

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## FILM WORKSHOPS START

The History and Politics Department is leading an exciting research project, uncovering the stories of Old Blues who served in World War I. A Level History students have been examining census records from 1891–1911, piecing together the lives and experiences of former pupils before they went to war.

Later this month, GCSE students will visit the battlefields of Belgium and France. As part of their preparation, they have begun film-making workshops with Handstand Productions, learning the skills needed to create a short film that will capture their research and reflections during the trip. This film will be shared with the whole school community at future Remembrance Assemblies and events.

The Battlefields Trip is an important opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real historical sites. Walking through the cemeteries, trenches, and memorials brings home the human cost of the conflict in a way that textbooks alone cannot. It helps students to understand the scale of sacrifice, reflect on the experiences of those who fought, and appreciate the enduring significance of remembrance today. By engaging directly with these places, students develop a deeper, more personal understanding of World War I and its legacy.



## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

A number of talented Blue Coat pupils recently took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge, a national competition designed to stretch and inspire the most able mathematicians across the country. The challenge consisted of a series of demanding, thought-provoking problems that tested students' reasoning, logic, and problem-solving skills. Open to pupils in Years 12 and 13 and ambitious younger pupils the competition encourages mathematical thinking beyond the standard curriculum.

Our students rose to the occasion, demonstrating impressive resilience and creativity in tackling some exceptionally challenging questions. Several pupils achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, with a number qualifying for follow-on rounds such as the Senior Kangaroo and the British Mathematical Olympiad.

Participation in the Senior Maths Challenge is a fantastic way for students to develop their critical thinking skills, apply mathematical knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, and gain recognition on a national stage. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and passion for the subject.

We are incredibly proud of all those who took part and look forward to seeing their continued success in future competitions.

## BLUE COAT PUPILS TAKE PART IN LIVERPOOL SCHOOLS' PARLIAMENT

A group of Blue Coat pupils recently took part in the Liverpool Schools' Parliament, joining students from across the city to discuss key issues that affect young people and their communities. Held in Liverpool's historic Town Hall, the event gave pupils the chance to take on the role of young councillors, debate real topics, and have their voices heard in a formal setting.

Through speeches, motions, and debates, students explored local and national issues, shared their perspectives, and learned how democratic processes work in practice. They engaged confidently and thoughtfully, representing the school with maturity and enthusiasm.

Taking part in Liverpool Schools' Parliament is an important experience for our pupils. It helps them understand how democracy functions, develop skills in public speaking and debate, and gain the confidence to express their views on real-world issues. It also shows them that young people's voices matter — and that they can play an active role in shaping their communities.

Opportunities like this encourage civic engagement, critical thinking, and leadership qualities that will benefit pupils both inside and outside the classroom.



## ROSCOE CHARITY FUN RUN KICKS OFF THE FIRST HOUSE COMPETITION OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday lunchtime, students from all key stages took part in the Roscoe House Charity 1-Mile Fun Run, marking the first House competition of the year and raising funds for local community charities.

Over 80 students and staff joined together on the school field, demonstrating fantastic team spirit, enthusiasm, and commitment to supporting good causes. Pupils ran, jogged, and walked the course, encouraging one another along the way and embodying the values of the Blue Coat community.

Events like this highlight the strength of the House system at Blue Coat, bringing students and staff together across year groups to celebrate teamwork, resilience, and shared goals. The Fun Run was not only a lively and inclusive start to the year's House competitions, but also a meaningful way to make a positive difference in the local community.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and to Roscoe House for organising such a successful event.



## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2025: M-PATH Y10 WORKSHOP

As part of our school's commitment to supporting student wellbeing, Year 10 took part in a special workshop delivered by M-PATH to mark World Mental Health Day 2025.

The session focused on raising awareness of mental health and equipping students with practical strategies to look after their own wellbeing. Through interactive discussions and activities, students explored how to recognise signs of stress, build resilience, and support both themselves and their peers.

Workshops like this play a vital role in fostering a positive school culture where mental health is openly discussed and valued. We are grateful to M-PATH for their expertise and to our Year 10 students for their thoughtful engagement throughout the session.

M-Path is a UK-based organisation specialising in men's mental health, emotional wellbeing, and healthy masculinity programmes. They work to engage men and boys in conversations about their emotional lives, helping them to better understand, accept, and express their feelings. A central idea is that once men begin to engage with their own emotional well-being, they are better positioned to become empathetic allies to others.



Qualifications will open doors, but it's everything else that you do that will get you through those doors!

The fantastic thing about our students is that they do so many extra- and super-curricular activities, both in and out of school. In fact, they do so many that it's easy to lose track!

Unifrog is a 'one-stop shop' for all things education and careers. All students have access to a Unifrog account and are using this to keep track of activities that are preparing them for their next steps. This means that when they come to apply for university, apprenticeships, or a job, they will have a list of all their achievements to hand. The platform has a CV and personal statement builder and a comprehensive database of career and degree options. Parent accounts are also available; please contact Miss. Nock at [l.nock@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:l.nock@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

## MAKING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO SIXTH FORM

Starting Year 12 marks a big step for our young people. It's a big year, filled with academic pressure, future planning, and emotional ups and downs. As a carer, your support matters, and there is plenty that you can do to help.

Encourage healthy routines like sleep, exercise, and balance. During this year, students will be developing their independent learning skills and should be using the resources available to them to consolidate their learning between lessons. There are plenty of online resources for them to use, such as Kerboodle and Uplearn as well as textbooks, sample questions and other resources that teachers share with students on Teams.

If your young person is worried about their work, encourage them to speak to their teacher, who will be happy to advise on strategies and offer additional support if it's needed.



## SUPPORTING FAMILIES THROUGH THE TALKING TEENS PROGRAMME



Our school is proud to be running the successful Talking Teens parenting programme, which is helping to strengthen family relationships and support parents during the crucial adolescent years.

Parents are actively engaging in weekly sessions, gaining valuable skills in effective communication, understanding teenage behaviour, and managing challenges calmly and constructively. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many families already noticing improved relationships at home.

This work is incredibly important. Adolescence can be a time of rapid change and new pressures for both young people and their parents. By providing practical strategies and a supportive environment, the Talking Teens programme helps families build stronger connections, foster mutual respect, and navigate teenage challenges with empathy and confidence.

We're thrilled to see such meaningful progress and strong community involvement. Initiatives like this play a vital role in supporting the wellbeing of our students and their families, helping to create a positive and nurturing environment both at home and at school.

## SUPPORT ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

To keep our wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities thriving next year, we're inviting families to make a voluntary contribution of £10 per term (£30 per year) per student.

Your support helps us sustain and expand opportunities that benefit every student, ensuring all can take part and enjoy the full school experience.

As a thank you, each £10 contribution earns one entry into our monthly raffle for a £50 cash prize (or equivalent value)!

All parents have received a letter with more details and how to sign up, please check Parentmail to make your donation. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference.

Thank you for helping us keep our enrichment programme strong for all students!



## CHARLES OFFERED ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AT CAMBRIDGE



Congratulations to Charles, after a successful audition week, he has been offered a conditional organ scholarship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. This is a brilliant achievement and we are very proud of him.

Charles is on the BCS Organ Scholarship, which is externally funded, and offers exceptional opportunities for selected music students. George Ke, a previous BCS student, was awarded organs scholarship at Oxford.

