

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## Y7 CONWY RESIDENTIAL

At the start of the autumn term, our Year 7 pupils took part in an exciting residential trip to Conwy, designed to build confidence, develop teamwork, and help pupils settle into life at Blue Coat.

Over the course of the trip, pupils embraced a wide range of outdoor activities, including kayaking, abseiling, mountain biking, raft building, and a memorable nightline challenge. Evenings were spent enjoying bonfire activities, providing a relaxed and enjoyable opportunity for pupils to socialise and reflect on their achievements.

The residential experience is an important part of our Year 7 transition programme. It allows pupils to step outside their comfort zones, build resilience, and form lasting friendships in a supportive environment. Through shared challenges and adventures, pupils develop vital skills such as problem-solving, communication, and leadership — all of which contribute to their personal growth and future success at school.

Staff were impressed by the enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination shown by all pupils throughout the trip. We are confident that the experiences gained in Conwy will continue to have a positive impact on their confidence and approach to school life in the months ahead.



## YEAR 7 FORM TUTOR EVENING

This term, we welcomed parents and carers to our Year 7 Form Tutor Evening — an important event in the school calendar designed to strengthen the partnership between home and school. The evening provided an opportunity for parents to meet their child's form tutor, discuss how pupils have settled into life at Blue Coat, and explore how we can work together to support their academic and personal development.

Events like this play a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and successful transition to secondary school.

Research consistently shows that parental engagement is one of the key factors influencing pupil achievement. When parents and schools work in partnership, pupils are more likely to thrive academically, feel supported, and develop positive attitudes towards learning.

We are grateful to all families who attended and engaged in thoughtful conversations about their child's progress. Strong communication between school and home is at the heart of a successful educational journey, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration throughout the year.

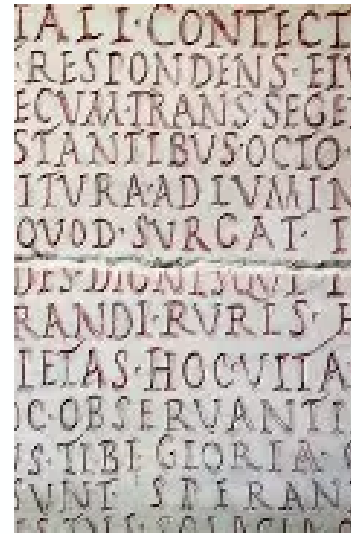
## INTRODUCING THE NEW YEAR 7 LATIN CURRICULUM

This year, we are delighted to introduce a new Latin curriculum for Year 7, giving pupils an exciting introduction to the language and culture of the ancient world.

Learning Latin offers much more than knowledge of an ancient language. It helps pupils develop a strong understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and linguistic structure, supporting their progress in English and modern languages. Studying Latin also encourages analytical thinking, problem-solving, and precision — skills that benefit learning across the curriculum.

Alongside the language, pupils explore elements of Classical civilisation, including Roman myths, history, and cultural achievements. This not only builds cultural literacy but also helps pupils make meaningful connections between the ancient and modern worlds.

Pupils have embraced Latin with enthusiasm, enjoying both the challenge of the language and the fascinating insights into Roman life. This curriculum aims to broaden horizons, strengthen core skills, and spark curiosity — key elements of a Blue Coat education.



## THE BLUE COAT FOUNDATION

The Blue Coat Foundation exists to support the life and work of The Blue Coat School, Liverpool, helping to preserve its historic charitable mission while enriching the opportunities available to pupils today.

The Foundation raises funds and builds links with parents, alumni, and the wider community. These funds are used to improve facilities, invest in specialist equipment, and extend co-curricular and enrichment opportunities. This year they have funded the new stage, renovated sections of Shirley Hall and brought pews back to our wonderful chapel. Importantly, the Foundation also helps to ensure that pupils are not prevented from taking part in trips, visits, or activities due to financial circumstances.

In addition to its fundraising efforts, the Foundation organises a variety of events and activities across the year, from alumni gatherings to community campaigns. These activities not only raise valuable funds but also strengthen the sense of connection across the Blue Coat community. This year we will be hosting a Christmas alumni and Christmas markets day on December 7<sup>th</sup>; past pupils are invited to join us for carols and Christmas celebrations.

The continued generosity of parents, alumni, and friends of the school ensures that the Foundation can carry on its important work — supporting pupils, enhancing learning, and safeguarding the heritage and ethos of The Blue Coat School for generations to come.



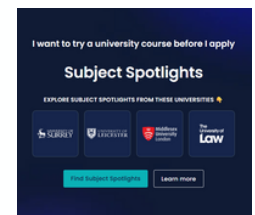
## PREPARING FOR THE WORLD OF WORK

Preparing for the world of work goes beyond studying for the highest grades. Students need to develop a wide range of transferable skills and gain an understanding of jobs that they may or may not enjoy. One of the most effective ways to achieve this is through work experience, which plays a key role in helping students make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Work experience provides invaluable opportunities to develop essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving in real-world settings. By stepping into professional environments, students gain a clearer understanding of workplace culture, explore potential career interests, and see how their studies connect to future ambitions. Many students return from placements with increased confidence and a renewed sense of purpose.

All of our Year 12 students complete a week of in-person work experience in the spring term, gaining first-hand insight into different industries and professions. For students in Key Stages 3 and 4, we strongly encourage participation in virtual work experience through Springpod ([Gain Virtual Work Experience. Earn certificates – 100% free! | Springpod](#)). These bite-size, on-demand programmes are based on real workplace tasks and offer an excellent introduction to a variety of sectors.

By completing virtual work experience programmes in Years 7–11, students can build their skills and enhance their CVs, unlocking the door to meaningful in-person placements in Sixth Form and beyond. As always, any activities like this must be logged on Unifrog, allowing students to keep track of their achievements and build a strong portfolio for the future.



## ENHANCING READING PROGRESS THROUGH SPARX READER

At Blue Coat, we are committed to cultivating a culture of reading and supporting pupils in developing strong literacy skills that underpin success across the curriculum. To support this aim, we are making use of Sparx Reader, an innovative online platform designed to improve reading fluency, comprehension, and engagement.

Sparx Reader provides pupils with a broad selection of age-appropriate and challenging texts, carefully matched to their individual reading levels. As pupils read, they are prompted to answer comprehension questions that check understanding and encourage critical engagement with the text. This adaptive approach ensures that reading remains both accessible and intellectually stimulating.

The platform also enables teachers to monitor pupils' progress closely, allowing for targeted interventions where necessary and supporting the development of independent reading habits. Consistent use of Sparx Reader has been shown to enhance vocabulary, deepen comprehension skills, and foster a sustained enjoyment of reading.

How parents and carers can support:

- Encourage pupils to read on Sparx Reader for at least 20 minutes daily.
- Take an active interest in what they are reading by discussing texts and ideas together.
- Ensure they complete the comprehension questions to consolidate understanding.
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By working in partnership, we can help every pupil develop the confidence, independence, and intellectual curiosity that come from being a skilled and enthusiastic reader.

## 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.

### REVISION TIPS: USING SPACED RETRIEVAL

As the year progresses, students and teachers will be starting to prepare for a range of assessments. One powerful way for students to retain their learning over time is to use spaced retrieval techniques.

Spaced retrieval is a memory strategy that involves recalling information at progressively longer intervals. By revisiting material after increasing gaps of time, students strengthen their long-term memory and make knowledge stick more effectively.

At home, families can support their young people by:

- Using quizzes to revisit key topics after a few days, then a week, then a fortnight.
- Creating checklists or flashcards to test knowledge regularly.
- Encouraging students to actively recall answers rather than re-reading notes.

Spaced retrieval not only boosts exam performance but also helps reduce stress, as revision becomes more structured and manageable over time. By building this approach into regular study routines, students can prepare for assessments with greater confidence and success.

### Y8 FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

We're thrilled to announce a new project for our Year 8 students. Starting this Wednesday, 15 students have been selected to take part in a 12-week "Future Leaders" program.

This exciting initiative is being led by the Military School.

Throughout the program, students will have the opportunity to develop key skills including resilience, confidence, perseverance, delegation, listening, relationship building, and respect.

The sessions will take place in the Chapel every Wednesday from 15 October 2025 until 21 January 2026.

We look forward to seeing our young leaders grow and thrive over the coming weeks!



## EVERTON STADIUM SLEEPOUT 2025

Dr. Wainwright and Mr Martin were pleased to take part in their second Everton stadium sleepout in October - the first ever at the brand-new Hill Dickinson Stadium. The event's purpose was to fundraise for Everton in the Community's 'Home is Where the Heart is' programme, specifically aimed at helping young people who are at risk of homelessness. So far, they have raised £550, and the last count for the entire event stands at £41,116.99!

Mr Martin said: 'Dr. Wainwright and I had the opportunity to hear from a range of young people who have been helped by this important charity. The experience of sleeping rough isn't easy, but one night is much easier than what many people in our city have to go through. Please donate to this good cause if you are in a position to do so!'

Their fundraising link can be found here:  
[Tom Martin is fundraising for Everton in the Community.](#)



## Y10 TRIUMPH AT THE HUMANITIES IQ OLYMPICS

On Monday, 8 Year 10 students visited Cronton College to take part in the Humanities IQ Olympics Challenge. The competition featured multiple rounds, including History, Geography, Psychology, Criminology, English Literature, Business, and Law, putting students' teamwork, quick thinking, and general knowledge to the test against 26 schools from across the North-West.

We're thrilled to announce that our Year 10 girls' team – Jasmine, Orla, and Doriella – emerged as winners! Despite being down to just three teammates after an unexpected illness, the girls excelled across the board, shining in English, Business, and Criminology, with Jasmine achieving the highest Stroop Test score of the day.

Our boys' team – Taavi, Ollie, Keshav, and Nathan – also put in an outstanding performance, excelling particularly in History and Geography. Congratulations to all our students for their hard work, teamwork, and fantastic achievements!



# SPORTS AND PE UPDATE

## CHEERLEADING WORKSHOP

Ten of our girls had an amazing opportunity to attend a special cheerleading workshop with the LJMU Jets this week. The afternoon was filled with energy, teamwork, and plenty of smiles as the girls rotated through stations focusing on the different skills required for cheerleading.

Each session challenged them to try new skills and work together as a team — from perfecting their jumps and tumbles to lifting spirits (and each other!) in the stunt section. The choreography workshop was a particular highlight, where the girls learned a short routine from the Jets' own cheerleaders.



## Y10 FOOTBALL V MERCHANTS

It was unlucky for the Y10 boys last week, who played Merchant Taylor's at home in the 2nd round of the ESFA. They were 3-1 up in the second half, but Merchant's managed to pull it back to 3-3. The team were then beaten 4-3 on penalties.



## SUPPORT OUR ENRICHMENT: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To ensure our wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities continue to thrive next year, we are asking every family to contribute £10 per term (£30 per year) per student.

These contributions are vital to sustaining and expanding the opportunities that enrich every student's experience. Without your support, many of the activities our students value most would simply not be possible.

As a thank you, each £10 contribution earns one entry into our monthly raffle for a £50 cash prize (or equivalent value) — a small gesture of appreciation for your generosity.

All parents have received full details and payment information via Parentmail. Please check your messages and make your contribution as soon as possible.

Every donation counts. Your prompt support ensures all students continue to benefit from the rich, engaging experiences that make our school exceptional.

Thank you for helping us keep our enrichment programme strong, vibrant, and available to all.