be able to process your request and let you know whether your new choices fit the timetable. You can make final changes before the start of term on GCSE results day speaking to Mr Penney and Mr Shipgood.

What if I change my mind about studying a course after I have started Sixth Form?

If you are unsure about a course you are studying, we ask that you come to the Sixth Form office to discuss your worries or concerns as soon as possible. Together, we can look at why you aren't enjoying the subject and decide whether or not it would be beneficial for you to change it.

Can anyone take 4 A levels, and what are the requirements for this?

Students require a minimum of 62 points from their best 8 GCSE subjects to take 4 A levels at Sixth Form.

Is 4 the absolute maximum or are there situations where 5+ is possible?

The maximum number of A level's a student will study within Sixth Form is 4 plus EPQ.

How many lessons/free periods do we get a week?

Students will study 9 hours over 2 weeks for each A Level subject. In addition, there are 2 lessons of EPQ, 1 lesson of CIAG and 2 hours of student development. Therefore, if you study 3 A Levels you have 32 lessons and 18 independent study periods. If you study 4 A Levels, you have 41 lessons and 9 independent study periods.

What subjects do we need for certain courses in Uni?

There is information and advice for individual University Course's available many different areas including: -Unifrog, UCAS, University Websites as well as in the subject information booklet.

What is involved in each A level?

There is a wide range of information available in the options booklet. Subject teachers will also be able to give you further detail and information to help you.

What type of tests will we sit at the end of year 13?

A Level exams are pretty similar to GCSE's. In some cases, they will have more content and therefore papers or coursework will be slightly longer or have more parts. The subject information booklet gives you further details for each course we offer.

How to apply for scholarships for university?

As part of the personal development programme and CIAG curriculum in Y12 and Y13 you will be guided on the application process for all Post 18 options including: - UCAS (The University and college application service), Apprenticeships, Gap years, employment. Scholarships and much more!

Is EPQ mandatory?

Yes all Y12 students study EPQ as part of the curriculum.

What are typical class numbers for specific subjects (eg chemistry)?

Class sizes can vary in sixth form each year due to a range of reasons. The average class size is usually about 15-20 with more popular subjects such as Maths and Science being slightly higher.

Do Russel group unis allow level 3 applied diplomas?

It would completely depend on the university and the course. You would need to look at individual university websites, but be aware that entry requirements change year on year so whatever they say now may not apply in two years' time. Also, the entry requirements on websites are just a guide and a diploma is undeniably less attractive/competitive than A-Levels.

Do I need a STEM subject to study Psychology or is Psychology A-Level alone a strong enough application?

Again, totally depends on the University and whether it's a BA or BSc (the course that you choose will depend on your long term career goals). If you have access to Unifrog you can go to the subject's library and scroll down to impact of subject

choice. If you type in your three chosen A-Levels it will tell you which doors will be firmly closed.



The image features three vertical bars of different colors: purple, dark blue, and magenta. Each bar contains a stylized bracket graphic and a two-line text phrase. The purple bar has a pink bracket and the text 'INSPIRING EXCELLENCE'. The dark blue bar has a light purple bracket and the text 'SHAPING CHARACTER'. The magenta bar has a yellow bracket and the text 'FORGING FUTURES'.

INSPIRING
EXCELLENCE

SHAPING
CHARACTER

FORGING
FUTURES