



# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## THE GREAT BLUE COAT BAKE OFF

The ovens were fired up, the mixing bowls came out, and creativity was in full swing for the Great Blue Coat Bake Off — one of the most delicious events in our new House Competition series!

Students and staff from across all Houses rolled up their sleeves to bake their best cakes, cookies, and cupcakes, showing off both skill and imagination. From classic Victoria sponges to dazzling themed creations, the entries impressed our judges with their presentation, flavour, and originality.

But it wasn't just about who could bake the best cake — it was also about making a difference. The event raised funds for Kind and the Whitechapel Centre, two incredible charities that support vulnerable children and people experiencing homelessness in our community.

The Bake Off brought out the best of Blue Coat spirit — teamwork, generosity, and plenty of friendly rivalry. Congratulations to all our bakers and to the winning House for their outstanding efforts! A huge thank-you to everyone who donated, judged, or simply came along to enjoy a slice (or two). Together, we made something truly special — proving once again that at Blue Coat, we rise to every challenge!



## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE RESULTS

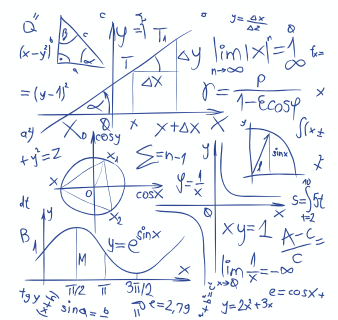
The results are in from last months Senior Maths Challenge, and the results are fantastic:

150 students participated from years 10 to 13, and we achieved:

- 42 Gold Awards
- 48 Silver Awards
- 30 Bronze Awards

35 students have progressed to the European Kangaroo follow on round, and 7 have qualified for the first round in the International Mathematical Olympiad, a very prestigious competition. Special recognition to:

- Y10 - William who achieved 100%, Best in his Year Group, Best in School, a Gold Award and qualified for the BMO1
- Y11 - Aaron who achieved Best in his Year Group, Best in, a Gold Award and qualified for the BMO1
- Y12 - Adam who achieved Best in his Year Group, Best in, a Gold Award and qualified for the BMO1
- Y13 - Oscar who achieved Best in his Year Group, Best in, a Gold Award and qualified for the BMO1



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH - STANDING FIRM IN POWER AND PRIDE



Throughout October, Blue Coat has proudly celebrated Black History Month with a series of inspiring assemblies led by our Prefects.

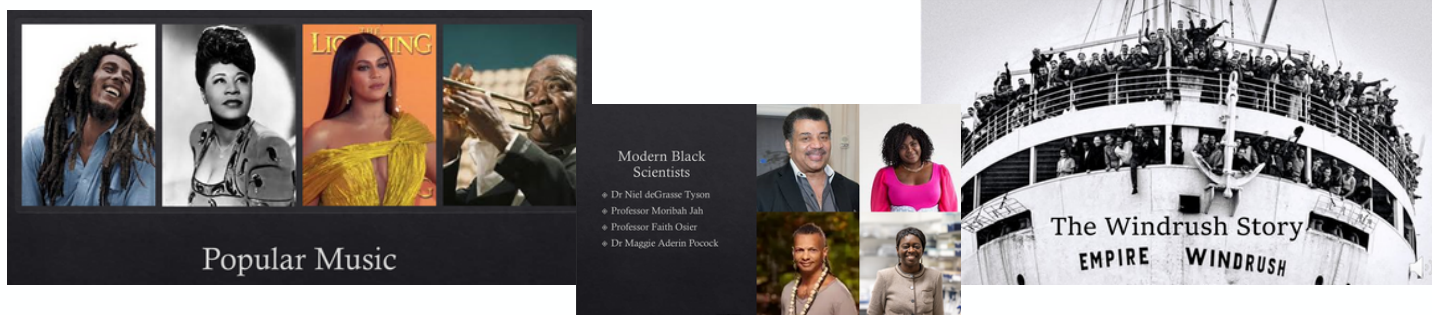
Our senior students delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the legacy of the Windrush generation, exploring their immense contribution to post-war Britain and the lasting impact they continue to have today. They also reflected on the challenges faced by this community and encouraged everyone to consider how these powerful stories continue to inspire progress, equality, and social change.

Meanwhile, our younger students explored the lives and achievements of influential Black figures in literature, music, and science, both past and present — celebrating leaders who have shaped their fields in Britain and around the world.

These assemblies reminded us that Black history is British history, and that celebrating it helps us build a more understanding, respectful, and inclusive community.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our Prefects for their passion, creativity, and leadership in preparing such meaningful assemblies, and to all students for their thoughtful engagement throughout the month.

Together, we continue to honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future of equality and unity.



## KICK FOR A CAUSE - CHARITY FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER

Last week, the school pitch came alive with energy and excitement for our Kick for a Cause charity event! Students from across the school joined together for a fantastic afternoon of football, teamwork, and fun — all in support of two brilliant causes.

The event raised funds for Kind and the Whitechapel Centre, charities that provide vital support for vulnerable people in our community. From impressive goals to great sportsmanship, the day perfectly captured the Blue Coat spirit of compassion and togetherness.

A special thank-you goes to our amazing Sixth Form students, who organised the event and got everyone involved. Their enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment made the fundraiser such a success — and ensured that every kick counted for a great cause!

Well done to everyone who took part, donated, and cheered from the sidelines. It was a brilliant reminder of what we can achieve when our school community comes together.

## MEET THE YEAR 7 TUTOR EVENING

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Meet the Year 7 Tutor Evening this week. The turnout was truly fantastic, and it was wonderful to see parents and carers engaging so enthusiastically with tutors and staff.

The evening was a celebration of what has been a smooth and positive transition for our new Year 7 students. Feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive — many spoke about how confident and settled their children already feel at Blue Coat, thanks in no small part to our transition programme and summer schools, which helped students build friendships and confidence before September.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all the Year 7 tutors who gave so much of their time and care to make the evening such a success, and to the parents and carers for their continued support. Working together, we're ensuring that every Year 7 student has the best possible start to their Blue Coat journey.

## YEAR 7 MATHS AND ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS

This week, our Year 7 students completed their Maths and English assessments in Shirley Hall under full exam conditions — and we couldn't be more proud of them.

Their excellent behaviour, focus, and determination were evident throughout. It was clear to see the results of all the revision and hard work they've put in since joining Blue Coat. Each student approached the assessments with maturity and a genuine commitment to doing their best.

These tests were not just an opportunity to measure progress, but also a reflection of how well our new Year 7s have settled into school life. Their calm approach, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for learning demonstrate the values we hold at the heart of our community.

Well done to all our Year 7 pupils for showing such dedication and pride in their studies — you have set a fantastic example for the rest of the school!

## THE YEAR 7 DISCO

The Year 7 Disco on 23<sup>rd</sup> October was a huge success — an evening filled with fun, laughter, and some truly impressive dance moves!

It was amazing to see how many friendships have already developed among our newest students. The atmosphere in Dining Hall was electric, glowing lights, and plenty of excitement on the dance floor. From classic hits to the latest tunes, everyone got involved and showed their best moves!

Events like this remind us how well our Year 7s have settled in and how much they've already embraced Blue Coat life. A big thank-you to the staff and student helpers who made the evening possible — and to Year 7 for bringing such fantastic energy and spirit to the event!





## THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF GROUP CHATS: WHAT EVERY STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW



In today's digital age, group chats have become a popular way for students to stay connected, share homework tips, and plan events. While these chats can be fun and useful, it's important to remember that they also come with potential risks that every student should be aware of.

### 1. Privacy Concerns

Group chats often include many participants, and anything shared can quickly spread beyond the original group. Private conversations, photos, or personal information can be saved or forwarded without permission, leading to breaches of privacy.

### 2. Cyberbullying and Drama

Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes become hotbeds for bullying or exclusion. Negative comments, gossip, or mean jokes can spread rapidly, causing emotional harm. It's essential to think before typing and to speak up if you see bullying happening.

### 3. Distractions and Overwhelm

With constant notifications from multiple group chats, it's easy to become distracted from schoolwork or family time. This overload can cause stress, reduce productivity, and affect your mental health.

### 4. Miscommunication

Without face-to-face cues, messages in group chats can be misunderstood, leading to conflicts or hurt feelings. Always aim to communicate clearly and respectfully.

### 5. Real-world consequences

Students who behave inappropriately online will face real-life consequences. In the most extreme circumstances, this can even mean suspension or exclusion from school.

### How to Stay Safe in Group Chats

- Think twice before sharing personal information or images.
- Be respectful and kind; avoid posting anything that could hurt someone.
- Use group chats for their intended purpose and avoid off-topic or inappropriate content.
- Talk to a trusted adult if you encounter bullying or uncomfortable situations.
- Mute or leave groups that cause you stress or negativity.

Group chats can be a great tool when used responsibly. By staying aware and making smart choices, you can enjoy staying connected without falling into these common pitfalls.

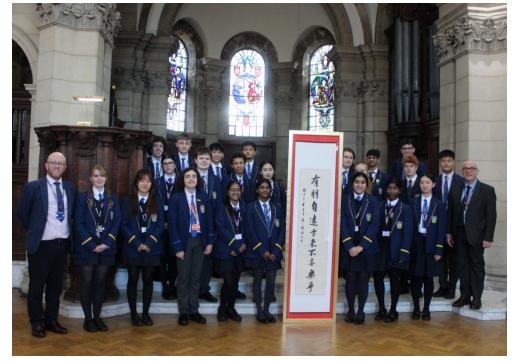


## DEPARTING TRIPS

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October there are 2 exciting Blue Coat trips departing:

30 students are flying to Shanghai and will have an immersive experience in Jinrui school, as well as seeing many of the cultural highlights of the city.

40 students are off to Europe, visiting the battlefields of WWI in Belgium and France.



## TOP TIPS FOR LEARNING A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Learning a new language opens doors — to new cultures, new ideas, and new opportunities. Whether you're studying Spanish or French, here are some top tips to help you make real progress and enjoy.

### Use it every day

Even 10 minutes a day makes a difference. Try changing your phone settings, reading short articles, or listening to songs in your target language. Little and often is the key!

### Speak as much as possible

Don't worry about making mistakes — that's how you learn! Try practising with friends, teachers, or even speaking to yourself out loud. Confidence grows with every attempt.

### Watch, listen, and read

Films, podcasts, and YouTube videos in another language are brilliant for improving your listening and pronunciation. Subtitles help you connect sounds to words naturally.

### Make vocabulary fun

Use flashcards, apps like Quizlet or Memrise, or colour-code your notes. Repetition is powerful — but it doesn't have to be boring!

### Set goals

Small, realistic goals keep you motivated. For example: "I'll learn 10 new words this week" or "I'll order in Spanish at the café." Celebrate your progress along the way.

### Learn about the culture

Language and culture go hand in hand. Explore traditions, food, music, and festivals from the countries where your language is spoken — it makes learning meaningful and memorable.

### Stay positive

There will be moments when it feels tricky, but persistence pays off. Every word, sentence, and conversation takes you one step closer to fluency!

Learning a language is about connection, curiosity, and confidence — so keep practising, stay curious, and don't be afraid to make mistakes.

# SPORTS REPORT

It's been another action-packed week of sport at Blue Coat, with our students showing great effort, teamwork, and determination across football and netball fixtures.

## Tuesday – U13 Girls' Football

Our U13 girls' football team put in a spirited performance against a strong Rainhill side but were defeated 0–5. Despite the result, the team showed real resilience and teamwork throughout. We still have the U14 girls in the competition, who will face Deyes High after half term — best of luck to them as they aim to go one step further!

## Wednesday – Netball League at Belvedere

Six of our netball teams travelled to Belvedere Academy for their first league matches of the season.

- The Year 9 A and B teams both started strongly, winning their games with confidence.
- The Year 8 A and B teams also secured impressive victories, demonstrating great skill and teamwork.
- Our Year 7 A and B teams played with enthusiasm and energy in their debut matches — a fantastic start to their Blue Coat netball journeys!
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## Thursday – LSSP Netball Tournament

Two Year 8 netball teams represented Blue Coat at the LSSP Tournament at Archbishop Beck, competing against 11 other schools. Both teams won three games and lost one, narrowly missing out on the playoffs on goal difference. It was a superb effort from all players, showcasing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day.

## Friday – U15 Boys' Football

The U15 boys' football team took part in the Liverpool Cup Tournament at the Simpsons Ground. After strong performances in the group stage, they finished runners-up in their group and have qualified for the finals later this year — an outstanding achievement!

A huge thank-you to all staff who supported fixtures throughout the week, and well done to every student who represented the school with pride. Your hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship continue to make Blue Coat proud.



## STAYING SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN AND BONFIRE NIGHT

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approach, excitement is building — and rightly so! These celebrations are wonderful opportunities for families and friends to have fun together. However, it's also a time to remember how important it is to celebrate safely and responsibly.

### Halloween Safety

If you're out trick-or-treating, remember to stay visible by wearing something bright or reflective, and always stick with a group. Visit houses where the lights are on, be polite to neighbours, and avoid stepping into the road suddenly. Younger children should always be accompanied by an adult.

### Bonfire and Firework Safety

Fireworks and bonfires can be exciting, but they must be treated with care. Here are some key reminders:

- Only adults should handle or light fireworks.
- Always follow the Firework Code — light fireworks at arm's length using a taper and stand well back.
- Never go near a firework once it's been lit, even if it hasn't gone off.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby in case of an emergency.
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pocket.
- If you're using sparklers, wear gloves, hold them at arm's length, and place them in a bucket of cold water when finished.
- Keep pets indoors — fireworks can be frightening for animals.
- At bonfires, stand well back and ensure fires are kept small, well-managed, and away from trees, buildings, and fences.

### Enjoy the Season Safely

Halloween and Bonfire Night are brilliant opportunities to come together and celebrate. By following these simple safety steps, we can make sure everyone enjoys the fun without risk.

Stay safe, look after one another, and have a brilliant — and responsible — Bonfire Night!

## STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST KNIFE CRIME

Knife crime devastates lives — not just for victims, but for families, friends, and entire communities. It's an issue that affects young people across the country, and schools have an important role to play in helping students make the right choices and stay safe.

At Blue Coat, we are clear: there is no place for knives or weapons of any kind in our school or our community. Carrying a knife doesn't protect you — it puts you and others at risk. Even being in possession of a knife "for someone else" or "just in case" is a serious criminal offence that can change your life forever.

We want every student to know that talking saves lives. If you ever feel unsafe, pressured, or worried about someone, tell a trusted adult — whether that's a teacher, a family member, or someone from our safeguarding team. We are here to listen and to help.

Through assemblies, workshops, and open conversations, our aim is to educate, prevent, and protect. We encourage our students to stand up for what's right, support their friends, and make positive choices that build safer communities for everyone.

Together, we can stop knife crime — not with fear, but with courage, respect, and understanding. If you are ever concerned, speak up. One conversation can make all the difference.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**DIWALI BALL IS BACK!**  
**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

# Diwali Ball

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
LIVE PERFORMANCES -  
DANCING, SINGING, MUSIC

TASTY INDIAN STREET FOOD - VADA PAV,  
PANI PURI, LASSI & MORE

FREE HENNA STALLS    PRIZES!    OPEN DANCE FLOOR

WEAR YOUR CULTURE WITH PRIDE | SOUTH ASIAN ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

**£9 TICKET | SHIRLEY HALL | 5 - 8:15PM**  
ANY QUESTIONS - CONTACT CARINA



**The Blue Coat School**

# Winter Market & Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday 7th December**  
**12.00pm - 3.00pm**

Celebrate the season at our School Christmas Market!  
Stop by for refreshments and listen to our choirs' Carol Concert rehearsal

*Gift Stalls*  
*Student Stalls*  
*Tombola*  
*Festive refreshments*  
*Watch the choir rehearse in the Chapel*

**Open to the Blue Coat Community**  
*including family, friends, Old Blues and local residents*

Tickets £3, available soon!

## SUPPORT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We're so proud of the amazing extracurricular and enrichment activities that make Blue Coat life so vibrant — from clubs and competitions to creative projects and performances!

To keep these fantastic opportunities thriving, we're asking each family to contribute £10 per term (£30 per year) per student. Every penny helps us continue offering the broad range of experiences for our students.

Every £10 contribution earns you one entry into our monthly raffle for a £50 cash prize (or equivalent value) — our way of saying thank you for your generosity!

Payment details are on Parentmail, so please check your messages and make your contribution as soon as you can.

Your support truly makes a difference — helping us keep our enrichment programme strong, exciting, and open to every student.