

# THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## ROAMIN' THE ETERNAL CITY: BLUE COAT LATINISTS EXPLORE ROME

Blue Coat Latin students enjoyed an unforgettable adventure in the Eternal City this term, immersing themselves in the Classical world while sampling some of Rome's finest sights—and cuisine! Across five action-packed days, pupils walked through 2,000 years of history, from temples and amphitheatres to Renaissance masterpieces and underground cult sites.

### Day One – Stepping Into the Story of Rome

Arriving to gloriously sunny skies, we dived straight into a walking tour of central Rome. A coin tossed into the Trevi Fountain promised our return one day, before we headed to the awe-inspiring Pantheon, the temple dedicated to all the gods. Our first evening ended at the lively Piazza Navona, where we admired Bernini's famous Fountain of the Four Rivers and enjoyed our first taste of Roman cuisine, complete with classic spaghetti alla carbonara.

### Day Two – Ancient Wonders and Imperial Power

The second day was devoted to Ancient Rome. In the morning, we explored the mighty Colosseum, before visiting the vast Altar of the Fatherland, Trajan's Column, and the Capitoline Hill, complete with Michelangelo's striking rose-patterned piazza. The afternoon took us through the imperial palaces on the Palatine Hill and down into the Roman Forum, where highlights included the Arch of Titus. Dinner brought another Roman favourite: spaghetti all'amatriciana, typical of the Lazio region.

### Day Three – The Vatican and a View from the Top

Day three saw us travel by metro to the Vatican City State. At the Vatican Museums, students were captivated by the extensive Classical sculpture collections, culminating in the breathtaking Sistine Chapel. After lunch came the 551-step climb to the top of St Peter's Dome, rewarded with sweeping views over the city. We then visited St Peter's Basilica, walked past Castel Sant'Angelo, crossed the Bridge of Angels, and finished the evening at the Spanish Steps—fuelled by Roman pizza, of course.

### Day Four – Life in an Ancient Roman Port

Our fourth day took us to the coast to explore Ostia, the ancient port of Rome and, in many ways, a smaller sister to Pompeii. Students experienced the layout and daily life of a real Roman town—its theatre, bars, laundrettes, temples, and more. A highlight was descending into the atmospheric underground Mithraeum, dedicated to the mystery cult of Mithras. Back in Rome, we visited the National Museum at Palazzo Altemps, home to a magnificent collection of sculptures and artefacts.

### Day Five – Jubilee Year and Farewell Feasts

On our final day, we visited the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, entering through the Holy Door opened for the Jubilee Year 2025. There we saw the simple tomb of Pope Francis, before continuing to the vast Baths of Diocletian. Crossing the

ancient Roman bridge to Tiber Island, we made our way into Trastevere, pausing to test the legendary Mouth of Truth. Our journey concluded with a visit to Palazzo Massimo, followed by a final Roman feast featuring rigatoni, suppli, maritozzi, pizza, and gelato.

The trip offered a memorable blend of history, culture, and discovery. Students returned home not only with a deeper understanding of the Classical world, but with countless stories and flavours to remember.



## BLUE COAT PUPILS SHINE IN EXTERNAL PRODUCTION OF INTO THE WOODS

A group of talented present and past pupils from The Blue Coat School recently took to the stage in an external theatre company's production of *Into the Woods*, showcasing the creativity, dedication, and musical ability that our school community is proud to nurture.

This ambitious production, known for its intricate music, rich storytelling, and demanding roles, provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to extend their experience beyond school, performing alongside young people from across the region. Their involvement reflects the confidence and professionalism they have developed during their time at Blue Coat.

We are delighted to celebrate the pupils and former pupils who featured in the cast:  
Present & Past Pupils :

Gabriel North  
Akshay Saini  
Scarlett Coney  
Maggie McCalliog  
Amy Wilson  
Sophia Garrett  
Aaditya Mohta  
Luke Rotheram

Whether stepping into iconic fairy-tale roles, singing complex ensemble harmonies, or contributing backstage, the students represented the school with enthusiasm and professionalism. Their achievements remind us that the arts extend far beyond the classroom - building confidence, collaboration, and lifelong passion.

We congratulate all involved on a fantastic performance and look forward to seeing them continue their creative journeys on stages both within and beyond Blue Coat!



## HONOURING OUR HISTORY: CHAPEL PEW PLAQUE FUNDRAISER LAUNCHING SOON

The Blue Coat Foundation is delighted to announce an upcoming opportunity for members of our community to play a lasting part in the preservation of our historic Foundation Chapel. As part of ongoing restoration and development work, we will soon be launching a Chapel Pews Plaque Fundraiser, inviting supporters to sponsor a personalised plaque on one of the chapel pews.

This unique initiative offers pupils, families, Old Blues, and friends of the school the chance to commemorate loved ones, celebrate family connections, or mark a special memory within one of the most cherished spaces on our campus. Each plaque will serve as a lasting testament to the individuals and stories that have shaped our community across generations.

Keep an eye out for the official advertisement and details on how you can purchase a plaque, choose your inscription, and secure your place in the legacy of the Foundation Chapel. Funds raised will support the continued care of this beautiful and historic building, ensuring it remains a place of reflection, celebration, and community for years to come.

We look forward to sharing more information very soon and to welcoming supporters from across the Blue Coat family and the wider community into this meaningful project.



# TOD HOUSE TAKES THE LEAD: A TALENT SHOW THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE



Tod House proudly organised this year's Blue Coat's Got Talent fundraiser, bringing together an unforgettable lunchtime of entertainment in support of the school's two chosen charities: Kind and The Whitechapel Centre. From planning and promotion to hosting and performing, Tod House pupils led the way in delivering a fantastic community event with heart.

The show featured a vibrant mix of acts, singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, and more all showcasing the creativity and confidence of our students. The atmosphere was electric, with the audience cheering on every performer and celebrating the courage it takes to step into the spotlight.

One of the highlights was Nowaysis, a special teacher act by Mr Cain and Mr Watkins, which had the crowd laughing and singing along. Their performance added a unique twist to the show and showed that talent truly runs throughout the Blue Coat community.

Behind the scenes, Tod House pupils worked tirelessly to ensure the event ran smoothly. They coordinated rehearsals, organised the running order, managed lighting and sound with staff support, and even helped run fundraising stalls. Their teamwork and leadership were evident throughout the evening.

A huge well done to Ayushi in Year 9, who was crowned the winner by our guest judges: Mr Sexton, Mr Shipgood, and Mrs Jones. Her outstanding performance truly impressed the panel and the audience alike!

Most importantly, the event raised valuable funds for Kind, which supports children and families across Liverpool, and The Whitechapel Centre, a charity dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness. Thanks to the generosity of pupils, families, and staff, the event made a meaningful contribution to both causes.

Tod House should be immensely proud not only for showcasing remarkable talent, but for demonstrating compassion, initiative, and community spirit. Their hard work ensured that Blue Coat's Got Talent was a resounding success with a lasting positive impact.



## BLUE COAT PUPILS ENGAGE IN LIVERPOOL SCHOOLS' PARLIAMENT DEBATE ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

A group of Blue Coat students recently represented the school at the Liverpool Schools' Parliament, held in the historic surroundings of Liverpool Town Hall. This term's meeting focused on a topic that matters deeply to young people across the city: mental health and wellbeing.

Joined by representatives from schools across Liverpool, our pupils took part in a series of discussions, presentations, and debates exploring how young people experience mental health challenges and how schools, families, services, and local communities can work together to support them. The session encouraged students to share experiences, listen to different perspectives, and propose practical solutions.

During the meeting, pupils highlighted the importance of early intervention, access to safe spaces, and the need for continued efforts to reduce stigma around mental health. They also emphasised the role of student voice showing that young people are not only directly affected by these issues, but have powerful ideas about how to create healthier, more supportive environments.

Representing Blue Coat with maturity and empathy, our students engaged confidently with local leaders, facilitators, and peers from across the city. Their contributions demonstrated both their understanding of the challenges young people face and their commitment to positive change.

The Liverpool Schools' Parliament continues to provide a valuable platform for young people to influence important issues. We are proud of our pupils for taking part in this meaningful conversation and for championing mental health awareness on behalf of our school community.



## MATHS UPDATE: CELEBRATING PROBLEM-SOLVING, PERSEVERANCE AND PARTICIPATION



**UK Maths Trust**

It has been an exciting and rewarding term in the Mathematics Department, with pupils across the school taking part in a wide range of enrichment activities designed to challenge, inspire, and stretch their mathematical thinking.

One of the standout events was the Senior Maths Kangaroo, where our highest-achieving students tackled a series of demanding, non-routine problems. The competition encouraged creative thinking and precision under pressure, and we are incredibly proud of all pupils who took part and represented the school so brilliantly.

We also congratulate those who participated in the Senior Maths Olympiad, a prestigious and exceptionally rigorous challenge lasting three and a half hours. Students committed themselves to deep mathematical reasoning, writing full, formal proofs and exploring complex ideas far beyond the standard curriculum. Their dedication, stamina and enthusiasm for high-level problem-solving deserve enormous recognition.

Beyond competitions, the Maths Department continues to provide a wealth of opportunities that make mathematics engaging and accessible for everyone. Puzzle clubs, problem-solving workshops, enrichment sessions, classroom challenges, and support clinics all contribute to a vibrant mathematical culture where pupils are encouraged to explore, question and enjoy the beauty of the subject.

Whether pupils are preparing for high-level contests, strengthening core skills, or discovering new areas of maths, the department remains committed to fostering confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning.

A huge well done to all involved—and a big thank you to the Maths Department for everything they do to support, challenge and inspire our students throughout the year.

## LIGHTS, DANCE, AND CELEBRATION: DIWALI BALL BRINGS THE SCHOOL TOGETHER



On Thursday 20th November, the school community came together for a vibrant and joy-filled Diwali Ball, expertly organised by the School Prefect Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team. The evening was a wonderful celebration of culture, community, and togetherness, capturing the spirit of Diwali through dance, colour, and delicious food.



The hall was transformed with bright decorations and warm lighting, creating a festive atmosphere from the moment guests arrived. Pupils enjoyed an exciting mix of traditional and modern music, with dance filling the floor throughout the night. From Bollywood beats to contemporary favourites, the energy never dipped.



Food was another highlight, with an array of dishes that allowed students to enjoy authentic flavours and share cultural traditions with friends and staff. Laughter, conversation, and the irresistible smell of spices made the evening feel truly special.



The event was a testament to the dedication of the EDI Prefect Team, who worked tirelessly to plan, organise, and run the evening. Their commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering inclusion across the school community shone through every detail, from the décor to the menu to the music.



The Diwali Ball was not only a great night of dance and food but also a meaningful reminder of the rich cultural tapestry that makes our school so unique.

A huge well done to the EDI Team for an unforgettable celebration!



## SUPPORTING OUR PUPILS: HOW BLUE COAT WORKS WITH OPERATION ENCOMPASS

At Blue Coat, the wellbeing and safety of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our commitment to safeguarding, the school continues to work closely with Operation Encompass, a national initiative that helps ensure children receive timely support following incidents of domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass allows schools and the police to share information quickly and securely. When police attend an incident involving domestic abuse and a child from the school is present or affected, a confidential notification is sent to a specially trained member of staff at Blue Coat, known as the Key Adult. This is usually received before the start of the next school day.

This early information means that staff can offer immediate, sensitive, and appropriate support to the child. This may include:

- Ensuring the pupil has a trusted adult to talk to
- Adjusting expectations for the day to reduce pressure
- Offering safe spaces or quiet areas
- Liaising with pastoral or safeguarding teams
- Providing additional emotional support when needed

Operation Encompass does not replace existing safeguarding systems, it strengthens them. It ensures that when a child may be feeling anxious, unsettled, or vulnerable, their school is ready to respond with understanding and care.

Our staff remain committed to creating a safe, compassionate environment where every pupil feels supported, valued, and listened to. By working in partnership with parents, carers, the police, and external agencies, Blue Coat continues to place pupil wellbeing at the centre of school life.

If you would like more information about Operation Encompass, please contact the school's safeguarding team.



## 🎄 DESIGN A CHRISTMAS MUG COMPETITION 🎄



### Calling all students in Years 7-9!

Get festive and show off your creativity by designing a mug that celebrates Christmas, represents our whole school, and creatively showcases our House System:

Curie • Franklin • Roscoe • Seacole • Turing • Tod

🏆 Prizes 🏆

Winning designs will be printed on mugs  
House points awarded for every entry!

📅 **Deadline: Friday 5th December** 📅

## BLUE COAT WEEKLY SPORTS ROUND-UP: GOALS, GRIT AND GLORY!

It has been another action-packed week for Blue Coat sport, with our football and basketball teams battling hard across local and regional competitions. From dramatic cup fixtures to championship-winning performances, our athletes have shown determination, teamwork, and real Blue Coat spirit.

### **Football**

#### **U14 Girls – ESFA Cup**

A spirited performance from the U14 Girls saw them take on a strong Deyes High School side. Despite a determined effort, the girls were narrowly defeated, but their teamwork, resilience, and never-give-up attitude shone throughout the match.

#### **U13 Boys – Merseyside Cup**

The U13 Boys faced All Saints in a tough Merseyside Cup clash. Although the team created several promising chances, they were edged out 0–2. A strong defensive display and some outstanding goalkeeping kept the team in the game right to the end.

#### **U12 Boys – Merseyside Cup**

A brilliant performance from the U12 Boys saw them storm to a 6–1 victory over Bebington. From sharp attacking play to solid defending, the team dominated throughout and secured a well-deserved win. A superb result that sends them confidently into the next round!

#### **U16 Boys – Merseyside Cup**

The U16 Boys were set to take on Gateacre away, with a 3pm kick-off. Spirits were high as the squad prepared for a challenging fixture, hoping to continue Blue Coat's strong run in cup competitions. Full match report to follow!

### **Basketball**

#### **U14 Boys – English Schools Competition**

In a fast-paced, high-scoring game, the U14 Boys put on a fantastic display against Helsby. Despite a valiant effort and some excellent offensive play, they were defeated 32–39. The team showed real growth and grit promising signs for the season ahead.

#### **U13 Boys – LSSP Champions!**

The standout achievement of the week goes to the U13 Boys Basketball Team, who produced a phenomenal performance to win the LSSP Tournament, triumphing in all 6 of their games. Their flawless run crowned them Liverpool Champions, an outstanding accomplishment that reflects teamwork, skill, and relentless determination. Congratulations to the whole squad!

Blue Coat athletes continue to bring pride to the school with their energy, dedication, and sportsmanship. We look forward to more thrilling fixtures and achievements ahead!



## SUPPORTING SUCCESS: HOW THE TRUST BOARD IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The School's Trust Board has continued its important work this term, placing a strong emphasis on staff and student wellbeing, the quality of education, and ensuring that the school is strategically positioned for long-term success. Their commitment to understanding the daily life of our school has been especially evident in the time they have dedicated to visiting, observing, and participating in school-based activities.

In recent months, Trust Board members have taken part in classroom visits, enrichment events, year group assemblies, and pupil voice activities. These experiences have given them a fuller, richer picture of the school's strengths and the challenges facing both students and staff. By seeing everyday school life in action—from teaching and learning to pastoral support, they are able to make better-informed decisions that directly support our community.

A central focus for the Board continues to be the well-being of students and staff. From reviewing support structures to discussing workload, behaviour systems, and inclusive practice, they are working closely with school leaders to ensure that wellbeing remains a core priority in every strategic decision. Their aim is to help maintain an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and able to thrive.

Alongside wellbeing, the Board is deeply committed to sustaining and continually improving the quality of education. Their engagement with curriculum areas, extra-curricular provision, and pupil outcomes helps to shape future planning and ensures the school continues to deliver high standards in teaching and learning.

By spending meaningful time in school and engaging directly with the Blue Coat community, the Trust Board is ensuring that its strategic vision is rooted in real experiences and real needs. This collaborative and hands-on approach will guide the decisions that move the school forward and strengthen its mission for the years ahead.



### BIOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025 - HABITATS



We're excited to announce this year's Biology Photography Competition! The theme is 'Habitats' and we want you to showcase animals, plants, or fungi within their wider ecosystem.

Focus on the biodiversity of your chosen habitat, whether it's a tiny microhabitat or a vast landscape.

Your photographs could:

Zoom in on a subject using macro-photography

Capture a wider perspective on land, underwater, or even from above!

 **Closing date: 18th December** 

Please email your entries, marked 'Photography Competition', to Mrs Bruce.

Remember to Include:

Your name and form group

A brief description of what you've captured

We can't wait to see your creativity and the incredible habitats you discover!



# 12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

## WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

### 1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

### 2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

### 3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

### 4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version - by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

### 5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

### 6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' - such as your birthplace or a pet's name - in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

### 7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

### 12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency - even if they appear to come from someone you know.

### 11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates - so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

### 10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure - criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

### 9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com) (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack - or simply as motivation to review your account security.

### 8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun - so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

## Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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Source: [www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-word](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-word) | <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### WINTER MARKET AND CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tickets are now on sale for the event, priced at £3 [please follow this link](#)

There are still a few stalls available priced at £20 open to all the Blue Coat community to book

#### Tombola

Items needed for the tombola, please drop at reception. For example: new toiletries, bottles, chocolates, sweets, books, etc

#### Raffle

Prizes are also needed for our Christmas raffle – vouchers, gifts, experience cards.

If you would like to book a stall or donate a raffle prize please email: [seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:seo@bluecoatschool.org.uk)



### BLUE COAT CHRISTMAS CARD NOW ON SALE

Beautifully designed by Y7's Brenton, the Blue Coat Christmas Card is now on sale and can be purchased on Parentmail.

The cost of the card is £5 for a pack of 10 x A6 cards

Deadline for ordering is **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**, and the cards will be available from w/c 1st December.

### SUPPORT THE EXPERIENCES THAT HELP SHAPE STUDENTS

From clubs and competitions to creative projects and performances, our students gain so much from extracurricular opportunities, and your support keeps them going.

A contribution of just £10 per term (£30 per year) per student makes a real difference. Plus, every £10 donation earns a chance to win £50 in our monthly raffle!

See Parentmail for payment details and give today, together we can keep our enrichment programme rich, varied, and open to all.

Congratulations last months raffle winner Mr N Thiagarajan

